University Council
June 8, 2026

1. Call to Order

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She opened the meeting by asking Cody Morelock, President of the Staff Senate, to present a mission moment. Mr. Morelock recognized Mary Mathis, a digital marketing strategist with ETSU Online, for her calm and effective response during a medical emergency involving another employee during the May Staff Celebration.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Ms. Bridget Baird, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Debbie Byrd, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Dena Evans, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Dhirendra Kumar, Ms. Kay Lennon-McGrew, Provost Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Mr. Cody Morelock, President Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Dr. Joe Sherlin, and Dr. Alan Stevens.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the May 11, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

3.3 Consent Agenda Items
A motion was made to approve the policies on the consent agenda (noted below). The motion was seconded and approved.

- 3.3.1 Graduate School Policy on Verification of Graduate Students' Eligibility for Tennessee Benefits
- 3.3.2 Password Policy
- 3.3.3 Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources

3.4 Call for Voluntary Reports of UC-Essential Action Items from Governance Organizations

Faculty Senate: Dr. Alan Stevens reported that the Faculty Senate Handbook is being revised. To avoid confusion, it has been temporarily removed from the website while recently approved policies are incorporated. Anyone requesting Handbook information should be directed to the Faculty Senate or the Provost's Office until the updated version is posted.

Staff Senate: Mr. Cody Morelock reported that the annual Staff Celebration was successful, with approximately 900 attendees. He also announced upcoming general Senate elections for 10 seats in July, noting that executive team elections will follow.

4. Action Items

4.1 Old Business

There was no old business to come before the council.

4.2 New Business

There was no new business to come before the council.

5. Information Items/Presentations

5.1 Mobile ID Implementation Update: Dr. Leah Adinolfi

Dr. Leah Adinolfi, Dean of Student Engagement and Director of Assessment, provided an update on the university's mobile ID initiative, announcing that the system successfully launched on schedule at the end of May following a successful spring beta test. She explained that the university is currently focusing implementation efforts on new student orientation before a broader campus-wide rollout this fall, while emphasizing that adoption remains optional and users must choose either a mobile ID or a physical ID, not both. Dr. Adinolfi noted that some campus services, including vending machines and certain library equipment, are not yet compatible with mobile IDs due to cost or pending equipment upgrades. She encouraged departments to report any unanticipated ID-scanning needs so that appropriate solutions can be implemented. She also recognized the collaborative efforts of Emergency Management, Information Technology Services, Marketing and Communications, and ID Services in making the project successful. Finally, she shared the Mobile Buc ID website, which provides information about the mobile ID.

6. President's Report

President Noland provided an update on actions taken at the May 21 Board of Trustees meeting, including approval of tenure and promotion-related policies, the financial exigency policy, the 2026–27 budget, tuition and fees, and a new specialized fee related to safety support and expanded campus security initiatives. He noted that the tuition increase will largely fund the university's share of recent salary enhancements.

For the 2026-27 Budget, the Board approved the July budget, which will be amended in October when we have enrollment data. Information about the distribution of revenue under the funding formula – anticipated to be between $2.5–$3 million – will be communicated to the campus by July 4. He also noted that the Board received an update on anticipated salary enhancements for the fall, as well as the enhancements that were pushed out last month.

President Noland also reviewed recent personnel updates, including the recent appointment of Dr. Rob Pack as Dean of the College of Public Health, and an ongoing national search for a new General Counsel, and an upcoming national search for a new Vice President for Marketing and Communications following Jess Vodden's departure to the University of Louisville later this summer.

He concluded by announcing an update to the university's travel policy, effective July 1, that allows reimbursement for reasonable gratuities of up to 20% for taxis, shuttles, and rideshare services incurred during authorized university travel. He thanked the Faculty Senate for championing this policy change.

7. Announcements

Dr. Joe Sherlin informed the University Council of a pending federal rule change from the Department of Homeland Security that would impose time limits on F-1 and J-1 student visas and restrict students' ability to change majors or graduate programs. He noted that the rule has not been finalized but is expected to have an impact this fall. Current students would generally be grandfathered unless they leave and re-enter the country. The university's international services team is reviewing the potential impacts and preparing campus leadership for the anticipated changes.

Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle announced that the July 13 University Council meeting would be held in the Forum (Room 311) in the D.P. Culp Student Center.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.