

University Council
Monday, January 8, 2024
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

Provost Kimberly D. McCorkle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Melissa Nipper led the roll call. Members present were: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Nick Hagemeyer, Mr. Steven Hendrix, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Rob Pack, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Ms. Pam Ritter, Dr. Joe Sherlin, and Dr. Lynn Williams.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the December 11, 2023, Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

Provost Kimberly D. McCorkle noted that there is not a President's Report on the agenda since President Brian Noland is traveling on university business. However, she added that prior to the Announcements, she will provide updates on some important items and initiatives she and President Noland have discussed.

3.3 Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made and seconded to approve the item on the consent agenda (listed below). The motion was approved.

3.3.1 Procurement Policy for Sponsored Programs

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

ITS: Dr. Karen King provided an update on the Voyager implementation, reminding the council that the new system will go live in July 2024. User testing will take place in April, May, and June. She noted that the delayed start has been beneficial, as it has and will continue to provide users and the campus additional time to orient to the new system. She also updated the council

on the implementation of the new campus phone system, RingCentral. ITS hopes to complete the transition to RingCentral in June.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports

Quality and Effectiveness Sub-Council: Dr. Cheri Clavier reported that the Quality and Effectiveness Sub-Council met in September 2023 to determine their work for the year and discussed the process to review non-academic units. She hopes that process will be finalized and ready to bring forward for action soon. The sub-council also solicited volunteers for four small groups to focus on accreditation and program review (both pre- and post-review), institutional satisfaction, and student equity. In October, the group reviewed the results of the California Critical Thinking Skills Test (CCTST) and major field tests and looked at performance of programs in terms of accreditation and program review for the previous year. In November, they reviewed the results of the institutional satisfaction survey, which was the alumni survey sent out last year. They also discussed student success and access and received an update on the QEP from Dr. Susan McCracken. The December meeting was cancelled and had no action items. During the January 2024 meeting, members of the sub-council will discuss the launch of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which opens in February 2024. They will consider ways to increase participation in NSSE.

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

There were no information items or presentations.

6. Announcements

Before opening the floor for announcements, Provost McCorkle provided several campus updates. First, she thanked leadership for their efforts to make 2023 a successful year, which included the reaffirmation of SACSCOC accreditation and the well-received quality enhancement plan, Go Beyond the Classroom.

She also reminded the council of several major initiatives underway in 2024. She provided an update on the General Education Redesign Task Force, which is almost ready to present its final

report. The two general education options have been out for public comment for several weeks, and public comment closes today. The task force will present its final recommendations to leadership, and those recommendations will make their way through stakeholder groups, including University Council, in February. Finally, the recommendation will be presented to the ETSU Board of Trustees in February so that ETSU can begin implementing general education changes for fall 2024.

Next, Dr. McCorkle announced that she is looking forward to receiving the final report from the Academic Structure Task Force in the coming week. Its final recommendations will be shared widely with the campus community throughout the month of February, with the intent to arrive at a final plan by early March. It will then move throughout the shared governance process throughout the spring and go before the ETSU Board of Trustees this spring in hopes of implementing some of the changes by fall 2024.

She also provided a brief update on construction projects currently underway, including the construction of the new academic building, remodeling of Burleson Hall, Brown Hall renovations, and the transition to the new downtown space (formerly the Northeast State building).

Finally, she noted that the internal budgeting process will begin in the coming weeks and the legislative session begins this week.

7. Announcements

Dr. Joe Sherlin introduced and welcomed Jake Alspaugh, the new Director of the Center for Academic Achievement, who joined the ETSU staff on January 3.

Dr. Sam Mayhew reported that approximately 217 students attended New Student Orientation last week, and those students will go through Preview this Friday. He also provided an update on the first drop for non-payment, which took place this morning at 6 a.m.: 615 students were dropped, which is fewer than 772 in January 2023.

He also reminded the council that Powell Hall is offline this semester for renovation and will reopen in fall 2024. He added that he expects ETSU to be close to occupancy this semester. He mentioned the soft launch of the new FAFSA, and added that ETSU is updating its website daily with new updates from Federal Student Aid.

Dr. Karin Keith reported that applications are now open for the 1911 Society. Information and application material are available on the Provost's website at etsu.edu/provost. She asked the council to share this information with faculty, students, and staff.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.