

University Council
June 9, 2025
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

Provost Dr. 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, Dr. Joel Faidley, Mr. David Finney, Ms. Christy Graham, Dr. Adam Green, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Mr. John King, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Dr. Sarah Thomason, and Ms. Jess Vodden.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the May 12, 2025, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2025, 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 Staff Compensation Policy

3.3.2 Pay and Timekeeping Policy

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

Staff Senate: Mr. David Finney thanked members of the Staff Senate for their work to host the Staff Senate Celebration. They are now taking nominations for new staff senators until June 23.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported that he is currently in Orlando to attend the National Association of College Directors of Athletics' annual meeting. He is also leading the TopConnect Basketball Symposium professional development seminar, which is good exposure for ETSU.

ITS: Dr. Karen King reported that the Voyager update will serve as the ITS update this month.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports: University Governance Organizations

Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that she will send an email today requesting reports from the committees. She will update the reports on Digital Commons as she receives them.

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 Voyager Update

Dr. Karen King provided an update on the upcoming implementation of Voyager. She reviewed the timeline, covering work completed to date and the milestone dates to come in anticipation of the July 1, 2025, launch. They have completed four testing cycles, and based on that, everything is moving as expected. To ensure that employees are ready for the transition, they are working on campus readiness with the Office of Marketing and Communications.

She previewed the support and escalation process that will be instated after the go-live date. This includes tiers of support. All calls for support will be routed through the ITS Help Desk. Representatives from Huron will be on site during the transition. The first payroll goes out through Voyager on July 18. There are contingency plans in place should there be any issues with payroll.

They have developed multiple training materials to guide the campus through the transition, including instructor-led training, end user training that will continue through the fall, Oracle guided learning on the site, and quick reference guides and video tutorials.

Ms. Lori Erickson reminded the council that all leave for June must be entered into the current TRS system by June 27 so that they can close out the fiscal year. All leave for July and later will be entered in Voyager – but cannot be entered until July 7. This provides time to transfer all leave balances into the Voyager system.

5.2 Jordan Center Update

Drs. Keith Johnson and Jenny Osborne provided an update on the development of the new Mary V. Jordan Center, reaffirming its continued dedication to honoring Mary V. Jordan's legacy. This student success center will serve as a comprehensive student support hub focused on academic, career, personal, and financial well-being.

The current team comprises reallocated university staff and includes leadership from Student Life and Enrollment, with additional hiring underway for key roles, including Director and Specialists. Dr. Tony Norman serves as the interim director of the center. The center is actively forming partnerships across campus and with community resources to ensure collaborative support and referral processes.

The Jordan Center will serve as a walk-in resource support for all ETSU undergraduate students through a comprehensive network of services. It will help connect them to the appropriate support centers on campus, ensuring a direct, personal connection rather than simply being referred to a website.

The center will provide proactive advising through Student Success Specialists, a reimagined student mentoring program, and a Horizon or Passport scholarship, which targets full Pell-eligible first-time freshmen with GPAs below 3.5, pairing them with dedicated staff and scholarships. Approximately 200 students will be part of this case management program, which is modeled similar to TRIO.

Another feature will be the integration of mental wellness support, with an outreach counselor bridging academic support and mental wellness. The center is currently operating in a temporary space on the first floor of Burgin Dossett Hall, with a permanent move planned post-renovation of its space on the second floor of the D.P. Culp Center.

6. President's Report

President Noland provided an update on the university's ongoing Voyager system implementation, emphasizing its transformative potential for operations and financial processes. He stressed that changes have been made to policy based on feedback received from campus and confirmed that non-exempt employees will not be required to use the web clock system upon rollout. Additionally, employees will receive a \$500 bonus to aid in the transition. He underscored the importance of patience as the new system stabilizes over the next several months.

Additionally, he highlighted the federal House Settlement's implications, noting that the university will bring its NIL external collective under the operations of the ETSU Foundation. He noted that legal battles will likely continue on this issue.

He announced that the ETSU Board of Trustees elected new leadership in May, with Ms. Melissa Steagall-Jones elected chair of the Board, whose term begins July 1. Mr. Steve DeCarlo will continue serving as vice-chair, and Ms. Janet Ayers is member-at-large of the executive committee. They will appoint new committee chairs and make new committee assignments at the September meeting. Four new board members will join the board.

Dr. Noland noted strong projected incoming class numbers, residence hall increases, and stable budget performance. He mentioned that the university is monitoring potential Pell Grant reductions and federal delays affecting international students. He also discussed the Jordan Center initiative, describing the model as similar to the work that has been done with student athletes. The goal is to deepen the level of services provided to students. He thanked everyone who has worked on this initiative.

7. Announcements

Provost McCorkle opened the floor for announcements.

Dr. Sam Mayhew invited the council to attend Dr. Bonnie Burchett's retirement party on Monday, June 16, at 2 p.m. The new Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life, Richard Swearingen, will begin his role on June 16, as well.

Ms. Tricia Korade encouraged everyone to read the Common Read, and thanked Provost McCorkle for including her on the committee.

Ms. Jess Vodden thanked the Voyager team for their work.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.