



**I. Call to Order**

President David Finney called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. in Culp Center Room 311.

**II. Attendance**

Members present: Kari Albarado, Dan Bishop, Vanessa Canter, William Cate, Rachel Colwell, Jennifer Crigger, O.J. Early, Kimberly Ferrell, David Finney, Joy Fulkerson, Brooke Garland, Cody Greene, Wendy Guinn, Cody Henson, Suzy Hooven, Kathi Horne, Ethan Hutchison, James Lively, Jenny Lockmiller, Candy Massey, Crystal Maupin, Skylar Moore, Cody Morelock, Stefanie Murphy, Donna Nelson-Barnes, Ryan Parvin, Melanie Peters, Debbie Roach, Katie Sellers, Brayton Siddell, Jr., Amy Slaughter, Ben Smith, Jessimine Strauss, Elizabeth Thomas-Joseph.

Members absent: Joe Bidwell, Rachel Kellogg, Aneida Skeens (excused), Jeremy Watson.

**III. Minutes**

President Finney presented the January meeting minutes for consideration. Senator Strauss made motion to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Senator Murphy. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

**IV. Guest Speaker**

President Finney introduced our guests, Drs. Brian Noland, Adam Greene, and Kimberly McCorkle. Dr. Noland shared passages from prior university addresses regarding challenges and turmoil and reiterated that ETSU is in a strong position to face the challenges ahead. He urged that we exercise patience, perseverance and caution as we navigate the ongoing challenges and that we remain focused on our mission. Dr. Noland expressed commitment to the University values even as the institution adapts to what may come. After his prepared remarks he transitioned to questions and answers from Senators and guests. Dr. Noland responded to inquiries about the how the federal actions are causing uncertainty and fear for some students and employees and what support is available.

When the Staff Senate inquired about the outsourcing of custodial services on campus, Dr. Noland responded by clarifying that there is not an intent to outsource custodial services at ETSU. Instead, the decision was made to engage third-party providers to supplement custodial services given the



prolonged difficulties that Facilities Management has experienced with recruiting and retaining its labor force in this critical area. He reiterated the university's commitment to providing high-quality custodial services and maintaining safe and hygienic facilities for our students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Noland committed to moving forward with the Ombuds proposal this semester and expressed support for its implementation. He confirmed that the classification and compensation plan is still under development with anticipated implementation during this semester, including market equity salary enhancements to come. Staff concerns were shared in regard to timekeeping, Dr. Noland commiserated with change being hard and commitment to improving systems.

**V. President's Report**

President Finney shared the following updates from recent University Council and Executive Committee meetings:

- He encouraged participation in the cybersecurity training program and shared that its important to maintaining accreditation and safeguarding university assets.
- He noted that Athletics is navigating the new revenue sharing and NIL landscape with its leadership making strategic decisions to adjust and serve our student athletes.
- Jeremy Ross presented the master plan at University Council, which included a number of new capital planning that are underway and in the pipeline.
- He shared that there was not new update regarding budget changes.

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

President Finney provided the Treasurer's Report of current financials on behalf of Treasurer Canter. There was no discussion.

**VII. Committee Reports**

President-Elect Morelock opened the floor for Committee Reports.

1. President Finney confirmed that the Staff Senate Celebration will take place on May 21, 2025 and asked Senators to save the date.
2. Senator Bishop, Chair of CBC Committee, provided an update that requests related to impacts from Hurricane Helene have tapered off



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and that he's collaborating with President Finney to develop a plan for the future of that account given the expenditure of most of those allocated funds.

3. Senator Sellers, Chair of Liaison Committee, provided an update that the committee has engaged with Faculty Senate and SGA Senate and is working to align several ongoing initiatives.

There were no other committee reports at this time.

### **VIII. Old Business**

None

### **IX. New Business**

None

### **X. Announcements**

President Finney again shared the planned reinstatement of the Staff Senator of the Year award. Senator Fulkerson encouraged participating in the upcoming Festival of Ideas and shared some brief details of related events. Senator Sellers announced the upcoming Equity and Inclusion Lunch & Learn that features Dr. Mark Fulks, Legal Counsel. No other announcements were shared.

### **XI. Adjournment**

Senator Siddell made the motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Senator Henson. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.