

University Council
November 10, 2025
East Tennessee Room

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Fred Sauceman led the roll call. Members present were: Ms. Bridget Baird, Dr. Bill Block, 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, Ms. Shelby Koerten, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Sam Mayhew, Mr. Cody Morelock, Dr. Rob Pack, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Dr. Richard Sander, and Dr. Alan Stevens.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve minutes of the October 13, 2025, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2025, meeting of the University Council. The motion was seconded, and the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

3.3 Consent Agenda Items

A motion was made to approve the three items on the consent agenda, which are listed below. The motion was seconded and approved.

3.3.1 University Chemical Hygiene Plan

3.3.2 University-Hosted Enterprise Information Systems Updates

3.3.3 University-Hosted Enterprise Resource Planning Backup

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Alan Stevens reported that the Faculty Senate has been working on various policies which are now out for public comment. Among them are policies dealing with faculty workload and faculty definitions.

Staff Senate: Mr. Cody Morelock provided an update on the Staff Senate's involvement in the Season of Sharing holiday drive. He indicated that the senate is working with Bucky's

Pantry and the Student Government Association to achieve better outreach this year. At the end of the current donation period, he said the senate will be working with Bucky's Pantry to distribute donations.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander gave an update on the university's fall sports seasons, noting that the volleyball team clinched the Southern Conference Championship and will compete in the NCAA Tournament later this month. Dr. Sander described the new, long-term agreement with the City of Johnson City to rent Freedom Hall for men's basketball games, an agreement that received the approval of the City Commission.

ITS: Dr. Karen King reminded the council of the deadline for employees to complete Cybersecurity Awareness Training. The training is mandatory for all employees.

Student Government Association: Ms. Shelby Koerten told the council that SGA is also heavily involved in the Season of Sharing program and is using social media to involve more students in the effort. She reported on end-of-the-semester meetings and expressed SGA's gratitude for the launch of All Together ETSU.

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 ETSU Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Mike Hoff began by discussing the public purpose of higher education: access, affordability, quality, public service, and research and economic development. He provided a review of ETSU's planning timeline and strategic agenda and a summary of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission's master plan process. He described ETSU's current strategic focus, reviewed recent successes, and outlined next steps.

This year, Dr. Hoff said, ETSU is updating its strategic agenda through the year 2036, when the university will mark its 125th anniversary. Our strategic agenda for the ten-year period 2026 to 2036 will be centered around access and success, community stewardship, fiscal sustainability and operational excellence, teaching excellence, empowered employees, and research and innovation. Dr. Hoff began his discussion of THEC's master planning by

showing how universities must adapt to the changing higher education landscape. The cornerstones for the new THEC master plan are: “aligned, achievable, and agile.”

Dr. Hoff reviewed several of ETSU’s key performance indicators. For example, enrollment of first-time freshmen stood at 2,050 in 2017 and is now 2,284. During that same period, our retention rate has increased from 73 percent to 76 percent, and our graduation rate has risen from 41 percent to 55 percent. The number of campus residents has jumped from 2,814 in 2017 to 3,365 this year. And research and sponsored program activity has increased from \$42.5 million to \$71.1 million.

Dr. Hoff presented two tables indicating progress toward the university’s strategic initiatives. For years one through five, most of the items on the list have been completed, and a significant number of the five-to-ten-year goals have been completed as well.

Dr. Hoff then outlined areas of focus as articulated by the ETSU Board of Trustees. Items on that list include diversifying the academic portfolio; enhancing salaries; enhancing student success; enhancing access and especially pre-college programs; enhancing research and economic development; creating an Integrated Academic Health Center; enhancing housing options; and continuing to maintain fiscal sustainability.

Dr. Hoff concluded his presentation by listing next steps in strategic planning. Those include continuing to implement our strategic agenda; accelerating investments in the student enrollment management plan; monitoring the THEC master planning process and ensuring that our plan aligns; and, through 2025-26, engaging in a series of strategic discussions surrounding enrollment, research, the academic portfolio, and facilities.

5.2 Update on All Together ETSU

Dr. Leah Adinolfi, Dean of Student Engagement and Director of Assessment for the Division of Student Life and Enrollment, described and analyzed the launch of All Together ETSU, a campuswide initiative designed to cultivate a culture of dialogue, understanding, and civic engagement among members of the ETSU community. She pointed out that the program is a collaboration between the Office of the Provost and the Division of Student Life and Enrollment. The first-ever initiative of its kind at ETSU began this fall with a series of conversations hosted by members of the faculty in their classes, with the goal of dialogue, not debate, through a respectful, curiosity-driven exchange. Dr. Adinolfi reported that 39 classes participated, for a total of 1,019 students. She indicated that feedback from students and professors was overwhelmingly positive, and she distributed handouts listing student comments and instructor comments. Dr. Adinolfi said that plans are underway to continue All Together ETSU during the spring semester.

5.3 Update on Voyager/Oracle

This item was added to the agenda immediately prior to the meeting. Dr. David Smith, Director of Enterprise Projects and Access Management for ETSU's ITS division, presented a detailed report on the implementation of Voyager/Oracle. The system went live on July 1, 2025. Dr. Smith's status report covered such areas as workflow redesigns, payroll processes, and human resources modules. He described how feedback received by the newly formed Voyager Task Force, led by Dr. Tony Norman, is being analyzed and how suggestions for improvements within the system are being addressed.

6. President's Report

Because of Dr. Noland's travel schedule, there was no president's report.

7. Announcements

Dr. Keller announced that ETSU has its third consecutive Rhodes Scholarship finalist, Kyah Powers of Kingsport.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

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