

University Council
Monday, October 14, 2024
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: Ms. Bridget Baird, 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, Dr. Mike Hoff, Dr. Keith Johnson, Dr. Chris Keller, Dr. Karen King, Ms. Tricia Korade, Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Dr. Kimberly D. McCorkle, Dr. Brian Noland, Dr. Rob Pack, Mr. Jeremy Ross, Ms. Pam Ritter, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Dr. Alan Stevens, Dr. Sarah Thomason, Ms. Jess Vodden, and Dr. Lynn Williams.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2024, 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 policy on the consent agenda (noted below). The motion was seconded and approved.

3.3.1 Obsolete Policies for Removal

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Alan Stevens reported that due to Hurricane Helene, Faculty Senate has not met. He thanked the Provost's and President's offices for their communication in the aftermath of the storm, and thanked President Dr. Brian Noland for recognizing faculty during his State of the University address.

Staff Senate: Mr. David Finney also thanked the administration for disaster relief support. He noted that Staff Senate has set up boxes to collect non-perishable food items for the annual

Holiday Food Drive. Boxes will remain out until November 14 to collect food for staff members in need. Information about the food drive will be sent to staff this week.

Council of Academic Chairs: Dr. Sarah Thomason reported that the Council of Academic Chairs is working closely with the Provost's Office to address and facilitate information regarding the academic restructure. They continue to update the chair website and finalize the Chair Handbook. They are also assisting in the development and execution of training for chairs.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported on the preliminary certification of the House settlement case, which provides some clarity for college athletics. He reviewed some of the potential impacts for ETSU and the Southern Conference. He applauded ETSU Football for their win against Samford and encouraged the council to buy tickets to a charity basketball game vs. High Point University on October 27. All proceeds from the game will support Finnegan's Challenge and Uncommon Grit.

SGA: On behalf of the Student Government Association, Dr. Michelle Byrd reported that SGA is looking forward to the fall concert on November 19 at Freedom Hall. Tickets went on sale on Friday, October 4.

ITS: Dr. Karen King announced that there will be an AI Day for researchers on November 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3.5 Sub-Council Report: Quality and Effectiveness Sub-Council

Dr. Cheri Clavier reported that there is no update at this time.

4. Action Items

4.1 Old Business

There was no old business to come before the council.

4.2 New Business

Mr. Jeremy Ross presented the Campus Master Plan, which is a directional and aspirational document that summarizes ETSU's vision for facilities for the next 10 years. The Campus Master Plan examines items such as housing, parking, building renovations, and space deficits. He discussed possibilities for new academic spaces, housing, pedestrian ways, potential future parking garages on campus, and a "health sciences corridor" that could arise near the Integrated Health Services Building to be built along State of Franklin.

Dr. Noland asked Mr. Ross to share his thoughts on which issues on the aspirational document will realistically be addressed by the end of the decade. Mr. Ross responded that housing,

engineering academic space, parking, and pedestrian ways would most likely be addressed in that timeframe. He also noted that the document can be amended as things change and unforeseen opportunities arise.

Upon approval by University Council, the Campus Master Plan will go before the Tennessee Higher Education Commission at its November meeting, then to the State Building Commission, and then will be posted online.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Campus Master Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Information Items/Presentations

5.1 Disaster Response Update

Drs. Leah Adinolfi, Michelle Byrd, and Jennifer Osborne presented a report on Student Life and Enrollment's disaster response following Hurricane Helene.

Dr. Adinolfi began the presentation by noting the many ways that student leaders on campus have organized and helped the community in the aftermath of the storm. Since the storm arrived in the days before the scheduled Homecoming festivities were set to begin, students helped to shift the focus of the week to uplifting and assisting the community. Efforts included a record-setting blood drive with Marsh Regional Blood Center, which collected more than 700 units of blood. They also conducted a donation drive for flood buckets and hygiene kits. They proceeded with the traditional Homecoming food drive, which provided approximately 50,000 pounds (up 10,000 pounds this year) of food to Second Harvest Food Bank. The student-led Letters of Love project collected more than 1,000 letters for emergency responders and survivors of the flood. They also partnered with Rusty Sells, ETSU Director of Emergency Management, to facilitate orientation sessions for people who want to volunteer to serve. They are working with partner organizations, including United Way, to connect and organize volunteers. She encouraged ETSU faculty, staff, and students to use the ETSU Serves platform, which is a hub for volunteer opportunities and points of contact, to connect with volunteer opportunities. Looking ahead, they are planning some alternative breaks that address the disaster, including some shorter winter alternative break options.

Dr. Byrd discussed some of the important work that the university has done to meet the needs of the ETSU community. She noted that Housing has consolidated open rooms that can be made available to students, faculty, and staff who were impacted by the disaster. They are coupling the housing allotments with a basic meal plan. In addition, Sodexo donated 800 premade meals to the Salvation Army, which were distributed to communities in need. SGA and Dr. Byrd's Office have also encouraged students who have extra swipes on their meal plan to consider donating those to people in need. So far, students have donated over 1,200 swipes that can be reassigned to people who need them. She thanked Dr. King and ITS for making hot spots and laptop

computers available to students who need them. The CPA has opened its facilities to those who need water and showers.

Dr. Byrd's office has worked with Dr. Joe Chappell to identify students who have been affected by the storm – from Florida up to the Appalachian region. Approximately 6,200 students have received direct communication asking if they were impacted and how ETSU can help them. SLE has added staff to review CARE reports. So far, they have received approximately 240 CARE reports.

Dr. Osborne reported that they have created a "Helene Safe" note in the Navigate system, which indicates that the student had no major impact from the storm. She and Ethan Hutchison have also created an additional team of volunteers to act as calling partners for students who have been reported absent. They conducted a Bucky Bot campaign to reach out to students to see how they were doing. Those who indicated that they were not doing well received a follow-up phone call from volunteers.

Dr. Byrd thanked Dr. Noland and the university for being supportive of students with the Buccaneer Student Crisis Fund, which has been raised from the \$500 traditional cap to \$1,000. So far, 29 students have been awarded these grants. They are also providing tuition assistance to students who are experiencing loss or significant impact.

Additionally, they are assisting students who might be considering withdrawing from the university due to the storm. When students click the "withdraw" link in GoldLink, they are now directed to a form that provides information about what to know before they withdraw. That page provides information and resources, encouraging students to talk to someone first to get support and advice. Since the advisors are currently in the midst of advisement season, Dr. Osborne thanked the college deans for providing designees in each college to help students navigate these decisions.

Dr. Bidwell applauded the team for their work to support students. He asked if the same focused approach and support systems, with the messaging, were in place to help affected faculty and staff. Provost McCorkle noted the Employee Assistance Fund, which has been utilized in the aftermath of the disaster. She also noted that President Noland announced support measures, including housing availability for faculty and staff, in his State of the University address on October 11. She applauded the college deans for contacting the faculty and staff in their colleges to check on them after the storm and added that deadlines (grade reporting, tenure and promotion, etc.) had been extended to provide flexibility. Mr. Ross also noted that staff has assisted with wellness checks on faculty and staff members.

6. President's Report

President Noland thanked staff in Student Life and Enrollment for their work to build structures around the outreach and support for students. Although Johnson City did not experience the

effects of the storm in the way its neighbors did, Dr. Noland pointed out that seven ETSU students lost parents or loved ones in the storm.

He requested that the members of University Council continue to share information about campus response and support, including the ETSU Serves platform that tracks activity that is beneficial for the region to receive FEMA matching funds. ETSU will give employees 15 hours of time to be used in community service before the end of the calendar year.

He provided a brief review of his State of the University address on Friday, October 11. He mentioned salary enhancements, which will go before the ETSU Board of Trustees at the November meeting. This includes a 3% across-the-board salary enhancement with a \$7,000 ceiling and a \$15 per hour floor. It also includes a 3% pool to be used to: address the possible needed adjustments due to the Fair Labor Standards Act that may or may not occur on January 1, 2025; address staff salaries farthest away from market after the implementation of the new classification and compensation system at ETSU; and to help raise faculty salaries that are farthest away from market.

Finally, he thanked everyone again for their tireless work throughout the challenging weeks the region has faced.

7. Announcements

Dr. Keith Johnson announced that Sodexo and the Office of Equity and Inclusion will partner to celebrate veterans. On Tuesday, November 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., veterans will receive a free meal in the Culp Center Dining Hall. Tickets are being distributed through the Office of Veterans Affairs, ROTC, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion. Veterans without a ticket will still receive a meal.

Ms. Jess Vodden asked the council to add any disaster recovery and response-related events and initiatives to the university's calendar so they can be appropriately tagged and included on the ETSU Response website.

Provost McCorkle reminded the council that the November meeting date and location have been changed since the university is closed on Veterans Day. The new meeting date is Monday, November 4, and it will be held in the Forum in the Culp Center.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.