

University Council
Monday, February 12, 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: Dr. Ginni Blackhart, Dr. Joe Bidwell, Dr. Bill Block, Dr. Cheri Clavier, Dr. Joel Faidley, Ms. Joy Fulkerson, Dr. Mark Fulks, 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, Dr. Tony Pittarese, Dr. Richard Sander, Dr. Joe Sherlin, Ms. Jess Vodden, Mr. Trent White, and Dr. Lynn Williams.

3. Standing Items

3.1 Approve Minutes of the January 8, 2024, Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded; the minutes were approved.

3.2 Review Agenda

Provost McCorkle noted that there is not a President's Report on the agenda since President Dr. Brian Noland is traveling on university business.

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 Tanning Devices Prohibition

3.3.2 Equipment/Movable Property Inventory Control

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

Faculty Senate: Dr. Ginni Blackhart reported that Faculty Senate has focused on the recommendations from the General Education Redesign and Academic Restructure task forces. They are also working with Dr. Karin Keith on updating faculty policies, and members of Faculty Senate are serving on three different work groups to examine faculty issues related to workload, tenure and promotion, and faculty credentialing. ETSU will host the Tennessee

University Faculty Senates' Annual Meeting at ETSU on April 5-6, 2024, so ETSU Faculty Senate is making plans for that.

SGA: Mr. Trent White reported that SGA will host its Local Hearts concert on Thursday, February 15, featuring local artists.

Athletics: Dr. Richard Sander reported that he is modifying the Athletics Strategic Plan, originally written in 2015, to reflect the changes on the athletics landscape.

3.5 Sub-Council Reports

Budget and Strategic Planning Committee: Ms. Christy Graham reported that the committee continues to meet and has not finalized metrics on a new budget model. She emphasized the budget model itself will not look entirely different; changes will occur to policies that are around the budget model and the metrics used to allocate the budget itself. At its next meeting, the committee will discuss data and metrics.

4. Action Items

4.1 Old Business

There was no old business to come before the council.

4.2 New Business

General Education Curriculum Presentation for Approval: Dr. Sharon James McGee and Dr. David Harker, co-chairs of the General Education Redesign Task Force, presented the final recommendation for the new core curriculum at ETSU. The curriculum, called Compass, was approved by the Academic Council on February 8, 2024, and is now presented to the University Council for approval. Drs. Harker and McGee recounted the process of developing the new curriculum, described the competency-based approach, and highlighted the curriculum's features, including the incorporation of high-impact teaching practices.

They showed the council the new model, which consists of five categories: Strengthening Foundations, Understanding Natural and Social Worlds, Exploring Connections, Cultivating Artistic Awareness, and Growing as an Individual and Global Citizen. They updated the council on the resolution of a decision point – to require a course in oral communication – in the Strengthening Foundations category. Finally, they reviewed the phased implementation of the plan, which includes the adoption of Compass in fall 2024.

A motion was made to approve the new general education curriculum as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by the council.

Dr. McCorkle thanked the task force for their work on this process and noted that the next step is to present the plan to the Board of Trustees for final approval on Friday, February 16.

5. Information Items/Presentations

Voyager Update: Dr. Karen King, Ms. Christy Graham, and Ms. Lori Erickson provided an update on the Voyager implementation. Dr. King reviewed the timeline, mentioning the CRP 3.5 testing cycle in February and March, user acceptance testing in April, end-user training from April through June, operational readiness and data conversions in June, and the go-live date of July 1, 2024.

Ms. Graham described the work done by Finance on the system so far, including validation of data. She noted that there may be changes to some policies and procedures, including the approval processes. She emphasized that the team is excited about the quarterly updates that will come with the Voyager implementation, allowing them to continuously improve the system's functionality.

Ms. Erickson informed the council about Human Resources' work on a review of the compensation structure at ETSU. HR is contracting with Salary.com to consult on this project and set market ranges for newly created job families at ETSU. The new compensation structure will be rolled out in July with the Voyager system. Ms. Erickson emphasized that this is a budget-neutral, hold-harmless project, so new funds are associated with it. She also noted that the work with Salary.com applies only to staff positions. They use data from the College and University Professional Association (CUPA) when examining faculty salaries.

Enrollment Update Spring 2024: Dr. Joe Chappell noted that the spring 2024 enrollment trends are similar to the fall 2023 trends. When comparing fall 2022 to fall 2023 headcount enrollment, ETSU gained 136 students. Comparing spring 2023 to spring 2024 headcount, ETSU gained 168 students. He also reviewed fall-to-spring retention, noting that ETSU was at a 90-percent threshold in fall 2023.

Fall 2024 Admissions & FAFSA Simplification Update: Dr. Heather Levesque reported that Admissions is up in first-year student applications and admits. The transfer side is slightly down in applications but up 6 percent in admits. Admissions sent orientation invitations on February 1, and Dr. Levesque asked the council to encourage prospective students they interact with to sign up for orientation. They are currently up 5 percent in orientation sign-ups for first-year students.

Dr. Levesque also updated the council on the challenges presented by the nationwide delay of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships anticipates that ETSU will receive FAFSAs in March. In the meantime, they are helping students and parents navigate the process with emails and a FAFSA Simplification website, which is updated regularly with new information and advice. They continue to encourage students to fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible. If FAFSAs are received as anticipated in March, ETSU hopes

to let students know about their financial aid packages in April. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is working with a consultant to help them through the process.

Dr. Levesque noted that ETSU decided to keep its March 1 scholarship deadline since the FAFSA did not impact that deadline. She also added that while ETSU has traditionally encouraged students to sign up for orientation by May 1, the university does not have a May 1 decision deadline. This gives ETSU more flexibility than some other institutions, which have traditionally held students to a May 1 decision deadline.

6. Announcements

Dr. Joe Sherlin announced that Dr. Jenny Osborne began her role today as Assistant Vice President for Student Success. He also informed the council that housing reapplications opened this week. On the first day, 1,574 current students reapplied for housing. More than 300 additional beds will be added on campus for the fall.

Dr. Karin Keith reminded the council that the Festival of Ideas will take place February 27-29, and tickets are going fast for keynote speakers Mitch Albom and Piper Kerman. The Campaign for Kindness book discussion will take place on Wednesday, February 28, in the East Tennessee Room. She also announced that applications for the 1911 Society remain open until March 1.

8. Adjournment

Provost McCorkle adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.