

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
December 5, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Ms. Tina Nixon	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Bruno Klaus	Mr. John Pekarovsky III	Mr. Paul Shemansky
Mr. Harry Lee	Mr. Albert Rivera	

The following members were not present:

Dr. Vincent DeFranco	Ms. Josephine Ferro	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter
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3. **Public Comment:**

No Public Comments

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Abraham made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2019 meeting; Trustee Rivera seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

President Welsh reported ESU will be holding winter commencement in 2 weeks with 361 undergraduate and 58 graduate students walking across our commencement stage. Our commencement speaker will be Dan DiZio, an ESU alum and the entrepreneur behind the Philadelphia Pretzel Factory, which now has a franchise in Monroe County.

Recent recognitions of note:

- At the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony held to recognize colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates, ESU received a silver seal for achieving a student rate between 30% and 39% during the 2018 midterm elections.
- The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus.
- This semester, ESU has 46 Veterans and 76 National Guard/Reservists on campus. We just received word that ESU is now designated as a Guard Friendly School by the Pennsylvania National Guard Association. Out of the more than 480 schools in Pennsylvania that are eligible to receive this award, we were one of first 30 schools to obtain this designation. This designation shows our commitment to the National Guard.

If you are looking for Holiday music, there is a lot going on in the next few days on campus:

- Concert Band and University Choir Winter Concert is December 8 at 3:30
- Winter Jazz Concert is tonight at 7:30
- Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite returning for the 3rd year December 7 at 7pm

In Athletics, the fall sports have come to an end or are getting close to the end of their respective seasons.

- Volleyball and Field Hockey ended the season as PSAC champions. Field Hockey fell in the NCAA semi-finals to St. Anselm and VB played in the NCAA tournament but unfortunately fell to Shepherd. First time VB has won the PSAC championship since 1987.
- Football ended the season with a 6-5 record with our first season with Jimmy Terwilliger as head coach...the first winning season since 2015.
- Women's Soccer – made it to the PSAC Semifinals and made their 6th straight NCAA appearance.
- Men's Soccer – were in the PSAC tournament for the 3rd straight year.
- Both men's and our new women's wrestling teams are continuing to compete so more to come for them. It has been fun watching our women's wrestling team grow and compete.
- In cross country, we had one student, Casey Ellis, who was a national qualifier
- At this time, we are ranked 3rd in the Dixon Cup rankings and thus are doing well both in our conference and in the system.
- Men's Basketball has had a difficult fall with Ryan Smith's diagnosis and treatment for leukemia. His challenges have taken a toll on the team and on the coaches, but he is undergoing his 3rd round of chemo and has the most positive attitude I could ever imagine. He has the support of our entire Warrior community.

I want to thank Keith Modzelewski, Director of the Business Accelerator and Innovation for all of his work to make the inaugural Monroe County Global Entrepreneurship Week such a success. I attended only 2 events, both very well attended, and have heard nothing but great things about the speakers and the workshops.

Our annual MLK Breakfast will be on Monday, January 20 in the Mattioli Center with our keynote speaker, Arthur Keith, the General Manager of Kalahari.

Dr. Jeff Weber has made the decision to leave ESU to pursue other dreams. This will be a tremendous loss for our students. He is a wonderful individual who has saved many students because of his passion for their success. I know we all wish him the very best as he moves on to take on other challenges. This concludes my report.

6. **Chair's Report:**

Trustee Ross informed the Trustees that Graduate and Undergraduate Winter Commencement will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019. Robing begins at 9am. Please RSVP to the President's Office.

Trustee Ross also thanked Dr. Jeff Weber for his dedication and service to the University and presented him with a small token of appreciation.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

None

8. **Committee Reports**

A. **Campus Environment Committee: (Trustee Pekarovsky)**

Trustee Pekarovsky reported there were several in-depth discussions on a variety of topics. It is very clear that there is great work being completed by all those involved. Updates on the Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives, reviewed changes made to the alcohol policy and noted there have been no major incidents reported since the change, discussion on ESU's current Greek Life and touched on issues that need to be addressed and also focused on plans of improvement for the future, and lastly very involved discussions on mental health and the issues facing our students today including resources currently available to help those in need as well as various actions that are being taken to assist students.

B. Finance Committee: (Trustee Lee)

Trustee Lee presented the following action items:

- (1) A representative of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP made a presentation to the Committee concerning East Stroudsburg University's Audited Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2019. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2019 Audited Financial Statement; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for August, 2019 to September, 2019, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Ross made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for August, 2019 to September, 2019; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The Committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under authority of Act 57 from August 19, 2019 to October 31, 2019, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Ross made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from August 19, 2019 to October 31, 2019; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (4) Vice President Long presented a summary of the University's affiliated organizations for the Committee's review and discussion. After review, the Committee determined that the University is in full compliance with the requirements of Board of Governors Policy 1985-04. The Committee offers a resolution, which certifies the University's compliance with the requirements of this policy. **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion to approve Resolution 19-07 Certifying Compliance of all University Affiliated Organizations with BOG Policy 1985-04; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

C. Strategic Initiatives Committee: (Trustee Lingenfelter)

Trustee Ross called upon Dr. Jeff Weber to report on the Strategic Initiatives Committee. Dr. Weber reported the committee discussed two main areas one was the retention initiatives that are ongoing at the University right now and also goal alignment as part of the PASSHE Redesign effort. Within goal alignment there are four main goals we are concentrating on right now; align recruitment to changing demographics, improve retention rates, increase the diversity of faculty, and improve our support systems for our minority students.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

Next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020.

11. Adjournment:

Trustee Ross wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked everyone for everything they do at the University. Trustee Ross adjourned the meeting at 4:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar