

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
September 29, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Marcus Lingenfelter.

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

Mr. Frank Epifano	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Mr. John Pekarovsky III
Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Ms. Tina Nixon	Mr. Pat Ross (Zoom)
Mr. William Green	Ms. Tameko Patterson	Mr. Paul Shemansky

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Mr. Bruno Klaus
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3. **Public Comment:**

None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2022, meeting, minutes from the June 07, 2022 meeting, and minutes from the August 01, 2022 meeting; Trustee Ross seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **Interim President's Report:**

Interim President Long reported we are nearing the end of our fifth week of classes of the Fall 2022 semester and for the first time in more than two years, all students, faculty, and staff are back on campus. The move-in weekend was very exciting and outside of a few hiccups, like traffic backed up to Route 80, some of that can be blamed on having the largest new student class since 2018.

The energy on-campus this year is tremendous, something we have not experienced in many years, well before the pandemic; I am not exactly sure why, but it might be that everyone...students, faculty, staff, administrators, are all just excited to be back to some sense of normality. Or the excitement may be because of all the things happening on campus. If you have taken a drive through campus recently, you may have noticed the construction projects. After more than ten years in the making, we have finally started construction of the new University Center. The demolition of the Keystone Room started in July to make room for the new building; we will start seeing the new structure start to take form over the coming months. You can find more on the new University Center or observe the construction from the University web page. Other projects you may or may not have noticed are the repair of several steam lines; a new entrance to the Fine Arts building, to improve accessibility; and a new larger video monitor in Eiler-Martin and one for Whitenight. While these monitors will enhance our athletic programs, the driving reason for these upgrades is to create more outdoor venues for campus functions. We were hoping to have these screens in place for the start of the Fall semester, but supply-chain issues have caused delays, it may be closer to the late fall or early spring before we will see these enhancements. All these upgrades are being funded without any new capital debt.

Early in the semester, we once again conducted our Good Neighbor Visits; this represents our seventh in the past 8 years (we did not do it in 2020, during the first year of the pandemic) we traversed through the nearby community in groups to talk with our neighbors about what it means to be good neighbors. This year we had twelve separate

groups made up of a total of 64 students, faculty, coaches, police officers, staff, and administrators. With the support of the Student Government and Men's and Women's Wrestling Teams, we had the largest student participation since the program was started in 2014. Unlike most years, where we receive a few complaints about students going through neighborhoods in groups and being loud and sometimes inappropriate in their behavior. The most common feedback I received was inquiries about campus events, such as theatre performances and athletic events. In general, the community is happy that the university was back to normal.

Since the last Council Meeting in the Spring, we received notification of reaccreditation of our HRTM and Exercise Science programs; and we also are expecting to receive affirmative notification about the accreditation decision for our Education Program shortly. On September 9th, we held our 23rd Annual Legislative Fellow Breakfast. Representative Kyle Mullins who represents the 112th legislative district was selected as our fellow for the 2022-23 academic year.

This past weekend was Family Weekend. The Alumni and Advancement Offices and the Foundation hosted the 11th Legacy Brunch under the tent in the Quad. There were twenty-nine legacy families in attendance, our largest in program history, with nineteen families receiving their pins and 111 in total attendance. Reminiscent of the first few weeks around campus, there was just so much positive energy throughout the weekend. ESU's Warrior mascot even had the President dancing before the football game; it is a good thing that we won the game convincingly, otherwise, that may not look good on social media. The celebration had to be cut a little short due to the rain on Sunday, so the 2022 Pocono Latin Fest had to be postponed until Sunday, October 23rd.

This Saturday, Coach Mike Terwilliger will coach or play in his 500th football game as a Warrior. And in October, Danny Douds will be inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. The entire Warrior Family celebrates Douds' and Terwilliger's significant achievements.

This past Tuesday evening, a group of Soccer Alum in collaboration with the Foundation and Athletic Department kicked off the Soccer Stadium Fundraising project, which will provide a dedicated soccer stadium for our men's and women's soccer program and bring some of our club sports from the back forty to the center of campus. Other events coming up are Homecoming Weekend, October 14 thru the 16th. To kick off the weekend, we will have the Annual Alumni Awards and All Alumni Reunion Banquet Celebrating the Class of 1972 for their 50th anniversary.

That concludes my report.

6. Chair's Report:

Trustee Lingenfelter noted the Trustees met in executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 1 pm today. Trustee Lingenfelter also noted that of his 13 years serving on the Council, the last two were probably the most dynamic, interesting, and challenging times in higher education. The use of data analytics in decision making was overdue and the amount of focus and strategy on enrollment management has brought our largest freshman class since pre-pandemic. Kudo's to senior management for getting us through these times and the x-factor is the leadership of ESU during these challenging times. Trustee Lingenfelter noted he is filling in for the Chairman who has selfishly served this university and community for many, is facing new challenges in Indiana for a time and no doubt he and Joan will prevail. Thank you to Chair Ross for his continued support and service. A new scholarship has been established, the Ashley Ross Lansdell M'95 Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of their daughter.

7. Secretary's Report:

No correspondence, no report

8. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

Interim President Long shared the committee discussed several interesting matters including the Comprehensive Planning Process which all system universities are going through and includes a budget report, sustainability plan, board-approved metrics, goals and strategies, and academic planning strategies.

The committee also received an enrollment update, and a report on the mid-year accreditation process from the new Interim Vice President of Administration & Accreditation, Mr. Michael Sachs. Other areas of discussion included the climate survey which all PASSHE Schools participated in, future facility planning, and an update from Mr. Allen Snook, the director of athletics on our fall sports achievements to date and also the academic successes of our student-athletes. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

B. Campus Environment Committee:

Trustee Nixon reported the committee received updates on health and wellness from Laura Suits-Dolan, Interim Director of Wellness Education & Prevention. Jessica Santiago an, Assistant professor in Academic Success, and Jevon Mitchell, a graduate student shared the importance of mentoring programs for students on campus. Eric Lee, advisor of the Men of Color Alliance (MOCA), and senior, Zahir Goyins along with Lyesha Fleming, advisor of Women of Color Initiative (WOCI) presented the many programs and work they are doing with the students. Trustee Nixon thanked the advisors, faculty, and staff for the level of work and dedication they are doing for the student of color on campus. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

C. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported the committee received an update from Mr. Rich Santoro, director of ESU Foundation, on where they are at this point in their fundraising and the total for FY22 fundraising resulted in \$5.3 million with a 5% participation rate from alumni. 2023 goals were shared and also naming opportunities for the Sheska Soccer Stadium Campaign and the University Center. A report on enrollment was provided and the upward trend continues with online applications and enrollment. This is in part with the strategies in place especially targeting local, close to home markets. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

Trustee Pekarovsky presented the following action items.:

- (1) CFO, Donna Bulzoni presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for April 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, 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 April 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The Committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from April 5, 2022, through September 7, 2022, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Patterson made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from April 5, 2022, through September 7, 2022; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

For the record, the Fiscal Year 2022 Preliminary Audit Results is listed as an action item on the agenda and is only an informational item which was discussed and will be brought to the December meeting for approval. Other informational items discussed included the Facilities Project Status Update and the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

D. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Lingenfelter thanked Interim Provost Ball for her presentation on the Pillars of Excellence and Dr. Susan Dillmuth-Miller, department chair of Communication Sciences and Disorders, along with one of her graduate students, for their presentation on the amazing things being done in their department. Trustee Lingenfelter thanked the staff for keeping student success a high priority and encouraged them to keep the good news on academic success coming to the Trustees. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

9. Old Business:

A. None

10. New Business:

- A. **Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers:** Trustee Lingenfelter asked for a motion to accept the Appointing of Campus Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers for the 2022-2023 Academic Year as required by the PASSHE BOG Policy 1983-14-A. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers for the 2022-2023 Academic Year according to BOG Policy 1983-14-A; Trustee Green seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- B. **Recommendation of Presidential Candidates to the Board of Governors:** Trustee Nixon, the chair of the search committee, publically thanked the search committee members for the commitment they had during the past two years that it took for us to get to today. Their passion for ESU and the representation of their constituencies was there at every meeting from day one until Monday evening when they met to finalize their recommendation to the Council of Trustees. The Council would like to thank the committee and accept their recommendation of the two candidates that we know can lead the university into the future. The next step of the process is for the Council to accept and move the recommendation of the two candidates to the Chancellor and Board of Governors. Trustee Nixon asked for a motion to accept the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee to submit the following qualified two candidates; Timothy Downs, Ph.D., and Kenneth Long, MBA to the Chancellor and Board of Governors. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee and move the two candidates; Timothy Downs, Ph.D., and Kenneth Long, MBA forward to the Chancellor and Board of Governors for final selection and appointment; Trustee Shemansky seconded. Trustee Lingenfelter called for a roll call vote. A roll call vote was taken which resulted in unanimous yes votes from the Trustees in attendance. The motion carried.**
- C. Next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2022, and will be held at the East Stroudsburg University Lehigh Valley Center in Bethlehem, PA.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar