

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
April 21, 2022
In Person & Via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

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

Mr. Frank Epifano	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Ms. Tameko Patterson	Mr. Paul Shemansky
Mr. William Green	Mr. John Pekarovsky, III (via zoom)	

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Mr. Bruno Klaus	Ms. Tina Nixon
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3. **Public Comment:**
None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**
Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2022 meeting; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**
Good Afternoon. As we approach the end of the Spring 2022 semester, I would like this opportunity to update you on the happenings at ESU since the last Council meeting.

As I have for the past two years, I will start with an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. For the Spring semester, we have recorded 126 cases, bringing the total number of cases for the year to 405 or approximately 7% of the campus population (COVID count includes employees). Since late February, there has been a steady decline in cases on-campus and last week the NCAA ended its required surveillance testing recommendation. The university will continue to offer free testing through the end of the semester for students and those employees in high-contact roles (coaches, counselors, residential life, etc.) The university ended its mask requirement in buildings, but masking is still required in classrooms, labs, healthcare areas, and individual offices at the request of the officeholders through the end of the semester.

Although the pandemic monopolized a significant amount of time this semester, we are starting to see the campus operating in what we now call the new normal. Last week, Political Science and Economics held its recognition dinner for students inducted into the honor society and who received scholarships. For the first time in two years, the university held an in-person Student Research and Creative Activity Symposium; the department of Special Education and Rehabilitation held its 23rd Through Their Eyes Conference, which educates the campus community on the obstacles and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, the Foundation held its 13th Annual Scholarship Dinner at Stroudsmoor. And tonight is the opening night of a live musical production of Legally Blonde. This is just a snapshot of the return of in-person events and ceremonies back to campus. And the mother of all events, Spring Commencement, and like last year it will take place in Eiler Martin Stadium on May 7th. Unlike last year, where we held a total of seven graduation ceremonies, this year there will be just one; with students from every program together. As of yesterday, there were 1,019 students registered to be present for graduation. This is likely the single biggest commencement ceremony for ESU.

In athletics, our student-athletes continue to boost outstanding academic achievements with teams and individual athletes receiving conference and national recognition for their scholastic accomplishments. In competition, Acro & Tumbling had their first meets earlier this Spring and continues to grow. Baseball, Softball, Track and Field, and Women's Lacrosse all have a solid Spring season, with Lacrosse and Softball both being nationally ranked. Tennis wrapped up its season this week. And on Saturday, before the Spring Games, will be the Official Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the Football Locker Room.

On the personnel side, the national search to fill the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Director of Athletic positions is on the way and we are looking to have both positions filled by the start of the new academic year. Interim Dean John Kraybill-Grego and Interim AD Nancy Jo Greenwald are doing an outstanding job filling in.

Before I end my remarks, I would like to thank publicly thank the many faculty and staff for their hard work in keeping our university safe over the past two years. And I would like to wish the many faculty and staff retiring at the end of the semester the very best. I especially would like to thank my colleague and friend Brenda Friday for her 25 years of dedication to ESU and wish her the best in retirement. She will need it because I plan on working her to the very last day and I know she would have it no other way.

With that, I conclude my report.

6. Chair's Report:

Trustee Ross thanked President Long and his team for the work they have done over the last two years. Trustee Ross reported on the Spring PACT Conference which he and two other ESU Trustees attended. Trustee Patterson and Trustee Grayuski also shared their experience as first-time attendees. Overall, the attendance was disappointing, however, was a good opportunity to meet and talk with other Trustees in the PASSHE System. Trustee Ross also encouraged his fellow Trustees to RSVP to attend the upcoming commencement ceremony.

7. Secretary's Report:

Trustee Shemansky indicated there is no report.

8. Committee Reports

A. Campus Environment Committee:

Trustee Ross reported that Dr. Robert Smith presented how the university is trying to be sustainable while at the same time attracting students. Residence Life presented how they are improving both residential and dining services and looking at what the students are looking for and offering different options. The Athletics Master Plan for the University was also shared and discussed.

B. University Affairs Committee:

Trustee Ross reported that Dr. Smith discussed the Comprehensive Planning Process which includes the budget report, sustainability plan, board-approved metrics, goals and strategies, and academic planning strategies. The committee was also informed of the many plans to increase student enrollment. Trustee Ross is very confident that we will get back to the higher enrollment numbers we had in the past.

C. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported Mr. Richard Santoro provided an update on the ESU Foundation providing updates on upcoming events and fundraising updates, priorities, and progress to date. Scholarships are in line with their target and will continue to put forth aggressive campaigns to assist with student needs. Enrollment data was presented to the committee through April and the participated projections for the Fall 2022 incoming class and looking to exceed 2021 enrollment.

Informational items discussed included the Facilities Project Status Review and the Report of Notice to Proceeds on Construction contracts. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

(1) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for February 01, 2022, through March 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 February 01, 2022, to Mach 31, 2022; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- (2) The Committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from February 1, 2022, through April 04, 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 February 1, 2022, through April 04, 2022 Trustee Green seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

D. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Lingenfelter reported digital technology work is the future of our academic profile and this is where our students can have a leg up in opportunities. Having a graduate that has won national awards in this space for his work on the Spiderman Matrix and Xmen franchises. Trustee Lingenfelter thanked Dr. Ball and the Digital Media Technology team for the NFS-funded work they have done and for the future of this program for our students. Trustee Lingenfelter also thanked our guests for the musical theater presentation and the virtual reality presentation. Our future in the arts and digital media areas is very promising and we need to continue to focus on expanding these areas of expertise.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

- A. **Nominating Committee:** Nominating committee Chair, Trustee Shemansky presented the nominated slate of officers for the upcoming academic year. The slate is as follows:

Chair: Trustee L. Patrick Ross '67

Vice-Chair: Marcus Lingenfelter '95

Secretary: Paul Shemansky '96 M '01 & 04

- B. **Election of Officers:** **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion to approve the slate of officers and appoint, Chair-Trustee Ross, Vice-Chair-Trustee Lingenfelter, and Secretary-Paul Shemansky for the upcoming academic year; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- C. Trustee Ross presented the 2022-2023 Council of Trustees Meeting scheduled as follows;

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Thursday, December 1, 2022

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Thursday, April 27, 2023

11. Executive Session:

Trustee Ross called for Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 4:26 pm. The regular session was called back to order at 4:39 pm.

12. Adjournment: Trustee Ross adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar