

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
December 05, 2024
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 4:07 pm by Chair Pat Ross.

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

Mr. Edward Abraham	Ms. Damali Jackson	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Frank Epifano (Zoom)	Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien	Mr. Paul Shemansky
Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Mr. John Pekarovsky III	

The following members were not present:

Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Ms. Tina Nixon	Ms. Tameko Patterson
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3. **Public Comment:**

None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2024, meeting; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

President Long reported as we enter the final weeks of our Fall semester, I'm pleased to report that this semester has been the busiest since the pandemic. With a 3.2% increase in enrollment, bringing our total to over 5,600 students, and residence halls being nearly full, the energy throughout campus is very high.

Before I share more updates on recent activities and accomplishments, I want to address an incident that occurred a few weeks ago. In the early hours of Sunday, October 27th, there were gunshots near the basketball courts by Zimbar Hall. A student event was taking place in Zimbar at the time. Thankfully, no one was injured. While the investigation is ongoing, all indications point to the involvement of non-students. University, State, and Regional Police Departments are collaborating on the case. As a proactive measure, we have strengthened campus security, with heightened patrols, restricted access for unaffiliated visitors, and increased identification requirements. Despite this incident, the campus remains vibrant. This fall, we've celebrated milestones and hosted exciting events, including a thought-provoking panel discussion by the Governor's Advisory Commissions on African American Affairs and on Women. The 12th year of the Troiani-Sweeney Endowed Lecture Series, featuring Marta Kazandjian's address on "Whole Health, Communication, and Cognition in Alzheimer's Disease." A memorable Veterans Day celebration with keynote speaker Lieutenant Colonel Michael S. Gielbeda. ESU's MANA Chapter participated in the 50th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C., earning national recognition for student engagement and service. The philanthropic Pickleball Tournament, organized by Sport Management students, collecting over 250 items for the Warrior Food Pantry. Our Nursing Program continues to excel, with the latest cohort achieving a remarkable 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam, surpassing state and national averages.

In Intercollegiate Athletics, our Warriors continue to shine as our Field Hockey team reached the NCAA Semifinals for the seventh consecutive season and secured a Runner-Up finish at the PSAC Championships. Jady van Gils was named PSAC Athlete of the Year and NFHCA National Player of the Week. Volleyball achieved back-to-back 20-win campaigns and reached the PSAC Semifinals, with Anna Coulter named PSAC East Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive season. Football finished 10-2 and advanced to the NCAA Playoffs for the second consecutive year.

Women's Cross Country qualified for the NCAA DII Championships for the first time since 1999 and finished third at the PSAC Championships. Three runners earned First Team All-PSAC honors. Men's Cross Country secured its best finish since 2019 at the NCAA Atlantic Regionals, placed 7th, and earned five All-PSAC honors. Men's Soccer had a strong season, going 8-4-5, and concluded with seven consecutive games without a loss. The team had five All-PSAC honorees and PSAC East Freshman of the Year, Drew Nyce. And in Club Sports, ESU Women's Rugby will compete in the Division III National Championships, a first for any ESU Club Sport.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that Edie King-Lawrence, an alumna from the class of 2012, will be the keynote speaker for the 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Breakfast, under the theme: "Dreams are what we have, when hope seems bleak, but hasn't faded." We are also proud to have honored Dr. Doreen Tobin with the State System Keepers of the Flame Award and Dr. Andrea "Andi" McClanahan with the Distinguished Professor Award. Institutionally, we have completed a new strategic plan, and during this meeting, we look forward to the Council's approval so that we can begin executing its initiatives. Additionally, ESU received the Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau Valued Partner Award, reflecting our commitment to regional collaboration.

That concludes my report.

6. Chair's Report:

Trustee Ross is excited in the direction of the university, with everything moving forward and continues to be one of the top sustainable universities in the system. Proves the search committee made the right decision hiring Ken Long as President. Thanked the President, Administration, and the Staff for supporting the efforts of moving the university forward.

7. Secretary's Report:

No Report

8. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

Trustee Ross reported Michael Sachs; Interim Vice President of Administration & Accreditation presented an update of Middle States Institutional Accreditation Self-Study Progress to date. All work groups are collecting evidence, coordinating interviews, surveys, and secondary document reviews to ensure that the 50 criteria in the 7 standards are being met, and the 23 line of inquiry have in-depth responses. All documents identified in the Evidence Inventory are to be uploaded this month. The remainder of the timeline was shared with the committee and anticipating the Self-Study visit to occur March 1-3, 2025.

Ralph Elick, Interim Chief and Frank Gay Manager of parking, transportation, and security services provided an update on recent incidents that occurred on campus. They are working with the local agencies to conduct investigations. They also shared the security plan that is in effect across campus and safety measures taking place in the dorms, rec center, and other high-volume areas on campus.

Lorna Hunter, Vice President of Enrollment Management and James Garraway, the new Director of Transfer & Non-Traditional Admissions reported enrollment management has embarked on several initiatives to increase the number of transfer students and to foster a culture of support for the transfer student experience. Key initiatives include implementing the opening of the Transfer Student Center, updating policies and procedures to foster a transfer friendly environment, increasing recruitment, expanding articulation agreements and implementing Act 69 programs

The final version of the Strategic Plan "ESU" Creating Opportunities through Community, Engagement, & Belonging was presented to the committee for approval. A draft was presented to the campus community, and seven roundtable discussions were held from September 16th to the 19th and the entire campus community was invited to attend. During these sessions, each Vice President reviewed their respective areas of focus. These discussions provided an opportunity for open dialogue, ensuring that various perspectives

were considered and that the feedback was incorporated into the next steps of the process. The plan was then revised based on the feedback received. Once the plan is approved, each area of focus will establish committees to create Key Performance Indicators that will guide the progress of the plan and align not only with the desired outcomes but also the values, vision, and mission of the university. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the new Strategic Plan, ESU: Creating Opportunities through Community, Engagement, & Belonging, seconded by Trustee Abraham; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. That concludes my report.

B. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky presented the following action items:

- (1) A representative of Clifton Larson Allen, the University's external auditors, presented the June 30, 2024, audit results. CLA explained the audit process and scope of the audit. They explained the risk-based approach used in conducting the audit and their internal control communication letter. The financial statement audit opinion is unmodified with no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies. There were no changes in audit scope or the audit plan since the initial planning meeting. There were no significant difficulties, no disagreements, and no other findings to report. There were no corrected or uncorrected audit adjustments. There was a discussion regarding insights in higher education and new GASB standards on the horizon. All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. **Trustee Ross made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Audited Financial Statement; Trustee O'Brien seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for September 1 through October 31, 2024, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee O'Brien made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for September 1 through October 31, 2024; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) Donna Bulzoni, CFO presented a summary of the University's affiliated organizations for the Committee's review and discussion. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. After review, the Committee determined that the University is in full compliance with the requirements of the Board of Governors Policy 1985-04-A. The Committee offers Resolution #24-04, which certifies the University's compliance with the requirements of this policy. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve Resolution #24-04 Certifying Compliance of all University Affiliated Organizations with BOG Policy 1985-04-A; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The procurement activity report for the period September 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024, was presented and reviewed as an informational item by Ms. Bulzoni.

Mr. John Bloshinski, Director of Facilities Management, reported that since the last Council of Trustees meeting, 38 new projects have been added to the master project list, which now contains: 60 active projects, as 12 were completed, and 5 were cancelled. Five (5) Service Purchase Contracts were issued and two (2) Notice to Proceeds were issued from September 20th to November 18th. Facilities Management is preparing for upcoming work that will occur during the winter break and preparation for Summer 2025 projects has also been initiated. As construction of the new University Center continues, interior finishes for the new University Center are completed and the committee is now focusing on selecting furnishings. The University Center is at 45% completion. Construction to restore the Innovation Center began early November in collaboration with FM Global's reviews and approvals. In addition, Facilities Management, along with Boyle Construction Administration, worked on the following project estimates: convert Flagler Metzger into an HRTM facility; interior improvements of the Mattioli Recreation Center, and participated in the Housing Capital planning project. The following continues to be an overall campus issue: steam leaks and staff vacancies.

Mr. Rich Santoro, Executive Director of the ESU Foundation, provided an update and things look like they are on pace. The team has set some aggressive goals for Fiscal Year 2025, and I'm happy to say they're on track to hit them. The main fundraising targets this year is \$5.75 million. This money will go towards some key areas across campus, like student scholarships, completing the soccer stadium campaign for athletics, and unrestricted giving, which helps support their operations, fundraising, and alumni programs. One of the most exciting projects right now is the Sheska Soccer Stadium Campaign. They've made good progress recently, with a goal of raising \$4.5 million. So far, they've secured \$3.84 million in signed commitments and have a verbal pledge for another \$500,000. They're only \$160,000 away from hitting their target. The Foundation has also been doing a nice job growing scholarship funds, which are essential to making higher education accessible. They've already established 9 new scholarships towards their goal of 25. Another positive this year has been a boost in alumni engagement. One of their top goals is to get more alumni involved, and we're seeing that momentum build, which is exciting and important. On top of fundraising, the Foundation has hosted some successful events this year. From the President's Gala to the Alumni Awards Ceremony, Homecoming Tailgate, and the recent Faculty and Staff Donor Reception, these events have helped strengthen connections with alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters, while also celebrating our shared successes. Lastly, the Foundation is growing its team. They're in the final stages of hiring a new frontline fundraiser, which will help them do even more to support the university and its students.

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. That concludes my report.

C. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Grayuski reported the committee toured the SIM Lab which was very impressive. The nursing department is making significant progress to enhance the program and is exciting to see as the need for nurses is substantial in the region. Dr. Brian Street, the Dean of Health Sciences shared with the Committee East Stroudsburg University's latest cohort of nursing program graduates achieved a remarkable 100% first-time pass rate on the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN), exceeding state and national averages. The group of 29 graduates became eligible to take the NCLEX-RN, a requirement to practice as a registered nurse, after completing the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in May. The perfect pass rate earned by the cohort exceeds Pennsylvania's average pass rate of 90.7% and is well above the national average pass rate of 88.6%, according to 2023 data of first-time exam takers. All courses in the nursing program curriculum are designed to prepare students for the NCLEX-RN.

Kizzy Morris, Associate Provost of Student Success provided a presentation on Work-Based Learning Program, intentionally designed learning and application opportunities to impact student success. ESU is one of five PASSHE universities involved with the WBL pilot program which allows us to be an "anchor university" to build a comprehensive infrastructure for our PA colleges and universities, as well as for other universities nationally to model. Student involvement includes coursework track, student groups subscription track, individualized track through co-curricular activities, and career education workshops and activities.

Dr. Edward Arner, Assistant Professor of Sport Management presented on experiential learning an alignment of industry exposure through volunteering, Sport Management Club involvement, field trips, and networking opportunities, curriculum which has structure outcomes such as exposure to management functions, soft skill development and hard skill application, and service.

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. That concludes my report.

9. Old Business:

- A. Trustee Ross stated that everything we do there at ESU is a collaborative and collective effort for student success, always keeping the interest of our student in mind. We need to have the right people in place to make it happen and we are very fortunate to have that here at ESU. Trustee Ross presented an overview of the PASSHE funding distribution from 2019-2024 showing the inadequate distribution of funds and the

millions of dollars that was given to sister universities to repay debt. Universities are not being held accountable, and we are very fortunate that President Long has taken us in the right path to keep ESU sustainable. Trustee Shemansky stated that everyone here at ESU is doing everything right to provide a great education to our students and we are being penalized financially due to some of our sister universities that are not financially stable and have many challenges.

10. New Business:

- A. **Executive Session:** Trustee Ross called for an executive session at 4:49 pm for personnel reasons. Trustee Ross entered back into regular session at 4:57 pm.
- B. Trustee Ross indicated that during the executive session, the Trustees discussed the Presidential Evaluation of President Kenneth Long. Trustee Ross thanked the annual review committee for their time and attention in providing an in-depth review of President Long. Trustee Ross asked for a motion to approve the Presidential Evaluation for President Kenneth Long and move forward sending a letter of approval to the Chancellor. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the Presidential Evaluation of President Kenneth Long and move forward in sending a letter of approval to the Chancellor; Trustee O'Brien seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- C. The next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2025.

12. Adjournment: Trustee Ross adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar