

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
December 07, 2023
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 4:44 pm by Vice Chair John Pekarovsky.
2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Frank Epifano	Mr. Bruno Klaus	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Ms. Tina Nixon	Mr. Paul Shemansky
Ms. Damali Jackson	Mr. John Pekarovsky III	

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Ms. Tameko Patterson
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3. **Public Comment:**

None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Ross made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023, meeting; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

President Long reported next week is the final week of the Fall 2023 semester and what a semester it was. There was so much happening on campus this semester, several of us would be on-campus late in the evening and not be at the same event. Some of the happenings just over the several weeks include:

- An Alumni Art and Media Exhibition
- Theatre production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night
- 15th annual Veteran's Day Celebration to recognize local veterans, service members in all branches of the armed forces. This year's keynote speaker was Colonel Lawrence M. Riddles, MD., a 35-year veteran of the US Air Force and current Regional Chief Medical Officer at Lehigh Valley Health Network.
- ESU held a breakfast to announce and welcome Senator Dave Argall as this year's Legislative Fellow.
- ESU's Concert Choir and Symphonic Band will present their fall concerts.
- Third Annual Faith, Blue and You event which is designed to strengthen the relationship between police and the local community.
- New student Open Houses and VIP Bus visits.
- Earlier this week, we had our Annual Tree Lighting. Thank you to those of you that were able to make it out.
- And tonight, we have the Annual Alumni Holiday celebration, right here in Lehigh Valley Center. I hope all of you are able to remain for this event, because our Alumni truly enjoyed having you join them last year.

In Facilities, we continue to make progress on the new university center. Phase 1 of the reopening of Minsi Hall is complete and students have started moving their belongings into the building in preparation for the Spring semester.

In Academics, Last month we had our kick-off workshop on retention and student success facilitated by the Gardner Institute. I would like to thank Deans Gruneiro-Roadcap and Smith for leading this initiative.

We have begun to narrow down the pool of candidates for the Dean of Health Sciences and look forward to having that position filled as soon as possible. But in the meantime, Prof Chad Witmer is holding things down and doing a tremendous job.

In athletics, fall sports recently finished and we are well on the way with Winter. For Fall, Football finished with a 9-3 overall record and our first return to the NCAA Tournament since 2009. Women Soccer finished with a record of 10-5-4 and earned a bid in the PSAC Tournament. Men's Soccer under new coach and ESU Alum Tom Mustac, earned the program's first national ranking from United Soccer Coaches since 2018 in September. Field Hockey finished the season 18-3, Captured back-to-back PSAC Championships and was runner-up in the national championship. Volleyball finished the seasons 22-7 and advanced to the PSAC Semifinals. ESU's Women's Rugby Team Placed Third in National Collegiate Rugby Regional Playoffs.

Looking ahead, the 27th annual celebration honoring Dr. King is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2024, at 8 a.m. The Keynote Speaker is Sherrise C. Cohen-Hooks, pastor, and founder of Reclaimed for Christ Ministries and The Apostle of The Church of A.C.T.S. The theme of this year's breakfast is Darkness Cannot Drive Out Darkness, Only Light Can Do That. Hate Cannot Drive Out Hate, Only Love Can Do That." The event will be held at Terraview at Stroudsmoor Country Inn. This is an event that you do not want to miss.

And it is exciting to report that enrollment for Spring 2024 is 9% ahead of last year at this time.

As you can see, ESU is back and the number of things happening on-campus have no sign of slowing down. That concludes my report.

6. Chair's Report:

Trustee Pekarovsky noted the leadership team is doing an outstanding job and looking forward to seeing what their continuous hard work and dedication will bring for the upcoming Spring semester. It is clear we have challenges; but we are confident that the leadership will continue to move ESU in the right direction.

7. Secretary's Report:

No Report

8. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

Trustee Grayuski reported the committee was updated on the Middle States Self-Study by Michael Sachs, Interim Vice President of Administration & Accreditation. The steering committee charges and the seven standards were reviewed along with the co-chairs of each standard. Also discussed were the 12 elements of the self-study design and the timeline which includes the on-site visit in February or March 2026 and conclude with the Commission action in June 2026.

Chief Parrish provided an update of the security cameras and safety projects across all campus locations including the main campus, Lehigh Valley Center, University Ridge housing, and the ESU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center.

B. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky 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 2023. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear and a clean audit was reported which is attributed to the great work of CFO, Donna Bulzoni and her team. All questions and concerns were answered

satisfactorily. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Audited Financial Statement; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for September 1 through October 31, 2023, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Nixon made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for September 1 through October 31, 2023; 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 #23-02, which certifies the University's compliance with the requirements of this policy. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve Resolution #23-02 Certifying Compliance of all University Affiliated Organizations with BOG Policy 1985-04-A; Trustee Ross seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The procurement activity report was presented as an informational item by Ms. Bulzoni.

Mr. John Bloshinski, Director of Facilities Management, presented and reviewed the Facilities Project Report and the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts, which were both informational items. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Richard Santoro, Executive Director of the ESU Foundation presented his report which included FY 2023-2024 goals, progress to date, campaigns, events, and staffing hires and needs. Tonight's Alumni event will be held in the Lehigh Valley Center and are expecting great attendance, and everyone is welcome to attend.

C. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Nixon reported the committee was presented with a recommendation from President Long to approve the following retired faculty for emeritus/emmerita status:

Nancy Jo Greenawalt, Ph.D., Intercollegiate Athletics, 25 years of service

Dr. Greenawalt meets the criteria outlined in the designation guidelines and was recommended by the nominating committee. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the faculty recommended by the President for faculty emeritus/emmerita, seconded by Trustee Ross; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Dr. Boone Langan, Dean of the College of Education presented the requirements for dual enrollment including the course offerings and the unique partnerships with cohort-based DE courses, grant based opportunities, and the Aspiring Educator Pathway Project. Also discussed were noted interests in the development of dual enrollment career pathways in public health, graphic design, intro to business, hotel, restaurant, and tourism management, criminal justice, and social work.

Dr. Samuel Quainoo, professor, and department chair of Political Science & Economics, Dr. Artress White, associate professor of English, and Dr. Beth Sockman, professor, and department chair of Professional & Secondary Education presented on their trip abroad to Ghana from July 1 to July 10 which included 4 professors and 1 staff member. The trip was to establish opportunities for greater collaboration in courses such as education and political science, partnerships with athletic teams, coach exchanges, and student exchanges.

D. Campus Environment Committee:

Trustee Jackson reported on the two agenda items discussed at the committee meeting. First, Dr. Jennifer Young, associate professor and department chair of Counseling & Psychological Services presented an overview of mental health across the country and at ESU which show high percentages in moderate or severe psychological distress, moderate or severe levels of stress, and students feeling lonely, and a lower percent but still distressing is the number of students who had a positive suicidal screening. Other areas of discussion included mental health legislation, trends being seen by CAPS of students who use their services, issues, current challenges and meeting those challenges, and the future of mental health.

Second, Dr. Allen Snook, director of Intercollegiate Athletics provided an update on fall athletics which included a great year of competition and achievements within both PSAC and NCAA. These achievements included several playoffs within both divisions and several team and individual awards for fall sports. Dr. Snook also noted that off the field, teams performed several hours of community service that has had an amazing effect on our local non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army, Warrior Food Pantry, and Sole 4 Soles just to name a few.

8. Old Business:

A. None

9. New Business:

A. The next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the East Stroudsburg University Innovation Center.

11. Adjournment: Trustee Pekarovsky wished everyone a Happy Holiday and adjourned the meeting at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar