

**East Stroudsburg University  
Council of Trustees Minutes  
April 24, 2014**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:09 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.
2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Dr. Vincent DeFranco	Mr. Bruno Klaus	Ms. Nancy Perretta
Ms. Josephine Ferro	Mr. Harry Lee	Mr. Pat Ross
Ms. Rebecca Keck	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter (via phone)	Hon. Mario Scavello

The following members were absent:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Ms. Amy Welch
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Trustee Ross informed those in attendance Public Comments will be heard after the completion of the Chair's Report.

3. **Approval of Minutes: Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2014 meeting; Trustee Lee seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
4. **President's Report:** President Welsh indicated this has been a tough year for our campus, but it is ending with a lot of significant accomplishments that will serve our institution for many years to come. This past week the Department of Art (and Design) had the grand opening of the G3Design Lab in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. The new lab is allowing our students to learn 3D design, printing, and additive manufacturing that is preparing them for the world today, and tomorrow. The partnerships being formed between ESU and the faculty in that discipline have been amazing and transformative. The Department of Theatre is putting on the musical The Wizard of Oz starting at 7:30 this evening through the Sunday Matinee. The faculty have partnered with Liztech and for this week, half of the proceeds of the sale of the Liztech Wizard of Oz Pin series, and 10% of sales are going to the theatre department. A great university community partnership.

President Welsh reported that although the obstacles have been huge, we are working to continue the music ensembles in light of the closure of the B.A. in Music. Our students want, and deserve, to have our support in co-curricular activities and we are working to ensure that support happens.

President Welsh reported on the many activities, award ceremonies, concerts and end of year activities this weekend and into next week, with the spring football game Saturday, softball and baseball games on campus, dance company performances, Community on the Quad Saturday, Scholarship Luncheon Sunday, and the Student Awards Ceremony Sunday evening.

President Welsh presented an update on the Strategic Plan. We are continuing to hold roundtables and to listen to what our campus wants. Members of the ESU community can chose to participate or not, and to date over 550 people have participated. We are in Draft 3 and it is becoming pretty solid.

President Welsh also shared there have been implementation committees formed for budget, staff advisory committee and the Office of the Provost has an Academic Planning Steering Committee and is working on the formation of a group or groups to deal with planning for research and graduate education. It has been a very informative, positive process that will become fully implemented by the fall.

5. **Chair's Report:** Trustee Ross reported that he attended PACT (Pennsylvania Association of Council of Trustees) which is gathering of all of the COT members, presidents, the Chancellor, and his staff. COT member Marcus Lingenfelter was elected president and has made PACT significant again. Chancellor Brogan was very positive in his assessment of the system and its future. He indicated that there will be a few challenges but we will face those challenges and move forward. He again indicated that all decisions that are made that will impact ESU will be discussed at great length and the decisions will no longer be made in Harrisburg without our input including all negotiations. Trustee Ross feels we are very fortunate to have Chancellor Brogan to lead us at this time.

Trustee Ross also reported on Advocacy Days which he also attended with President Welsh and four ESU students visiting with Representatives and Senators to tell the story of ESU and PASSHE. The students did an excellent job in relaying the message of how important it is to fund ESU and the other 13 PASSHE Universities. They were very passionate as to what ESU means to them and how it has been a positive influence in their lives. They also stressed the importance of a great, affordable education.

Trustee Ross attended the G3Design Lab opening and was impressed with the great progress they have made in the last year. Astonishing improvements of the past 8 months and Professor Joni Oye-Benintende and Professor Darleen Farris-Labar are doing outstanding work with the students. Trustee Ross reported he spoke with a student from the National Broadcasting Society which started in September 2012. They are doing a great job preparing the members in professional development and technical experience and will be inducting new members tomorrow. Trustee Ross was proud to report that the students of the Go Green Committee will be honored by the Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce with the Environmental Award which will be presented tomorrow.

Trustee Ross reported as the Strategic Plan continues to be developed, the roundtable discussions that have been held in conjunction with the plan have been very successful and enlightening as over 500 people that work for the university have attended, discussing all aspects of the university and how to improve it, working together, and sharing their ideas as to how to get there. The entire campus community has been invited to take part, and the roundtables will continue. Trustee Ross indicated that he has attended many of the roundtables and urged other council members to try to attend them as well.

Trustee Ross reported on the Judge's decision which cleared ESU and Administration in the Isaac Sanders case. This was a very stressful time for the Administration and University and it is important to put his behind us and he hopes the entire campus does as well and moves forward.

Trustee Ross reported on the upcoming Commencement Ceremonies; Graduate Commencement will be held 5/9 at 7:00 p.m. and Undergraduate Ceremonies will be held on 5/10 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. He reminded the COT members to please RSVP their attendance to the President's Office.

Special presentations were made to Coach Kochmansky, Coach Wilson, and WESS 90.3 and teams/students for their accomplishments in the 2013/2014 Academic year.

6. **Public Comments:** Trustee Ross opened the floor for public comments.

Dr. Robert McKinsey, Professor of Communication Studies and advisor of WESS 90.3 thanked the Committee for the presentation. He was very pleased with the close relationship established with the baseball and basketball teams, being able to broadcast their games.

Dr. McKenzie shared that while watching the event on MTV's broadcast it was an honor to see our radio station as the winner. They were the only PA station in the running and ½ a million votes were cast. They led a 3 ½ week campaign, reaching out to students on campus, local networks, and many other strategies that worked. University Relations had a great influence in spreading the word in the region. Also, Mary Frances Postupack contacted the other PASSHE schools to have them spread the word of WESS. They also tapped into the men's basketball championship with public service announcements and asking media classes to come in and vote which was worked

into their academic class. People at ESU were clamoring to bring us together. MTV will be on campus tomorrow to present the award.

Dr. Kathleen Brunkard, biology professor, brought a welcome from APSCUF. Thanks to everyone for the hours they put in this year. There are still concerns to express even though there were no faculty members retrenched. We did lose a faculty member from physics and it is a disappointment to lose that department's only female faculty member. Tutoring is losing two professional female tutors as well. ESU is losing great female role models. There are still concerns in putting the French and music programs in moratorium. APSCUF has requested and hopes to receive a report on how the decisions were made. The process for putting the programs in moratorium is very confusing. A vote on the curriculum changes is to be taken but there will be no impact of the vote. What is the purpose? With respect to the shutdown to the music program, appreciates Dr. Welsh's comments from before and glad we will continue with student ensembles but still not sure how that will be done. APSCUF hopes the CBA requirements are taken into consideration. Similar issue we are also concerned about the change in the general ed. program. The current gen ed program in effect has 2 credits of the fit program. Told by admin the fit program requirements would be waived. The change in the fit program was only made known a few weeks ago and the students and the faculty were very confused with the decision leading to a lot of confusion and wasted time.

Dr. Robert Cohen, physics professor. At the last COT meeting two months ago he offered to discuss the issues that were raised. In the Physics Department there are currently six faculty members and no adjuncts which is very low considering the number of students we service. The six is a quarter of what we had several years ago. Need to make an additional 25% cut for next year. Currently have the highest number of students in labs. They lost a wonderful engineering coordinator assisting with recruitment and retention efforts. Also lost our forensic specialist and professional tutors which includes two female and two minority tutors who we work very closely with. Retention course as a 1<sup>st</sup> year experience for our majors we had to cut as well. Faculty offices were moved out of Gessner Science Hall, labs will remain but the faculty office are being moved.

Dr. Leigh Smith, English professor, indicated she is here to speak to you today because you have a number of difficult decisions to make and to be able to make them you need very accurate information. At the last meeting our Provost said the biochemistry dept. was not accredited. Would have assumed this is a bad thing that they were denied accreditation. We later found out they were not accredited for a reason; those that conducted the report were not the accrediting bodies for those programs. ASBMB is the correct body to provide accreditation. We were also told by a member of the COT that professors only worked 20 hours a week and we were taken back. This statement was not only false but disrespectful. I trust the Council member that spoke did not speak on behalf of the entire council and she hopes that we can move forward.

7. **Secretary's Report:** None

8. **Committee Reports**

A. **Administration & Finance: (Trustee Lee)**

- (1) Approval of Amended Minutes: Trustee Lee requested approval of the amended September 26, 2013 minutes to include the following:

Section 9 A. (1) The committee reviewed the cash Disbursement Reports for 3/1/13 – 7/31/13. Trustee Willever made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for 3/1/13 – 7/31/13; Trustee Perretta seconded, and the motion carried.

**Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting; Trustee DeFranco seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- (2) The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for January and February 2014. **Trustee Ferro made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for January and February 2014; Trustee Perretta seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- (3) The committee reviewed Act 57 Purchase Report for 01/31/14 through 04/01/14. **Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the Act 57 Purchase Report for 01/31/14 through 04/01/14; Trustee Perretta seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (4) Contract Approval – Act 188. Process in approving the ACT 188 expenditures may be looking at some minor changes in the process. Council is given a detail list of every expenditure item the university makes. We ask the A&F department to provide answers to any questions we may have. Approval of our process and we will be reviewing for any changes. **Trustee Ferro made a motion to approve the Contract Approval – Act 188; Trustee Keck seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (5) Approval of the President’s Policy Recommendation: FA-2014-002 Parking. **Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the president’s policy recommendation; Trustee Perretta seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (6) **Project Status Review:** The Committee reviewed the Project Status Review. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.
- (7) Trustee Lee reported on the progress on the Keystone Center. There have been very positive discussions with the borough with permits. One concern of the borough’s is parking, which is no surprise, a topic that never goes away. Issues need to resolve to move the Keystone Center project forward.
- (8) VP Ken Long presented the projected budget for the 2014-2015 academic year projecting a flat enrollment. Past four years there have been declines in enrollment and optimistic that it will improve. Large budget in personnel and benefits which represents 75-80% of the budget during any given year. Projecting a 6.7 million deficit for 2014-2015. Does not have anything to do with the tuition changes. Will receive about a 3% tuition increase which will lower to a 3.7% deficit and will then have a 5% department decrease.
- (9) Trustee Lee commented, for the benefit of the Council and those present, he would like to say a few things on the litigation of the Sanders case. This was a tough time for all of us for several years. The University was granted a Summary Judgment by the court which is a very rare occurrence.

**B. Academic Affairs & Enrollment Management: (Trustee Lingenfelter)**

Trustee Lingenfelter asked Dr. Reidhead, VP of Academic Affairs and Provost, to provide a report. Dr. Reidhead reported enrollment management went over the enrollment to date in relation to the targets and they are far from done in regard to transfer students and freshmen are on target to meet our goals. Academic Affairs discussed faculty positions in regards to our budget restraints. Presentation by Dr. James Hunt about work on the Chincoteague Field Station work to stabilize the coast line. There are over 80 ESU students enrolled in the program. It is an outstanding program and NASA would like to get more involved. President Welsh has assumed the leadership of the program as the senior president.

**C. Student Affairs: (Trustee Keck)**

Trustee Keck reported that Michael Sachs discussed the revised student code of conduct and reviewed recent changes to the document. The focus was on keeping the document consistently accurate and to consolidate information to make the material more user friendly. Some of the information has been revised/reworded and some sections have been completely rewritten/added, including: identity theft, bullying, alcohol and tobacco policy, weapons policy (PASSHE level), retaliation, transcript submissions pertaining to disciplinary sanctions, student off campus violations in the Stroudsburg/East Stroudsburg area and how they are handled on campus, etc. The Student Affairs Sub-Committee voted and unanimously passed a motion to move the proposal forward.

Patricia Kashner discussed and shared information regarding the status of the Student Handbook focusing on the following: elements of redesigning the website, decreasing the size of the online document, making the material user/student friendly by removing administrative verbiage, and meeting legal requirements. The online publication is sustainable and cost effective for the university. She also discussed recent and upcoming key events on campus, including: Earth Day, Student Research and Scholarly Activity Symposium 2014, Get the 411 at 411 (Lawn Party scheduled 4/29 from 1-3:30), Day without Stress (May 1 from 12-4pm in the Keystone Room) and other upcoming events. Doreen Tobin and Patricia Kashner also addressed plans and initiatives to rebuild the Parent's Association.

Doreen Tobin discussed the efforts of the Athletic Sports Realignment Task Force and the goal to establish a Facilities Master plan and raising funds for sports.

Kwaku Adjei-Bohyen Vice President for Student Senate Reported the following; Student Elections outcome.

**D. Research & Economic Development: (Trustee Abraham)**

Trustee Lee provided accolades to the accomplishments of junior Adam Dinnen. Adam won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Microsoft every 2 minutes competition. This is an international competition held around the world for the submission of a new potential video game. Adam won this in 2 seconds beating out the next competitor by 1 second. Adam is off to Seattle to spend a day with Microsoft personnel and is in the process of developing his game. He then has the opportunity to present his game and if successful they will pick it up and will be a major undertaking.

Presentation from Ed Connors, President, Innovative Educational Resources, LLC, one of 14 companies in the center. Innovative Informational Resources develops solutions for the health industry. Mr. Connors picked ESU because of the wonderful facilities and the helpful staff.

Also had a presentation on how the realm of 3D Additive Manufacturing will impact ESU.

Christina McDonald provided an update on the grants; \$2 million last year and this year a good start with ½ million.

**9. Old Business: None**

**10. New Business:**

- A. Recommendation of contract renewal for Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D., President:** Trustee Ross reported that on April 15<sup>th</sup>, himself, Trustee Lee, and President Welsh had a conference call with Chancellor Brogan and Dr. Peter Garland regarding Dr. Welsh's evaluation. Trustee Ross reported the evaluations were very positive and both the Chancellor and Dr. Garland were very pleased with Dr. Welsh's performance thus far. **Trustee Ross made a motioned to approve the contract renewal for Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D., President; Trustee Lingenfelter seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- B. Resolution for Robert Willever:** Trustee Ross thanked Trustee Willever for his years of service and read the resolution to those in attendance. Trustee Lee also wanted to personally thank Trustee Willever and note that he was an outstanding Trustee to the University. **Trustee Scavello made a motioned to approve the resolution for Robert Willever; Trustee Lee seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- C. Nominating Committee Presents Slate of Officers :** For continuity, the nominating committee would like to keep the officers. Motion to elect the current slate of officers (Trustee Ross-Chair, Trustee Perretta- Vice-Chair, and Trustee Welch- Secretary) for the upcoming academic year as recommended by the Nomination Committee. **Trustee Lee made a motion to approve and elect the Slate of officers; Trustee Scavello seconded, no abstentions. The motion carried.**

D. Trustee Lingenfelter informed the Council of Trustees that the fall PACT Conference will be held October 2<sup>nd</sup> and hopes they can be a part of the event.

12. An Executive Session was called at 5:31 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

13. Meeting called back to order at 5:58 p.m.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S. Welch  
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar