

East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
December 04, 2014

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Trustee Harry Lee who is sitting in for Chair Pat Ross who was called away for a family medical emergency.
2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Edward Abraham
Dr. Vincent DeFranco
Ms. Josephine Ferro

Ms. Rebecca Keck
Mr. Harry Lee

Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter (via phone)
Ms. Amy Welch

The following members were absent:

Mr. Bruno Klaus
Hon. Mario Scavello

Ms. Nancy Perretta

Mr. Pat Ross

3. **Public Comment:**

Dr. Peter Hawkes, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences spoke before those assembled on the process leading up to the moratorium of the Music Department . A request came from the Chancellor to all deans to look into the programs being offered and to concentrate on those programs that have less than six graduates per year and less than 30 graduates in the past five years. Dean Hawkes indicated he worked with faculty of the departments that fell into this category; some of which worked with other departments to keep their program moving forward. Music was told they were in jeopardy. The music department was asked by the Provost to recruit students. One department faculty member at the time indicated he won't recruit for their degree because he felt it's not a useful degree for students. Out of the department of four there was one person full of ideas and the three others were not interested. This shocked Dr. Hawkes. It was hard to advocate for the program and degree when the faculty didn't believe in it.

Dr. Tobin, VP of Student Affairs also spoke before those assembled about comments made at the previous meeting and in recent newspaper articles regarding Kappa Kappa Psi not being able to continue because their advisor needs to be a full-time faculty member. After reading the agreement on file at SAA, Kappa Kappa Psi is only required to have a director of bands as their advisor. Therefore, Kappa Kappa Psi will be able to continue with an advisor.

Trustee Lee reminded those assembled that the Council of Trustees are volunteers, they take their job seriously and are not here to debate with anyone. They are here to listen and absorb everything that will be said today. Due to the number of individuals present there will be a three minute time limit and you may only speak one time.

Maury Molin, class of 1976 and presently serves on the Alumni Board, mentioned that at the last meeting things were said that were not accurate from the people in the audience. He encouraged everyone to be sure they have accurate information before speaking.

Andi McClanahan, professor of communication studies, read a letter that was sent to the President from Phil Woods (copy not supplied.) Professor McClanahan provided a handout regarding operational spending on instruction which is at the lowest level in six years (attached). Asked the Committee to think about how these decisions will impact ESU, the students, the community, and incoming students.

Michelle Jones Wilson, associate professor of chemistry, presented the Committee with a petition from online and an in-person petition to keep music at ESU. Indicated their concern is not for the music major but for the music classes. Need to know what this is going to do to our community.

Jeffrey Hotz, professor of English, has concerns regarding the RFP proposals for a branding and marketing position. University Relations has been seeking these proposals. Prof. Hotz asked to hold the proposal for now until known if it is needed for the university and look into having branding and marketing done internally. Professor Hotz also questioned the 3% budget increase and the 13.7% increase in administration. Asked the COT to examine administrative hiring against faculty, the cancellation of music, shortages of classes to be offered, and class sizes.

VP Long commented on the concerns of Professor Hotz. The personnel increase is not a true increase in numbers, which includes filling positions that were vacant. Vacancies exist in all bargaining units including administrative positions. It is customary to search for qualified experts to provide marketing and branding services. We are one of the few PASSHE institutions that does not have a marketing and branding company providing services. We would prefer to keep teachers in the classroom teaching students then pulling them out to perform these services.

Rev. George Taylor, retired community member. Personal experience in the ESU Community Orchestra, attended the choral concert last night. Fine choral and concert groups at ESU and should continue. Rev. Taylor also stressed the correlation between music and intelligence found in studies.

Trustee Lee feels there are misunderstandings of those speaking. As trustees we need to weigh all options provided to us to make the most effective decisions for the university. PASSHE put out a mandate that we review the utilization of the faculty, programs, and number of students. As a result we had to look at the retrenchment of the two faculty members of music department.

President Welsh indicated that we still have music at ESU and we will continue to. ESU is the only PASSHE system university which fully supports the community music ensembles. Other PASSHE school community orchestras are either run on grants, share the cost between the university and the community members, or are supported entirely by the community members who participate. To continue to maintain these community groups we need to find a different way to do so because our students cannot continue to pay for these community organizations.

Patti Alleger, community member and graduate of ESU and teacher for Stroudsburg Area School District. Spoke on musical intelligence. Sad not providing music general education courses at ESU which will impact those students graduating in the education programs. One of the questions she would ask is how they would incorporate the arts in their classroom. How will they be able to answer that question without music general education classes to help.

Trustee Lee indicated that the current class, Music of Renaissance has 13 student enrolled and five students enrolled in the second course. That's only 18 out of 7500 registered students. We are paying ¼ of a million dollars for these two courses when we could have used it elsewhere on campus. Need to use resources where they are needed.

Jonathan Keiter, assistant professor of mathematics stated that they were told general education courses were not to be taught.

Dr. Van Reidhead, Provost and VP of Academic Affairs, indicated that the two courses that Trustee Lee mentioned were general education courses.

James Maroney, associate professor of music and director of choral activities, requested time for singers to perform one of their numbers.

Trustee Lee indicated that we are here to conduct an agenda and to conduct business and having the singers perform is setting precedence for others. He would love for them to entertain us after the agenda is complete.

James Maroney said this is not entertainment, this is art. We do not simply provide entertainment, we also provide the arts. Anyone can provide cheap entertainment.

Trustee Lee again indicated they can do so after the meeting.

Joe Miele, professor of psychology, feels there is mischaracterization of the number of seats that will be lost with the loss of GE courses in music. Many seats were moved over to the humanities, hundreds of seats were out of the music GE.

Mason Buskirk, sophomore communications major. Taking all courses offered by Dr. Maroney. Music is the most important way of communicating imaginable. Wanted to be present to show there is student representation.

Laura Beimfohr, graduate student in biology. Have a budget surplus and higher enrollment than recent years. Why are we cutting programs and cutting professors if there is a budget surplus?

Marcus Howard, junior in the computer science and computer security majors was recruited by Dr. Maroney to perform in the choral groups. Mr. Howard does not feel an adjunct faculty member to be conducive to all the things done so far.

Sylvia Thompson, sophomore in speech language pathology and musical theater spoke on how she feels music is a part of all of us. So much more beautiful when you understand the context and where it comes from. Phonetics class was helpful due to her knowledge in music. Music is a uniting factor.

Rebecca Rover, president of vocal performing arts, not speaking about the budget but about her personal experience. She started out as a biology major and is now a theater major. Recruited by Dr. Maroney to be a part of the choral groups. To take away the professors you take away part of their family.

Michael Lloret, senior in the musical theatre major expressed his concern for the faculty members and does not like the fact that when graduating here in May he will see professors and programs let go. The faculty is there for the students as an outlet to talk to and as mentors.

4. **Approval of Minutes: Trustee Welch made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2014 meeting; Trustee Keck seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
5. **President's Report:** President Welsh announced we are heading into finals week and everyone, students, faculty and staff, is ready for a break. The last day of classes (finals) is Friday, December 12.

Provost Van Reidhead has made the decision to return to the faculty, wanting to return to the classroom and to the students who make what we do so rewarding. We have been working with Witt Kieffer out of Philadelphia on a search for the next provost of ESU. We have started with the on-campus interviews of the six finalists. Our hope is to have a new provost on campus for the spring term. I will keep you informed as the process moves forward.

ESU's Strategic Plan, Students First: Innovate ESU, continues to move forward. The Graduate Strategic Plan Task Force submitted their final report to the Provost Tuesday, so we will be reviewing it in concert with the Academic Plan Steering Committee to whom the Graduate Task Force is reporting. The Academic Plan Steering Committee has been having faculty roundtable discussions for those faculty who want to participate, as well as some open sessions for the campus. They will be finalizing their report in the next few weeks after one more open roundtable conversation.

ESU Strauser collection committee recently held the annual event with a reception and silent auction, and now a holiday sale of art here on this floor. Feel free to look around and purchase art as gifts for your friends and family, with proceeds going to support the Strauser Collection, part of ESU's Heritage Collection.

The 4th annual Zoot Fest was held and reported it was the best ever. A lot of talent, both young, and older, with displays of the Al Cohn Memorial Jazz Collection. Louise Sims was able to be here for the day. Proceeds from the Zoot Fest go to support the Al Cohn Memorial Jazz Collection. President Welsh extended compliments to Dr. Matt Vashlishen, Director of the Collection, for an excellent event.

Holiday on the Circle took place this past Monday where we had a band called Along the Road. Four alumni started this band back in 1983 in a stairwell in Shawnee Hall. Two lived in Linden and Two in Shawnee. They wrote their first Christmas song and eventually added a drummer from Brown University. They have produced CD's and continue to play together although they live from north of Boston to south of Philadelphia. They were thrilled to be invited back to campus and their performance was fabulous. They were joined by Michael Lloret, a senior in Theatre, Alumnus Robin Smith, and our own Voices of Triumph Gospel Choir Praise Team. The evening concluded in the Circle for the tree and menorah lighting. Great campus tradition.

Saturday is the ESU Student Senate's 15th Annual Teddy Bear Drive. Students are still accepting donations until tomorrow afternoon. Are expecting over 85 children on Saturday, Keystone room, and their hope is to have a toy for every child.

Tomorrow is the final fall show for the McMunn Planetarium (7-9pm) and the annual robotics competition in Zimbar Gym tomorrow afternoon at 2pm...first time in a room large enough to accommodate an audience so I hope you will all consider showing up to watch and support Professor Marmelstein and the students.

Because of everything going on in our country in the area of race relations that clearly impacts our students, we are committing Black History Month to the topic of Race and Racial Bias. We are putting together representatives from the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the African American Student Alliance, and the ESU Race Relations Project to develop a thoughtful program that can allow for meaningful dialogue and learning opportunities for our campus, and our community, so please watch for more before the beginning of February.

ESU's 18th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Breakfast will be Monday, January 19 in the Mattioli Recreation Center. We outgrew the Keystone Room last year and need to move and so please join us. To reserve seats please contact the ESU Foundation Office website or 570-422-7000. For more information, simply go to the ESU website.

The ESU Holiday Video is out. If you haven't seen it yet, please go to the homepage of the ESU website. The script was written by alum, Val Caval, and all of the work to produce the video was accomplished by the National Broadcasting Honors Society. The advisor for the group is Dr. Beth Sockman and the President is Collin Passman. Really an incredible group of students.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

6. **Chair's Report:** Trustee Lee mentioned the passing of Former President Dr. Robert J. Dillman, with whom he worked with for 16 years. Trustee Lee reminded the Council of the upcoming Commencement exercise that will take place on Saturday, December 13th beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Koehler Field House.
7. **Secretary's Report:** Trustee Welch brought to the Trustees attention two letters which were received in the ESUCOT email and was forwarded to all Trustees.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Administration & Finance: (Trustee Lee):**

Trustee Lee requested VP of Administration & Finance, Mr. Ken Long, to provide reports. VP Long reported Dr. Doreen Tobin, VP of Student Affairs, made a presentation to the Committee on a policy for the protection of minors, acquired by the BOG policy. VP Long indicated we are in compliance with organizations with the University and all are in order. VP Long also provided a project status review on the progress of the Keystone Center. The University is working with the Borough to work on completing the planning. Phase II funding has been approved by the State which removes one of the obstacles the Borough had. The next meeting with the Borough is scheduled in February. VP Long also informed the Committee the University is in compliance with various laws that we need to operate according to the 2014 Auditor General Performance Audit Report.

- (1) Resolution 14-01 was presented and states the Council of Trustees certifies that all affiliated organizations are in compliance with the Board of Governors Policy 1985-04. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Ferro made a motion to approve Resolution 14-01, Compliance Reporting –Board of Governors Policy 1985-04. Trustee Welch seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for October 2014, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Abraham made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for October 2014; Trustee Keck seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from 10/17/14 thru 11/21/14, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Abraham made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from 10/17/14 thru 11/21/14; Trustee Keck seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

B. Academic Affairs & Enrollment Management: (Provost & VP of Academic Affairs)

Trustee Lingenfelter asked VP Van Reidhead to report. The Committee was updated on the fall 2015 recruitment and deposits made as of date. Dr. Peter Hawkes, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, along with Prof. Don Dellipriscoli and Prof. Sean Hu briefed the Committee on the merging of the Department of Geography and the Department of History to the Department of History and Geography beginning in the Spring 2015 semester.

C. Research & Economic Development: (Trustee Lee)

Trustee Lee commented on the many great opportunities students and faculty at ESU are exposed to through the Research & Economic Development department. There are a lot of great things happening here with Workforce Development, Business Accelerator, and Sponsored Projects and Research. Trustee Lee indicated the Committee was also updated on the Schisler Museum and McMunn Planetarium and encourages everyone to be a part of these exciting venues on campus.

D. Student Affairs: (Trustee Keck)

Trustee Keck reported Dr. Tobin discussed the Title IX training, which included training of campus faculty, staff, and student employees. To date about 1500 people were trained. Dr. Tobin also mentioned that since the training there has been an increase in reporting incidents. Orientation and Residence Life are currently undergoing staff selection. SAA and ESU signed a five year term MOU. Dr. Tobin discussed the effect on the Ferguson events on campus and the student body. AASA had a peaceful rally today to address social and civil rights issues. There was a proposal for a more in depth discussion at a later date, possibly in line with African American History Month.

Trustee Welch thanked Trustee Keck for her two years of service and input to the board. She wasn't afraid to ask questions and the Committee listened to her and appreciated what she had to say on the student's point of view. The Committee saw her grow as a student and adult. Rebecca will be graduating in December.

9. **University Policy:**

- A. Approval of the President's Policy Protection of Minors, PO-2014-2002: Dr. Tobin discussed the proposed Policy of Minors, an obligation from the Board of Governors that the University needed to identify and adopt a policy before 12/31/14. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Welch made a motion to approve the President's policy recommendation; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

10. **Old Business:**

None

11. **New Business:**

- C. **Next Meeting:** Trustee Ross stated the next Council of Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2015.

12. **Executive Session:** Trustee Lee indicated there was no need to enter into Executive Session.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m. by Trustee Lee. The A Capella concert choir performed for all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S. Welch
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar