

**East Stroudsburg University  
Council of Trustees Minutes  
February 15, 2018**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

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

Ms. Josephine Ferro	Mr. John Pekarovsky (via phone)	Hon. Mario Scavello
Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Mr. Pat Ross	Ms. Abigail Soto

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Dr. Vincent DeFranco	Mr. Bruno Klaus
Mr. Harry Lee		

3. **Public Comment:**

Dr. Nancy VanArsdale, President of APSCUF, commented on Advocacy Day being next week and APSCUF is proud that students from the 14 State System Universities will be visiting Harrisburg to reach out to our Legislators helping them to understand how important the college experiences are for our students and asking for more Commonwealth support in funding higher education. APSCUF is working with the coalition of others interested in PA Promise, a campaign to advocate for free or reduced tuition at community colleges and system universities. PA needs to see its public colleges and universities as a valuable part of our infrastructure worthy of more state revenues. Commonwealth used to fund 70% or more for students to go to colleges like ours. This generation of students deserves more state funding. Dr. Van Arsdale thanked VP Ken Long for the information he always shares with APSCUF about budget and budget processes at ESU. ESU's APSCUF has been working with a financial expert team that has noticed that ESU has a substantial amount of unrestricted assets. In addition, from between 2012-2017 expenditures on faculty did increased by 3.8% during the same time period management expenditures went up over 11.2%. APSCUF will be taking these issues to next Meet & Discuss and remain grateful that VP Long is always willing to address our funding concerns.

Trustee Ross commented the Council of Trustees advocates for more funds 12 months a year, 365 days on a continuous basis.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

**Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2017 meeting; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

5. **ROTC Recognition:** Trustee Lingenfelter presented Resolution 18-01, recognizing the cadets of the University's ROTC Program for their leadership on November 10, 2017, at the Wounded Warriors Program, in addition to their service to our University, community, and country. **Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve Resolution 18-01 ROTC Recognition; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

6. **President's Report:**

The State System of Higher Education is in the middle of a process that is being called System Redesign, with the goal of accomplishing three strategic priorities established by the Board of Governors; ensuring student success, leveraging university strengths, and transforming the governance/leadership structure. There are a number of different Task Groups from throughout the state system to deal with these three priorities and to help streamline

the work of the campuses to achieve success in the three areas. We will work to keep you as informed as possible as different initiatives are rolled out or accomplished.

This past Tuesday evening the East Stroudsburg Borough Planning Commission voted approval of our modified Keystone project, allowing it to now go forward to the ES Borough Council for consideration and hopeful approval. This will allow us to then work toward the release of that money allocated to the second part of the Keystone Center, the library component for renovation of the Kemp Library as well as three academic buildings; Gessner, Moore, and Stroud.

Consultant, Ann Duffield, was back on campus this past week to work with the different campus groups on the implementation of our new three-year strategic plan, Students First: Empowering Innovation through Collaboration. We are making progress in both small and large ways with a lot of excitement on campus regarding the four goals, which did not change from our last plan, and our four strategies and very specific initiatives. We believe the design with the strategies working to accomplish the goals will prevent duplication and silos, helping us to accomplish even more than we did with the first three-year plan. It is a powerful plan and the campus buy-in has been energizing.

The thus far very successful President's Entrepreneurial Lecture Series evolved from the strategic plan and our third lecture is coming up on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker will be Steve Somers of Vigon International. You are of course all invited to join us for another stimulating lecture and discussion of the successes and failures of an entrepreneur.

The Board of Governors approved our tuition program, which we are calling the Warrior Promise. Both first year and transfer students entering this fall will be guaranteed a fixed, four-year tuition rate, without a tuition increase for the next four years, or eight consecutive semesters. Our goal is to ensure families have financial predictability as they deal with college expenses, while also working to ensure these students stay on track to graduate in that four year period. A Q&A page on the ESU.EDU website that should answer most questions parents and students might have, and David Bousquet, VP for Enrollment Management, has gone on a road show to ensure our campus community is well informed regarding the program and able to answer questions that may arise when parents and students come to campus.

In athletics, our new Athletic Director, Dr. Gary Gray, began his role January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will give us the leadership we need to continue to grow Warrior athletics. Women's basketball is #2 seed in PSAC Conference Tournament. Men's basketball is doing well and in a three-way tie with West Chester and Shippensburg. They play West Chester this weekend and should be an exciting game. Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Golf, and Women's Lacrosse are all starting their spring season. Women's Lacrosse is now ranked nationally in the pre-season pole after the last two years of tremendous success. ESU Athletics is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> for the PSAC Dixon Trophy.

There have been incidences of crime on campus, which we discussed at length today, and how we are dealing with these issues and moving forward. ESU is a microcosm of our community and most of these crimes are not committed by ESU students but members of the community. We need to work harder with our community in crime prevention and we will be having a town hall on the issue to include not only ESU Police but also Stroud Area Regional Police, the State Police, and the Drug Task Force to discuss with our students how to be safe in the environment for which we live.

To celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ESU there was a kick-off on January 22<sup>nd</sup> opening the time capsule and also holding a food drive for the Warrior Pantry. Throughout the year, we will be holding several celebrations including a celebration dinner as a fundraiser October 25<sup>th</sup> and the yearlong celebration will culminate on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Chair's Report:**

Trustee Ross reported on the upcoming Spring PACT Conference to be held April 12 and 13 at the Harrisburg Hilton and encouraged all Trustees to attend.

## 8. Secretary's Report:

None

## 9. Committee Reports

### A. University Affairs Committee: (President Welsh)

Sharone Jones presented the Alumni Mentoring Program, which is a pilot program at ESU pairing members of the Alumni Board with ESU Students. The program is designed to connect alumni with students to build relationships with and encourage students to stay to completion of their degree. 11 students and 11 Alumni Board Members are currently in the pilot program. After six months the program will be evaluated and determined if it is working or not and if it is indeed working they will continue the program to benefit ESU students. Keith Modzelewski, director of the Business Accelerator & Entrepreneurship talked about the Warrior Launch Pad through Business Accelerator. Nine student groups are being mentored in their business plan and will go on to be participants in either the PASSHE Business Plan Competition or the TecBridge Business Plan Competition. A great initiative for the entrepreneurship leadership center. VP David Bousquet discussed the Warrior Promise program and what it means to the campus and how it works. Chief Parrish discussed campus safety and what is going on with the investigations of the two incidents that took place on campus in December and January. President Welsh informed the committee the Chancellor search is proceeding and the candidates will be at the Dixon Center in March.

### B. Strategic Initiatives Committee: (Trustee Lingenfelter)

Trustee Lingenfelter discussed the presentation by Dr. Denise Seigart, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, on the potential applied doctorate in health science that is in great demand in keeping with our region and commonwealth workforce needs. Mr. Robert Smith, Assistant VP of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Assessment, presented on the work his office is completing to assist with data driven decision-making and constant assessment of the University.

### C. Finance Committee: (Trustee Scavello)

Trustee Scavello discussed the following Information items:

- The Committee reviewed the Project Status Review Reports dated February 2, 2018. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.
- The Committee reviewed the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts dated February 2, 2018. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.

Trustee Scavello discussed the following action items;

- (1) Authorization from the Council of Trustees is required to use the bond funds approved for the Innovation Center second floor retrofit project for projects in Koehler Fieldhouse. VP. Long explained to the Committee why the funds were no longer necessary for the Innovation Center project and outlined what projects in Koehler Fieldhouse would be completed using this funding. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the authorization to use the bond funds for the Innovation Center second floor retrofit project for projects in Koehler Fieldhouse; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for November 1, through December 31, 2017 and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for November 1 through December 31, 2017; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- (3) The committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from November 3, 2017 through January 4, 2018, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from November 3, 2017 through January 4, 2018; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (4) Authorization to offer two new Institutional Student Aid Packages: “The Keystone Tuition Scholarship” and ESU Financial Assistance Grant. The Keystone Tuition Scholarship, a merit based tuition award, will provide incoming freshmen, who are Pennsylvania residents and meet the criteria, with \$8,000 over 4 years. The Keystone Tuition Award is intended to boost the enrollment and retention of academically talented students. The ESU Financial Assistance Grant, a need-based award, would provide continuing students who are struggling to pay their tuition bill and worrying about how to register for upcoming semesters with the opportunity to continue matriculation to graduation. This would help boost student success as awarding would be centered on students with remaining financial need. Financially supporting eligible continuing students by helping to bridge the need gap would improve completion persistence rates. VP. Bousquet explained to the Committee the objective, need and benefit of the scholarship and grant programs. VP Long described how these programs would be funded, explaining that funding for both packages will be incorporated in the University’s Annual Educational and General Operating Budgets. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the authorization for the University to begin offering merit-based and need-based aid packages; Trustee Ferro seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

**D. Campus Environment Committee: (Trustee Scavello)**

Trustee Scavello welcomed the Athletic Director, Dr. Gary Gray. Dr. Brenda Friday, Director of University Relations presented the Warrior Promise Marketing strategy. Dr. Brenda Friday also presented on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ESU and the timeline of events taking place throughout the year. Dr. Doreen Tobin, VP of Student Affairs updated the committee on the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the topics and events being presented across campus for faculty, staff, and students.

**9. Old Business:**

Trustee Lingenfelter commented to keep in mind that the minority shareholder in these Universities is the Commonwealth. Student tuition fees comprise 80% of this institutions revenue and students are in fact paying 80 cents of every dollar, of every bill and we should keep that finding in mind of all decisions we make that we are effectively spending the students money and not the Commonwealths money.

**10. New Business:**

- A. Trustee Ross appointed the Council of Trustees 2018 President Triennial Evaluation Committee as required to PASSHE Policy 2002-03-A: Evaluating Presidents. The Evaluation Committee consists of Trustee Ross, Trustee Abraham, and Trustee Lee. **Trustee Scavello made a motion to approve the Presidential Evaluation Committee, Trustee Lingenfelter seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

- A. **Next Meeting:** Trustee Ross stated the next Council of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2017.

**12. Adjournment:** Trustee Ross noted no need for Executive Session, Trustee Ross adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine Ferro  
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar