

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
February 20, 2020**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

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

Mr. Bruno Klaus (via phone)	Mr. John Pekarovsky III	Mr. Paul Shemansky
Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter (via phone)	Mr. Albert Rivera	
Ms. Tina Nixon	Mr. Pat Ross	

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Dr. Vincent DeFranco	Ms. Josephine Ferro
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3. **Public Comment:**

No Public Comments

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Nixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 05, 2019 meeting and January 29, 2020 meeting; Trustee Rivera seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

On the top of everyone's minds here at ESU and throughout the state system is the process of System Redesign. You can read about the goals, and the processes, on the PASSHE website to stay current on what System Redesign means for the State System and for ESU. What is more pressing is what you have been reading about and hearing in the media regarding the financial sustainability of the different institutions.

Per BOG policy, five-year sustainability plans are to be prepared annually by universities deemed to be experiencing financial stress as defined in the Procedure/Standard Number 2019-40. For this past fall and this spring, 9 of the 14 state system institutions were required to submit five-year sustainability plans as a part of the normal budget process. The plans were reviewed by the vice presidents for administration and finance and then by the presidents. We deemed all of the plans to be insufficient, and all 9 institutions were told to go back and revise their plans, asking them to move faster in attaining sustainability. In reality, with the plans as written, the 9 institutions would need \$97million dollars over the next five years, which we simply don't have to give them.

ESU is in what is categorized as a financially stable position, and thus we did not submit a financial sustainability plan. However, although we have made very difficult decisions over the past few years, some of which we took a lot of criticism for, we still feel more fiscally challenged than "stable". The Chancellor sent out a letter to the presidents and shared that letter with our campuses, and we, at ESU have had conversations with representatives of all constituent groups on our campus, and will continue to do so. ESU will work with the other institutions to basically become a stronger system, working together whenever it is in the best interest of ESU to do so. Sharing classes, sharing faculty, partnering with academic programs, perhaps even sharing executive staff when necessary to save on precious resources. We again will be reviewing all under enrolled academic programs and under enrolled courses to close or consolidate for cost savings.

For the system's retirement incentive program agreement with APSCUF faculty, the focus committed to retiring at the end of this year, with notices due on or before March 2. Thus far 10 ESU faculty have submitted their intent to retire, although the 200 number also includes those faculty who retired at the end of the 2018-19 academic year who are counted in the 200 number but will not get the payout. As of today, the number of faculty who have submitted letters is at 153 with just over one week to go. Hitting that 200 number would help our sister institutions tremendously. And so we all hope APSCUF hits the 200 mark.

As always, a lot going on here on campus so check the website regularly for events or activities that would allow you to see how incredible our students are. This next week will be the Theatre Department's production of a witty, provocative drama called Smart People. It will run Wednesday through Sunday and is actually part of our Black History Month programming.

In athletics, we are ending the winter season sports and starting the spring sports, so a lot going on over the next couple of weeks. The 2 women's sports we started this year, Acrobatics and Tumbling and Women's Wrestling have been approved by NCAA DII as emerging sports which is great for us. We made the right decision picking these additional sports. We have a number of women wrestlers who will be going to the national competitions...unusual because it is still a new sport. Our men wrestlers are heading into the super regionals. WBB and MBB are both going to the PSAC championships and many of our men and women T&F student athletes have qualified for PSAC, with one already qualifying for nationals. Swimming PSACs started yesterday and run through Sunday. For Spring sports baseball is ranked 2nd in PSAC, softball is ranked 5th, and LAX is ranked 2nd behind WCU. LAX is also ranked 11th in the Intercollegiate women's LAX Coaches Poll. WCU is #2...so we know who we have to beat.

A big topic in athletics these days is the name, image, likeness issue and do we or do we not pay student athletes for use of their name, image, and likeness. The PSAC presidents are united in asking that college sport be regulated at a national level, preferably by the NCAA where it can be monitored for uniformity of rules and a level playing field for our student athletes. We are communicating with our legislators, asking that the 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada not have separate rules and regulations for the 1100 NCAA schools. The 3 divisions are very different and, whatever we do, it is imperative that we put the needs of our student athletes first and foremost. If you have questions about the topic of NIL, please let me know and I will share my thoughts on the topic.

Commencement is fast approaching. Our commencement speaker will be Dr. Wil Del Pilar, who currently serves as the Education Trust's vice president of higher education policy and practice. In this role, Wil spearheads Education Trust's mission to highlight inequities and outline solutions in order to improve access, success, affordability, and completion in higher education for low-income students and students of color.

Prior to joining Education Trust, Wil served in Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's administration as deputy secretary of postsecondary and higher education, where he developed and implemented the state's strategic vision for higher education, and also served on the PASSHE Board of Governors as the then Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera's designee. He is one of the very few members of the Board of Governors who have ever visited our campus and our students are those he best represents in his role with the Education Trust.

And finally, I have announced my retirement effective July 31. I am very committed to ESU and our students and will be working to meet some of both my own personal goals, as well as institutional goals, before I leave. So please do not consider me a "lame duck" president...I am here until I'm not and will continue my very strong commitment to ESU.

Chair's Report:

Trustee Ross informed the Trustees the Spring PACT Conference will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg April 23-24, 2020. If you are interested in attending let Marcy know and she will register you once registration is open.

6. Secretary's Report:

None

7. Committee Reports

A. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Lingenfelter asked for Joanne Bruno, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs to report on the Committee meeting:

Provost Bruno reported there were two major items discussed during the meeting. First focusing on the across divisional approach to the Warrior Success Network and Retention Challenges facing ESU. Led by Dr. Terry Barry, Associate Provost who reported on the coordinating efforts and resources across Campus Life, Enrollment Management, Administration and Finance, and Academic Affairs in accordance with the students at risk of progressing at ESU. Followed by Dr. Rob Smith, OIEPA, who gave a detailed report informed by data and how we launched a special cross divisional project to help 208 students in regards to getting students registered with financial holds. Also accompanied by other issues that complicate student progressions including poor academic performance. We were able to get one third of the students registered for Spring and lessons learned for moving forward. Also discussed the fall to spring retention for this year, reversed the four-year trend and we are moving upward on the retention rate. Discussion for plans for the future. President Welsh reported on the LSA funding for eGaming at ESU. Currently space is being developed in the University Center and in the future in Rosenkrans to build on the momentum of gaming across college campuses.

B. Finance Committee:

Trustee Ross reported on the following action items:

- (1) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for October, 2019, through December, 2019, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for October, 2019 through December, 2019 Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under authority of Act 57 from November 1, 2019 to January 24, 2020 and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from November 1, 2019 to January 24, 2020; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Facility group provided a campus tour visiting several sites on campus pointing out the maintenance and improvements at Fine Arts and challenges with access, Health Wellness Services, lower Sycamore Lounge, Stroud 113, and the new classroom on the second floor of Stroud. Updates were also provided on the Project Status Review Reports dated February 6, 2020 and the Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts also dated February 6, 2020. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.

Other information items discussed included an update on the ESU Foundation by Mr. Richard Santoro, Director of ESU Foundation. Mr. Santoro reported on the happenings over the past several months and a report on their progress in fundraising and positive movement. Unrestricted funds are up and they are working on fundraising priorities and opportunities.

Mr. William Cheetham, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management, introduced the new Director of Admissions & Orientation, Mr. Jorge Osorio. Mr. Osorio is excited for this new opportunity and is excited to help in the recruitment of new Warriors for ESU. Mr. Rob Smith, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Assessment provided an enrollment update and also enrollment challenges.

Trustee Ross indicated that with the statistics we have now we are in a much better avenue in enrollment and look forward to the future of ESU.

C. Campus Environment Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported the session focused on three topics including the Inclusion Poster Session where philosophy and graphic design students presented posters on how diversity effects their lives. This is the second Inclusion Poster Project with the first having occurred in 2017. The Student Government Association presented an "SGA's Spring Open Forum" where several platforms were presented and ended with a Q&A session. The forum was well attended and future events are being planned. An athletic facilities update was presented to the Committee with several upgrades which are gravely needed but funding is the key factor to these upgrades.

10. Old Business:

None

11. New Business:

- A. Chair Ross announced the resignation of Trustee Harry Lee as of February 7, 2020. Trustee Lee served for 22 years and was a great asset to the Council and the University. Trustee Ross also shared that Trustee Vince DeFranco is in the hospital and not in good health and asked those attending to keep him in their thoughts and prayers.
- B. Trustee Ross confirmed the retirement of Dr. Marcia G. Welsh as President of ESU effective July 31, 2020. ESU is in a great position due to her service. Some hard decisions were made and ESU is a better place for her dedication to the University.
- C. Trustee Ross presented the Trustees who will serve on the Presidential Search Committee according to PASSHE BOG Policy 1983-13-A as follows; Trustee Lingenfelter, Trustee Nixon, and Trustee Ross. Trustee Nixon will serve as the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the Trustees presented to serve on the Presidential Search Committee According to the PASSHEE BOG Policy 1983-13-A with Trustee Nixon serving as Chair of the Committee; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Trustee Ross indicated the long arduous procedure of the Presidential Search Process has started. Chancellor Greenstein has initiated the search and a timeline will be underway and we will proceed from here. The search committee will be selected and sent to the Chancellor according to the BOG Policy. Andy Lehman will be the liaison from the Chancellor's Office.

- D. Trustee Ross presented the Nominating Committee for the 2020-2021 Trustee Elections as follows; Trustee Abraham, Trustee Pekarovsky, and Trustee Shemansky. The Nominating Committee will bring a slate of nominees before the board at the next meeting scheduled for April 16, 2020.

12. Adjournment: Trustee Ross adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar