

**East Stroudsburg University  
Council of Trustees Minutes  
September 19, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:32 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	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter	Ms. Tina Nixon
Mr. John Pekarovsky III	Mr. Albert Rivera	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Paul Shemansky		

The following members were not present:

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

3. **Resolution #19-04 Recognition of Kyle MacKay**

Student Kyle MacKay, majoring in Recreation Services Management was serving as an intern at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) when he saw a staff member choking on a piece of food and performed the Heimlich maneuver, releasing the obstruction from the staff member's airway. The Council of Trustees, on behalf of all the members of the ESU community, commend Kyle for his quick actions which save the life of the staff member. **Trustee Pekarovsky made a motion to approve Resolution #19-04 Recognition of Kyle MacKay; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried**

4. **Public Comment:**

Dr. Nancy Van Arsdale provided public comments as President of East Stroudsburg University's APSCUF. Since Friday, Dr. Van Arsdale has been involved in over 20 hours of meetings and conference calls for APSCUF's negotiations team. Delighted to learn that they are closer to contract talks going to the next phase. A lot of principles have been agreed to with more writing and process to happen. Chancellor Greenstein had attended many APSCUF legislative assemblies and one issue of concern is whatever we can do together to reach out to our legislators, we are 49<sup>th</sup> in the great country of America in support to the universities and we don't want Pennsylvania to have this reputation. A call to collaborative action for all of us.

Trustee Ross concerned 100% and with everyone working cohesively we should be able to get something done. Trustee Ross feels advocacy day is a waste of time for all involved and we should go directly to the local offices and lobby there. Something has to be done or the System is not going to do very well.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

**Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2019 meeting and the minutes from the June 04, 2019; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

6. **President's Report:**

President Welsh also concurs with Dr. Van Arsdale's comments. Being 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in the United States in the support of higher education should be an embarrassment not a bragging point. We have to do serious advocacy in convincing legislators to get us to a place where we can truly support our students. The 2019-20 academic year got off to a good start with a smooth move in followed by our Warrior Induction Orientation program for first year

students. An update on enrollment was shared this afternoon during our committee meetings but generally enrollment is down although the first time freshman and transfer student numbers are pretty level with last year, and graduate enrollment is up. Our challenge is in our retention numbers which will continue to be our priority this coming year. We have a very active Student Success Network and have high hopes for what we can accomplish working together.

On Friday, September 6, we hosted the 2019 Economic Outlook Summit at the Mattioli Recreation Center with ticket sales over 300. It was our 7th annual summit with a packed morning with more positive programming than in the past as we continue to work to positively influence the economy and future of Monroe County. The Summit Committee is reviewing the evaluations completed after the Summit and will be starting immediately on the programming for next year. We are especially proud of the 2019 Economic Scorecard and although some of you attended the Summit and already got a copy, we have placed a copy in your notebooks for today.

ESU hosted a public hearing on ticks and tick-borne illnesses here in the Innovation Center in Early September. Representative Rosemary Brown along with other members of the state House Health Committee were in attendance to hear testimony from a number of groups with our own Nicole Chinnici from the PA Tick Research Lab playing a starring role. ESU has received \$500K each of 2 years for tick testing...the lab has tested over 6000 ticks for tick-borne diseases from all counties in PA, and from all states in the United States.

In athletics we're off to a great start. Football, under our new head coach Jimmy Terwilliger, won over DI Wagner College and then beat Seton Hill. We face Edinboro at home on Saturday with new energy and excitement. Field Hockey is currently ranked 3rd in the country and thus far all fall sports have shown a better than respectable season beginning. Our two newest sports, women's wrestling and acrobatics and tumbling have each recruited about 15 students with high hopes for their first season as Warriors.

We completed the build-out of the lower level of Sycamore Suites and now have a Health and Wellness Center that brings together mental health counseling, disability support services, and wellness education and prevention department. The space also houses our Title IX Office and the Office of Student Conduct. This Center will allow us to better serve our students more holistically and effectively.

We have a new Vice President for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence...Dr. Santiago Solis. He is coming from Towson University and will start at ESU this coming Monday. He is excited to join our team and I am confident he will bring renewed energy to what was formerly the Division of Student Affairs, as well as help us develop stronger programming in the area of inclusive excellence. His primary concern is retention and our Provost Jo Bruno has already set him up to be a part of the Student Success Network. I couldn't be more pleased with our hire.

This is LatinX Heritage Month with a number of events on campus and both Family Weekend and Homecoming are fast approaching. Saturday, in addition to a number of athletic events including football, we will also be hosting a Recovery Celebration and Walk on campus as part of the unveiling of our new dedicated recovery space in the health and wellness center.

And, our small but mighty Warrior Marching Band has been invited to be the Exhibition Performers for the USBands Class A National Championship in Allentown the first Saturday in November.

So much happens on this campus every day. I encourage you to be a part of the Warrior excitement. That said, I conclude my report.

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

Trustee Ross reported Trustee DeFranco is doing much better after some health issues. Trustee Ross also welcomed the newest member of the Council of Trustees, Albert Rivera, Student Trustee. Trustee Ross reported the PACT Fall 2019 Regional Meeting hosted by East Stroudsburg University was a success. Of the three regional meetings, Chancellor Greenstein attended our meeting and there were good discussions amongst the four

universities represented; ESU, Mansfield, Bloomsburg, and Lock Haven. The day concluded with a campus tour. Trustee Ross thanked the Trustees that attended and also thanked Miguel Barbosa and Marcy Cetnar for their help in organizing the event.

## 8. Secretary's Report:

None

## 9. Committee Reports

### A. University Affairs Committee: (Trustee Ross)

Extensive discussions and one of the most informative meetings we have had in a long time. Discussions on System Redesign, Retention Analysis and findings and future actions to help. We now have statistics and we know where to go and better ability to recruit students. Also discussed the results of the Campus Climate Survey and the success of Warrior Fish.

### B. Finance Committee: (Trustee Ross)

Trustee Ross presented the following action items:

- (1) VP Ken Long presented the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget; Trustee Rivera seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for April, May, June, and July 2019, 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 April, May, June, and July 2019; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The Committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under authority of Act 57 from March 29, to August 18, 2019, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from March 29, to August 18, 2019; Trustee Rivera seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (4) VP Ken Long presented a proposal to the Committee to purchase the properties located at 212 and 214 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA. The properties are contiguous to campus and the purchase would be prudent for long-term land control and future University needs. After review and discussion, the Committee offers a resolution to recommend that the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education approve the acquisition of the property by the University. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve Resolution #19-06 Property Acquisition, 212 & 214 Smith Street, East Stroudsburg, PA; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (5) VP Ken Long presented a proposal to the Committee to refund the Series 2010 bonds issued by UPI to finance construction of Hemlock and Hawthorn Suites. The Series 2010 Bonds have a par amount of \$54,525,000 and an average coupon of 5.0% that are callable on July 1, 2020. Interest rates have decreased over the last year to a point where refunding the Series 2010 bonds will realize significant savings. Refunding of the Series 2010 bonds by the University would yield an annual debt service deduction of approximately \$800,000 per year over the remaining life of the bond. The UPI Board of Directors agree with the refunding of the Series 2010 bonds by the University. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve Resolution #19-05 to Acquire Hemlock and Hawthorn Suites; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Trustee Ross reported on the following information topics:

- ESU Foundation, provided an update of the past fiscal year which the foundation was successful raising \$4.6 million dollars of total gifts and pledges for the university and our students which exceeded their \$3-million-dollar goal. Donor Alumni participation rate was steady at 4.1%. Goals for the current fiscal year include looking to fundraise in excess of \$5 million dollars and exceed a 5% alumni participation rate.
- Dr. Robert Smith provided an update on current enrollment freeze numbers.

**C. Campus Environment Committee: (Trustee Pekarovsky)**

Trustee Pekarovsky reported the Committee focused on three primary topics of discussion. First, the continued evolution of what was Student Affairs to what is now Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence. Primary object is to continue to support student diversity, increase campus involvement, and continue to offer general student support on campus. Second, meaningful adjustment to alcohol guidelines, students 21 and over are now allowed to have alcoholic beverages in the dorms. Doing so empowering the student and holding them accountable and responsible. This will be closely monitored and act accordingly moving forward. Last, meaningful adjustments to the Student Code of Conduct. Revised and updated and is more clear and all-inclusive and has been reviewed by the Council. **Trustee Nixon made a motion to approved the Student Code of Conduct; seconded by Trustee Rivera; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

**D. Strategic Initiatives Committee: (Trustee Lingenfelter)**

Trustee Lingenfelter welcomed Trustee Rivera to the Council. Worth remembering the law designates the composition of this council to include both alumni and student members. We do not designate alumni members and we should remember not to designate student members, we are all Trustees. Trustee Lingenfelter congratulated the team of Provost Bruno, Dr. Rob Smith, and Dr. Jeffrey Weber, never before received such inspiration as to how much student success is the 100% focus mission of the academic team. Using technology, very thoughtful data analysis, and tireless efforts of many stakeholders, I am more convinced and more optimistic than ever that we are going to tackle this retention issue and assure that every student taken into our care is given every chance possible to be successful. Congratulate the Institution Management for the \$1.4 million for collective grants for a variety of missions including Aquaculture, the Tick Research Center, Education, and Health Science. Continued evidence of the forward progress of the academic mission. Overall fantastic dialogue and very engaging with the Trustees and the Management team. Thank you to all who contributed.

**9. Old Business:**

- A. VP Ken Long reported that at the close of the 2019 academic year the Council received a letter from the borough of East Stroudsburg ACME Fire Department inquiring about a contrition, asking the Council to enact a fee on our students to help support the fire department. It is illegal for the University to assess a fee that is going to a third party. In the past, ESU provided support to our local fire department. ACME fire department and other neighboring fire departments provided great service to our university and campus community. VP Long's department is looking at some of the services they have provided and trying to determine an area that we can recommend to the Council in support for their voluntary efforts because they do provide an immeasurable service to our students and campus community. At the next meeting, VP Long plans to propose a recommendation to help support an initiative but not in the form of accessing a fee to our students.

**10. New Business:**

- B. **Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers:** Trustee Ross asked for a motion to accept the Appointing of Campus Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers as required by the PASSHE BOG Policy 1983-14-A. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the Appointing Interim and Acting Chief Executive Officers for the 2019-2020 Academic Year according to BOG Policy 1983-14-A; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

C. **Next Meeting:** Trustee Ross indicated the next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, December 05, 2019.

11. **Executive Session:** Trustee Ross called for Executive Session at 4:55 p.m. regarding personnel matters.
12. **Reconvene (Call meeting back to order):** Trustee Ross reconvened the regular meeting at 5:15pm
13. **Review and Recommendation of Presidential Evaluation and Contract:** Trustee Ross shared that the Presidential Review Committee conducted the annual review and met with students, faculty, and staff member during the process. The report was shared with the Trustees. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the Presidential Evaluation and recommend a continuation of the current contract of President Marcia G. Welsh and also a recommendation to the Chancellor and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors to consider an appropriate adjustment increase in compensation within BOG guidelines in reflective of her years of experience and service to the Commonwealth; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Trustee Nixon was inquiring if the Council of Trustees has the authority to provide compensation to the management team for the work they have been doing. The Trustees would like to see something happen even a cost of living increase is important. Dr. Welsh indicated she and VP Long have been discussing this and if there is a way to do this they will. Unfortunately, the State System will not look into this until the APSCUF contract has been voted on. Dr. Welsh will look to see what can be done independent of the System because we have really good people and as we hire people and the people who are here and loyal to the institution and doing a great job, their salaries are compressed and this is a problem. Trustee Pekarovsky asked if they have the authority to give bonus money or incentives or a one-time increase? Dr. Welsh indicated her and VP Long will look into ways that they can possibly compensate people. Trustee Nixon is very concerned and something has to be done. State Employees receive cost of living increases, bonus merits when evaluated and you cannot have individuals working who are dedicated and doing such a phenomenal job and not compensating them.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky  
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar