

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
February 17, 2022
In Person and Via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

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

Mr. Edward Abraham	Mr. William Green	Mr. John Pekarovsky III
Mr. Frank Epifano	Ms. Tina Nixon	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Ms. Tameko Patterson	Mr. Paul Shemansky

The following members were not present:

Mr. Bruno Klaus	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter
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Trustee Ross requested a moment of silence for Matt Connell who passed away on Sunday evening. Mr. Connell had a great relationship with ESU through his position at Northampton Community College and was very important and well-liked in the community.

3. **Public Comment:**

None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2021 meeting; Trustee Patterson seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **Interim President's Report:**

Interim President Long reported as we approach the end of the 5th week of the Spring 2022 semester, I would like this opportunity to update you on the happenings at ESU since the last Council meeting.

Let me first start with an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Division of Campus Life, with support from numerous Students, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni, coordinated a drive-thru testing clinic a few days before the start of the Spring semester to help identify potential cases of COVID-19 before students integrated back into campus. Approximately 535 tests were given with an overall positivity rate of roughly 2%. Students who tested positive return home for isolation.

The university continues to provide weekly COVID-19 testing of students living in residence halls, athletes, and various other segments of campus. This continues to be a very costly safety measure for the university, and we are in the process of evaluating whether this surveillance approach is most effective or should we move to a symptomatic approach. Through last weekend, we have had 87 identified cases, with nearly 70% occurring during the first two weeks of the semester; since that time, there has been a steady decline in cases on campus. We maintain very extensive tracking of cases, including residential status and location, the program of study, gender, and grade level. To date, we have not identified a major area of concern; and after nearly two years, we are comfortable in saying that we have had no issues in a university-controlled setting. Despite these conditions on-campus, the case counts, hospitalization, and deaths, remain relatively high in our region; as a result, we need to maintain masks wearing in public areas where vaccination status is unknown, and distancing is not possible.

On the non-COVID front, Spring enrollment was finalized last week at an enrollment of approximately 4,700. This enrollment represents a slight improvement in our fall to spring retention, but as expected down from Spring 2021 because of a smaller fall class.

As we look ahead to Fall 2022, all indications: visitations, applications, admits and deposits; are headed in the right direction. My optimism remains tempered because we still have a lot of work to do to change the past four-year enrollment trajectory. To that end, we are focusing our recruitment efforts on getting back to the basics, which includes increased high school visits, campus tours, busing schools to campus, and advocacy from faculty, administrators, and alum.

In Athletics, the Winter Season is in the home stretch with: Basketball, Swimming, Track and Field, and Wrestling regular seasons wrapping up shortly. Some of the highlights from the Winter include Men's Basketball with a good chance of hosting a PSAC first round on February 28th. Women's Wrestling played and won the first-ever collegiate women's wrestling match in the State of New Jersey and will participate in the National Collegiate Women's Wrestling Championship Regionals and National Championships. In Track and Field and Swimming, will have athletes qualify to compete in conference championships.

We are also extremely excited to kick off Spring Athletics with Softball and Lacrosse both looking to pick up where they left off with their impressive seasons last year.

And finally in Athletics, Dr. Gary Gray retired in January and Dr. Nancy Jo Greenawalt stepped in before her retirement at the end of the semester to serve as Athletic Director while we conduct a national search for a new AD. The position advertisement is posted, and you can find it in a variety of locations such as Higher Ed.Com, Women Leaders in College Sports, Black Athletics, and D1 & D2 Ticker. In just two weeks, we have received several very promising applications for the position.

Earlier this week for Black History month, the Center for Multicultural Affairs and Inclusive Education had Dr. Shauntey James as the keynote speaker. Dr. James co-authored the book entitled *The History, Evolution, and Current State of Female Offenders: Recommendations for the Field*.

A sign that ESU is returning to some sense of normalcy, we recently announced the return of live theatre performances this spring kicking off with *Legally Blonde*. Shows will be held from April 21st through the 24th.

Staying in academic affairs, a national search to fill the Dean of Arts and Sciences position is on the way and has attracted numerous candidates and we are looking forward to having that position filled by the end of the semester. Professor and Department Chair of the Social and Criminal Justice John Kraybill-Greggo-Drago is filling the role in the interim.

Spring Commencement is scheduled for May 7th, in Eiler-Martin Stadium. Given the capacity of the stadium and the experience of successfully holding 6 ceremonies at that location last year, we will bring all the colleges together for one big ceremony.

And finally, on Tuesday Governor Wolf gave his final annual budget address as Governor. It is a \$75 M increase in the base budget for the State System and \$150M in one-time Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). With PA State Funding for Higher Education 47 out of 50 in the country, it would be an understatement to say that the System, which we like to remind everyone is owned by the Commonwealth, needs this investment and ESU must receive the appropriate allocation.

That concludes the Interim President's report.

6. **Chair's Report:**

Trustee Ross thanked the administration for pulling together during these difficult times, getting the university back to running as it should be, and working on enrollment as a team. It's very disheartening to hear the reports we heard today and it won't be overnight but he has all the confidence ESU will get back to where we were years ago with an enrollment of 5,000 to 5,500 students. Trustee Ross also thanked President Long, his staff, and those that have stepped up and taken on the Interim roles during this period of time.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

No Report

8. **Committee Reports**

A. University Affairs Committee:

Dr. William Bajor, Director of Assessment, Accreditation & Academic Planning updated the Trustees on the Middle States timetable for the upcoming visit, what has changed, and what is expected during the visit. We are on target and our review will take place this coming fall. After the fall visit, we will start the process of reaffirmation of status in 2025.

Dr. Rob Smith, Chief Information and Technology Officer, informed the Trustees there will be a submission of the mid-year sustainability update by February 22, 2022, based on where we are, projecting enrollment, and looking at the matching of our student/faculty ratio set forth by the Chancellor. Dr. Smith also reported the University and the State System are preparing to implement a new Student Information System which will be common throughout PASSHE allowing for more core sharing and student sharing and leveraging the power of the whole system as opposed to one institution.

President Long updated the Trustees on the Keystone Information Commons Project, bids were submitted earlier this year and were reviewed narrowing it down to three and selection will be finalized soon. Work will start to take place in late spring/early summer and will be a long project with disruption. The final project will be beneficial for the entire campus and the community at large. An architect has been selected to design the renovations to Kemp Library. Both projects are capital funded.

Dr. Nancy Jo Greenawalt, Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics provided an update on athletic accomplishments for fall and winter, and spring highlights. Dr. Greenawalt also provided great information on the academic achievements of our student-athletes. The graduation rate and academic success rate for our population of 676 student-athletes is 84% and at the end of the fall semester, our cumulative GPA was 3.3. One of the challenges we faced as a campus itself was COVID and proud to say that through the cooperation of the campus as well as the direction of our director of sports medicine, Dr. Colleen Shotwell, we were fortunate to complete our seasons. And in athletic history, our Acrobatics and Tumbling team had its first competition of their inaugural season.

B. Campus Environment Committee:

Dr. Santiago Solis, Vice President of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence reported the campus participated in the PASSHE wide Campus Climate Survey which is being completed by all campuses and launched on January 31, 2022. Weekly updates are shared and show an upward trend in students, faculty, and staff participation.

Laura Suits, coordinator of Wellness Education & Prevention presented on COVID -19 mitigation at ESU. Information was shared on testing protocols, CDC isolation guidelines changes, quarantine guidelines, the trending of cases throughout the time of the pandemic, and the challenges they faced.

C. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported the committee was presented an ESU Foundation update by Mr. Richard Santoro and they are on track for annual goals and comfortably ahead of last year. The planning for several spring events is underway.

Enrollment continues to be a challenge and very clear that the current team in place is putting forth a significant effort in making meaningful changes to improve enrollment. Key areas noted, expediting decision making of applications. most critical getting back on the road to reestablish relationships with local high schools and expanding relationships with community colleges.

Trustee Pekarovsky presented the following action items:

- (1) The Committee reviewed the proposed local fees for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed fees and suspension of the Warrior Promise. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Abraham made a motion to approve the local fees for the fiscal year 2022-2023; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for November 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Patterson made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for November 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022; Trustee Abraham 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 13, 2021, through January 31, 2022, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from November 13, 2021, through January 31, 2022; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Informational items discussed included Facilities Project Status Update and the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

D. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Dr. Olivia Carducci, chair and professor in mathematics, and student, Seth Gordon provided a great presentation on the funds received and how they are used in the Clear Path program as driving factors of student success.

Dr. Matt Wallace, chair and professor in biological science, provided a very informative presentation on the field studies on spotted lanternflies in Pennsylvania along with cooperation between USDA/APHIS and EESU.

8. Old Business:

- A. None

9. New Business:

- A. Trustee Ross presented the Nominating Committee for the 2022-2023 Trustee Elections as follows; Trustee Green, Trustee Grayuski, and Trustee Shemansky. The Nominating Committee will bring a slate of nominees before the board at the next meeting scheduled for April 21, 2022.
- B. Trustee Ross shared an invitation received to attend the 2022 Spring PACT and encouraged all Trustees to attend.
- C. The next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022.

- D. **Trustee Ross read the following statement from the Presidential Search Committee:** The Council of Trustees is pleased to share that Chancellor Greenstein has given the go-ahead to reconvene the committee and continue the search process. With this great news, we are planning to reconvene our search committee to continue the presidential search process in the very near future. We are looking forward to continuing the good work that the committee has done to date, and we know that their continued commitment and support of this important process for our university is vital for a successful search.

10. **Executive Session:**

Trustee Ross called for an executive session at 4:26 p.m. for a discussion on personnel matters.

Trustee Ross re-entered into regular session at 4:38 p.m.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar