

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
February 23, 2023
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 4:06 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. Frank Epifano
Mr. Thomas Grayuski
Mr. William Green

Mr. John Pekarovsky III
Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter (zoom)
Ms. Tina Nixon (zoom)

Ms. Tameko Patterson (zoom)
Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Paul Shemansky

The following members were not present:

Mr. Bruno Klaus

3. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve Resolution 23-01 – NCAA Championship Field Hockey Team Recognition; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.** Chair Ross presented Resolution 23-01 to coaches Sandra Miller and Katie Ord and the ESU Field Hockey Team.

4. **Public Comment:**

None

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 01, 2022 meeting; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

6. **President's Report:**

President Long reported the Spring 2023 semester is in full swing. As we look to wrap-up this sixth week of the semester, I can share that campus still seems to be transitioning to a post-pandemic state. Although many of our scheduled face-to-face courses are being offered in-person, there are still a few areas where additional adjustments are necessary.

A little over a week ago, we reported our enrollment freeze numbers for the semester. I am happy to share, like Fall, ESU once again reported an increase in enrollment over prior year. Total enrollment for this Spring is 4,795, a little more than 2% higher than last year. While we are happy with the enrollment increase, we recognize that we still have ways to go to reach a more optimal enrollment number. In the meantime, I applaud the efforts of the Warrior team for making us one of the two or three System universities with a year over year enrollment increase in the fall and spring.

There is a lot happening this semester on-campus, but before I get there, I would like to take a minute to once again, recognize the outstanding accomplishment of our Women's Field Hockey Team, no I am not talking about winning the PSAC Championship, nor am I referring to winning the NCAA Division II National Championship. Earlier this week, the team was honored with the National Academic Team Award. This award recognizes programs that earned a team grade-point average of 3.5 or higher during the fall semester. ESU had a Cumulative GPA of 3.65, which was tied for second in DII Nine teams field hockey teams and missing the top GPA by one hundredth of a point.

As always, there is a lot going on during the Spring semester. We kicked-off the spring semester with our Annual MLK Celebration Breakfast (310) and Art Contest, this year's event was held at the Stroudsmoor due to cost. We had 310 attendees, which is not our highest, but very much up there.

A few weeks ago, we held our 2nd Hoop Jam (student, faculty, and staff) basketball game; this was supposed to be an annual Spring semester event when held the first game in February 2020, but COVID interrupted those plans. This year game was setup as President vs President, where the Student Government President and University President, are the captains of each team.

This month we also had a number of activities in celebration of Black History Month, unlike the past two years, most events this year were in-person. Other wonder things happening include: a presentation from the PA Teacher of the Year: Elizabeth Raff, hosted by the College of Education; in Fine Arts Prof Wes Brown showcase his ceramic work which is made through a combination of wheel throwing and slab building techniques; (the Exhibit runs until March 3rd) sculptures; last night Professor Carol Dimopoulos presented "Lipstick and Broken Pencils- Women and Workplace Violence" as part of our Provost's Colloquium Series, this was the 2nd presentation of the semester. And in April, the Theatre department will perform Cabaret. I can go on and on with all the events happening on-campus, so please check the University website regularly for events or activities that would allow you to see our incredible students, faculty, and staff.

After a few years of hiatus, we are bringing back the Accepted Students Day Event on March 25th. For this event we invite all students accepted to ESU to campus for a day of festivities. This event serves as the official welcome celebration for our new Warriors.

In Athletics, we are at the end of the regular season for Winter sports and Spring sports are well on their way. Women's basketball looks to return to the PSAC playoffs after not making it for the first-time last year in a decade. Men's basketball, still high ranked nationally, is currently seeded as the fourth seed in the PSAC East. The way things stand both men and women basketball will be home for the first ESU playoff game. Led by a pair of first-place individual finishes, Women's Wrestling as a team finished third in the regional and has six athletes heading to the Nationals next week. In Track and Field, Men's have recorded twenty-three and Women 13 automatic qualifiers for the PSAC Indoor Track & Field Championship this weekend. In Swimming, Freshman Vera Renshof took third place with a school-record, 200-yd freestyle at the PSAC Championships, best individual finish for a Warrior at the conference championship meet since the 2003-04 season.

If that is not enough, the remaining 9 weeks of the semester are even more jam packed with activities. Including the Annual Scholarship Dinner on April 12, Inauguration Week with events starting on Saturday April 22nd. During inauguration week, we are introducing an annual Spring Jazz concert.

Looking ahead, the dates for 2023 Alumni Weekend and Homecoming and Family Weekends are set and the planning is on the way. Family Weekend will take place September 15th-17th. And Homecoming and Alumni Weekend is set for October 6th-8th.

That concludes the President's report.

7. Chair's Report:

Trustee Ross thanked the Presidential Search Committee for their effort in conducting the search. ESU is very fortunate to have President Long, and he is confident we will see the greatness continue in the years to come. Trustee Ross also thanked the members of the Council of Trustees for supporting the administration. Chair Ross also indicated that Trustee Grayuski is serving as secretary to PACT and a spokesman for ESU.

8. Secretary's Report:

No Report

9. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

President Long reported the committee was updated on Middle States by Interim VP of Administration and Accreditation, Mr. Michael Sachs who informed the Trustees we are on track and share some upcoming dates. The committee was also updated on the current construction projects including the University Center, Kemp Library, and renovations in Minsi Hall. Dean Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap provided an update on the Aspen-AASCU Transfer Initiative, CFO Donna Bulzoni shared the CPP Progress, Robert Smith, CITO provided the status on the OneSIS Program, and Trustee Grayuski provided information on the planning of the Presidential Inauguration scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023, for ESU's 14th President, Kenneth Long.

B. Campus Environment Committee:

Trustee Ross reported that Dr. Allen Snook, AD provided an update on Intercollegiate Athletics. ESU currently has 650 student-athletes and 67% of our athletes had a 3.0 GPA or higher with 10% having a perfect 4.0. Highest team GPA for women was field hockey with a 3.63 GPA and for men the cross-country team with a 3.5. Our winter teams had an amazing season, and our spring sports are busy preparing for their season. As of today's date, athletics has had 85 early signees coming to ESU in the fall 2023 semester. Dr. Snook also introduced the new Associate Athletic Director for Student Success/SWA, Sarah Ross.

Dr. Santiago Solis and Dean Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap provided a recap of the System-Wide Campus Climate Survey, which was delivered to all students, faculty, and staff. The survey was conducted to see where there are concerns and to provide opportunities for improvement. Trustee Nixon commented this was a great way to level set, build upon, and encourage faculty, and staff to make sure there is action behind the outcomes and emphasized that communication and follow-up is important.

Mr. Joseph Akob provided a Student Activities Association overview including areas of oversight, their Mission Statement, and campus impact and connections. JP Shupp and Tamara Wright joined Mr. Akob and gave the Trustees an insight into their roles as student leaders.

Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported the committee was presented with an ESU Foundation update by Mr. Richard Santoro and general gifts and pledges are up close to \$900,00 from last year and have had success in many campaigns and scholarships.

Ms. Karen Lucas, Director of Admissions provided the committee with an update on enrollment including the 2023 enrollment metrics which are close to pre pandemic numbers. The department is also in the process of hiring a new director of enrollment and hopes to have that decision made soon.

Trustee Pekarovsky presented the following action items:

- (1) The Committee reviewed the proposed local fees for the fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented by CFO Donna Bulzoni. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed fees, and all questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the local fees for the fiscal year 2023-2024; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) The Committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for November 11, 2022, through January 31, 2023, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Shemansky made a motion for the approval of the Cash Disbursement Reports for November 11, 2022, through January 31, 2023; Trustee Green seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Informational items discussed included the Procurement Activity Report, 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:

The committee was presented with a recommendation from President Long to approve the following retired faculty for emeritus/emerita status:

Kathleen Brunkard, Ph.D., Biological Sciences, 39 years of service
Kathleen Duguay, Ph.D., English, 25 years of service
Terry Master, Ph.D., Biological Sciences, 32 years of service
Robert McKenzie, Ph.D., Communication, 30 years of service
Joni Oye-Benintende, Art + Design, 25 years of service
Peter Prium, Ph.D., Modern Languages, Philosophy and Religion, 25 years of service
Elaine Shuey, Ph.D., Communication Sciences and Disorders, 38 years of service
Andrew Whitehead, Ph.D., Early Childhood and Elementary Education, 19 years of service

The Trustees requested that the President include evaluation of service to the community in the guidelines and criteria moving forward. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the faculty recommended by the President for faculty emeritus/emerita, seconded by Trustee Shemansky; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Dr. Carol Dimopoulous and Dr. Xue Dong presented on entrepreneurship as a path to equity, inclusion, and opportunity. The committee also heard from two students: Favor Toby and Rachel T. Bernas who shared their experience within the program.

Dr. Chuck Meitner presented HRTM 213, Wine Appreciation & Wine Management to the Trustees and explained how this course is preparing our HRTM students for future jobs within the industry.

Dr. Nicole Chinnici provided the committee with an update on the Tick Lab which continues to expand throughout the region and state.

8. Old Business:

A. None

9. New Business:

- A. Trustee Ross thanked William Green for the service and insight he brought to the Council of Trustees and the great information and feedback he shared from the student body. Trustee Green thanked Chair Ross and fellow Trustees for being incredibly welcoming and always being attuned to student perspectives and what was occurring on campus.
- B. A tragedy occurred very recently to one of our very own former professors, Dr. Frank Pullo who passed away suddenly on February 7, 2023. Frank was an asset to the community and cared very deeply for ESU and was engaged with the Foundation. After retiring he continued to be an asset to the campus community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar