

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
June 7, 2023
In Person & Via Zoom**

1. Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.

2. Roll Call:

Completed by Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Thomas Grayuski	Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter (via zoom)	Mr. John Pekarovsky, III
Ms. Damali Jackson	Ms. Tina Nixon (via zoom)	Mr. Pat Ross
Mr. Bruno Klaus	Ms. Tameko Patterson	Mr. Paul Shemansky

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham	Mr. Frank Epifano
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3. Public Comment:

None

4. Approval of Minutes:

Trustee Grayuski made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2023, meeting; Trustee Shemansky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. President's Report:

Good afternoon. it is so nice to see everyone today in-person and virtually.

Since the last Trustees Meeting much has happened both at ESU and within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Let us start with a brief update on happenings in the State System. In March Governor Shapiro gave his first budget address to the legislature. He proposed a \$44.4 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24, which includes a 2.0% increase for both the State System (\$11 million) and Community College (\$5.1 million) and a 7.1 percent increase for Lincoln, Temple, Pitt and Penn State. The State System requested an inflationary increase in base funding of 3.8% or \$21 million (appropriation of \$573.5 million). In addition, the System requested \$112 million in new funding to specifically address labor shortage in high-growth jobs and industries; of which \$99 million would be used for targeted student support (i.e., financial aid) and \$13 million to supplement high-cost, high-growth programs.

Also in the address, the Governor asked the General Assembly to "rethink our system of higher education." "[I]t's time for a blueprint for higher education focused on competitiveness and workforce development, and grounded in access and affordability,". Shapiro told the joint session that he has tasked Acting Education Secretary Mumin to immediately convene college and university presidents to engage in a constructive, time-limited working group to present a comprehensive and meaningful reform plan for higher education.

Earlier this month, HB611 was passed out of committee which includes a 6% base increase for PASSHE plus \$30M for facilities support. It is important to note that the proposed bill was passed on a party-line vote.

In other State System news, additional changes have been made at PennWest to address some ongoing challenges. In March, the Provost from West Chester was appointed Interim President at PennWest.

I will now switch to an update on happenings at ESU. A sign that ESU has returned to its pre-COVID state is the number of events and activities occurring on-campus. Based on the activities of the Spring 2023 semester, ESU has returned to its normal state. It started with a Dinner Celebration for the National Champion Field Hockey Team, on to an Alumni Wine Tasting event organized by the students in Hospitality, Restaurant, Tourism Management Program, followed by Grad Fest, Scholarship Donors Recognition Dinner, an Employee Recognition Lunch, a Celebration of Life for Frank Pollo, Athletic Recognition Award Ceremony, the Annual Red and Black Football Game, theatre performance of Cabaret, the opening of a new donor funded simulation lab in health sciences.

If that was not enough, we also have two weeks of celebratory events for Inauguration and Graduation, including the investiture service, a Pinning Ceremony for the Nursing Students, an ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, and three commencement ceremonies. The keynote speaker for all three commencement ceremonies was: Randy Detrick, class of 2000; president of Blue Ridge Estate Vineyard & Winery.

In other campus news, in April Stelios Melekos won the \$10,000 first place prize in the annual State System Startup Challenge. Melekos, a junior business management student with a concentration in entrepreneurship from Churchville, Pa. created a plan for his business Blitz Performance LLC. Blitz Performance provides anglers with the highest quality and most innovative lures and apparel for both saltwater and freshwater fishing. If you are a fisher or have someone you know that loves fishing, you should checkout Blitz Performance products. Blitz Performance products are available to retail customers online at blitzfishingperformance.com and wholesale at tackle shops across five states.

In Athletics, softball closes its season nationally ranked for just the second time in program history. Its ranking of No. 5 is the highest in program history. The Warriors broke numerous records during the historic season and captured their first NCAA Atlantic Region Championship in program history. Baseball got off to their best 30-game start in program history and advanced to the NCAA Tournament in back-to-back years for the first time ever and sixth time overall. The third-seeded East Stroudsburg University baseball team saw its 2023 season come to an end as the Warriors fell, 10-4, to Seton Hill in the Atlantic Regional at the SHU Baseball Complex. Lacrosse heard its name called for its sixth consecutive NCAA Tournament, earning the No. 3 seed in the Atlantic Region, which was hosted by West Chester. The Warrior came up short in repeating last year's run to the National Championship game. Tennis team member Elina Joronen became the program's third PSAC East Athlete of the Year and went a perfect 7-0 in PSAC East matches at No. 1 singles and was named First Team All-PSAC East. Women's Golf Finished 11th at the PSAC Championships paced by senior Mariah Minter in a tie for 38th. Men's and Women's Track & Field are set to compete at the PSAC Outdoor Championships on May 11-13. Elizabeth Makar set the program record in the hammer throw and Donavan Anderson eclipsed a 27-year-old school record in the long jump. In just their second season Acrobatics & Tumbling is showing tremendous growth. They finished the second season of the competition 3-6 overall. And had twelve student-athletes land on the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association Academic Honor Roll

After several set back due to both supply chain issues and some miscommunications we are set to have the new video boards in Whitenight and Eiler Martin for the start of the Fall Season. Also, this summer we will be replacing the lights in Eiler-Martin and going with LED lights. This is a very expensive upfront transition but should balance out over the next few years.

Also, Softball and Baseball will see the installation of electronic scoreboards at Creek Park. This was not a project on the university priority list, but thanks to supporters of these programs we were able to implement this upgrade.

Also, in Athletics and Facilities, we continue to work on plans to upgrade the condition and number of tennis courts. If all goes well, we will once again have at least six courts for the competition.

Finally, for those of you that were at the inauguration or viewed it on-line, you would have heard me announce that the university is moving forward with plans for a dedicated space for our outstanding health science programs. The plan is to convert Linden Hall into a Health Science Building. Although we look to create a state-of-the-art facility, we want to maintain the historical character of the existing building and surrounding landscape. This project will be funded by a combination of donor support, student fees and planned reserves. More details of this project will be presented to the Council upon completion of an updated space utilization plan in the fall.

And finally, I want to thank all you for your support over the past few years as Interim President and for giving me the opportunity to continue that work as President. ESU's future looks bright and with the continued dedication and support of my leadership team, faculty and staff and I look forward to re-inserting ESU's presence in the regions.

With that, I conclude my report.

6. Chair's Report:

Trustee Ross expressed how fortunate he was to be present for the Inauguration Banquet the evening prior to the Inauguration Ceremony of President Long and was very pleased with the faculty representation at the Inauguration. It is now the Ken Long era which is starting out to be a great one and the Trustees will provide 100% support. Trustee Ross welcomed Trustee Damali Jackson who was selected by the campus committee and approved by the PASSE Board of Governors to serve as our next Student Trustee.

Trustee Jackson stated she is very excited and honored for her appointment and to be working with her fellow Trustees.

7. Secretary's Report:

Trustee Shemansky indicated there is no report.

8. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

Trustee Ross reported the Committee was introduced to the new Director of Admissions, Ms. Erika Davis who presented on enrollment and provided an overview of orientations and open houses held over the summer months welcoming new and perspective students to campus. Some areas the admissions team is working on to increase enrollment includes more visits to local schools and superintendents, providing financial aid packets to students early, early admittance, and a call campaign.

Dr. Allen Snook, AD, provided an in-depth update on student-athletes' academic achievements which included a department GPA of 3.242, 72% of our athletes had a 3.0 or higher with 11% having a perfect 4.0. Women Teams had a GPA of 3.4 and the Men's Teams had a GPA of 3.088. The highest team GPA was Women's Lacrosse at 3.687 and Men's Cross Country at 3.558. Dr. Snook also highlighted some great team accomplishments for the Winter and Spring sports teams and also noted some department updates.

Chief William Parrish presented a Campus Safety and Security update to the Committee providing information on equipment updates made throughout campus and upcoming Officer training.

B. Campus Environment Committee:

President Long reported Res Life provided a current snapshot of housing occupancy across campus and an update on the construction of Minsi Hall. CFO Donna Bulzoni, and VP Dr. Santiago Solis, provided a review of the dining contract and Dr. Snook, AD, informed the committee that the tennis courts will be updated and will have a total of six courts which will provide adequate facilities for our Tennis team and provide an opportunity for other students and members of the community to utilize the space.

C. Finance Committee:

Trustee Pekarovsky reported Mr. Richard Santoro provided an update on the ESU Foundation including past events, fundraising and campaign updates, FY 2022-2023 goals, and progress to date. The Foundation is near year end should surpass \$5.5 million by year end. This was a record year for scholarship disbursement of 734 scholarships just under \$1.4 million. The Sheska Soccer Stadium campaign has full commitment of \$3.25 million and hope to close by the end of summer with the \$4.5 million goal met.

CFO, Donna Bulzoni providing information on the final budget projection for 2022-2023 and what the forecast is looking like for 2023-2024 budget according to the CPP. There are several unknown factors and they will adjust as necessary.

The CFO presented to the Committee and reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for February 01, 2023, through April 30, 2023. The Committee 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 February 01, 2023, to April 30, 2023; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

Mr. John Bloshinski, Director of Facilities Management discussed informational items including an update of the University Center construction, the Facilities Project Status Review, and the Report of Notice to Proceeds on Construction contracts. The Committee's questions and concerns were satisfactorily answered.

C. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Lingenfelter reported the Committee was briefed on the health sciences building project which is very exciting for the future of the program. The Committee also received an exciting presentation from Dr. Brook Langan, Dean of the College of Education on the Future Teacher Pipeline. Lastly, the Committee had the pleasure of hearing from the State System Start-Up Challenge Winner, Stelios Melekos who won the \$10,000 first place prize in the annual challenge who produces a line of exceptional fishing gear to enhance the life of anglers, serving the needs of the Commonwealth, and his community.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

A. Nominating Committee: Nominating committee Chair, Trustee Shemansky presented the nominated slate of officers for the upcoming academic year. The slate is as follows:

Chair: Trustee L. Patrick Ross '67

Vice-Chair: John Pekarovsky '07

Secretary: Paul Shemansky '96 M '01 & 04

B. Election of Officers: Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the slate of officers and appoint, Chair-Trustee Ross, Vice-Chair-Trustee Pekarovsky, and Secretary-Trustee Shemansky for the upcoming academic year; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

C. Trustee Ross presented the 2022-2023 Council of Trustees Meeting scheduled as follows;
Thursday, October 5, 2023 Thursday, December 7, 2023
Thursday, March 14, 2024 Thursday, June 6, 2024

11. **Adjournment:** Trustee Ross adjourned the meeting at 4:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar