

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
September 21, 2017**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:39 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
Dr. Vincent DeFranco
Mr. Bruno Klaus

Mr. Harry Lee
Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter
Mr. John Pekarovsky

Mr. Pat Ross
Hon. Mario Scavello
Ms. Abigail Soto

The following members were absent:

Ms. Josephine Ferro

3. **Public Comment:**

No Public Comments

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 26, 2017 meeting; Trustee Lee seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

President Welsh reported students are nearing completion of the 4th week of classes for the Fall 2017 term and I think everyone I talk to mentions how busy it has been in comparison to prior semesters.

We had a great kickoff with the Warrior Induction and the opening of the new Sycamore Suites. Most impressive was the Way of the Warrior Walk and the sharing of what it means to be a Warrior. The academic convocation officially launched the semester and it has not slowed down since.

A group of volunteers completed 2 nights of our Good Neighbor Walk with 44 faculty, staff, administrators and students knocking on the doors of 541 neighbors. We are following up on all of the issues raised by our neighbors but, for the most part, we received positive feedback regarding our students and neighborhood pride in the University.

Significant work by Provost Bruno and Dr. Nancy Van Arsdale, and after a year hiatus, we redesigned our Distinguished Professors program and during the first all campus meeting of the year announced two new distinguished professors: Dr. Pat Smeaton from professional and secondary education, and Dr. Greg Dwyer from Exercise Science.

ESU hosted our 5th Economic Outlook Summit a couple weeks ago with a record crowd of over 290 people. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was the best conference yet, with interactive sessions, panel discussions with representatives from municipalities in Monroe County who are doing creative things to help with economic development, Q&A with Senator Scavello and Senator Blake on issues they consider priorities, and updates from the Monroe 2030 Action Team.

Representative Jack Rader Jr. was announced as ESU's 2017 Legislative Fellow.

A formal agreement with the Milton Hershey School that is to provide focused and sustained support to low-income, first generation college students from that school was announced.

Hispanic Heritage Month began with many wonderful cultural and educational events that will take place throughout campus.

Many of our students, faculty and staff are concerned following the hurricanes in Florida and Texas and so a lot of teachable moments as the faculty are turning concern into action with service learning projects and programs and many student organizations doing fund raising.

As the motto on Julia indicates, ESU's motto is "prepared to serve" and, not only is our campus community serving those in need around the country, they are also serving our own students. After a food security survey that demonstrated significant need, in partnership with St. Matthew's church on Ridgeway, ESU opened a food pantry that will be available of Fridays to help ESU students. The food pantry will be staffed by retired faculty who are also helping raise donations for the pantry. The positive response from students has shown us we have found a need.

President Welsh was delighted to inform the Trustees the 16" telescope in the observatory on the top of the SciTech building is now working and the Physics Department, specifically Dr. David Buckley, has been holding open house events to the public to view planets and stars, so please try to come with your families one evening and enjoy this incredible treasure.

Fall sports have begun with both wins and losses, and again our Women's Field Hockey team is ranked number one in the country...so they have a target on their back. We will keep you informed as the season continues but I think we all have high hopes for Warrior athletics.

Family Weekend will be held this coming weekend with a full schedule of event.

6. **Chair's Report:**

Trustee Ross informed the Trustees of the upcoming PACT conference October 17, 2017 in Harrisburg and encouraged the Trustees to attend to be a part of the discussions on the agenda including the State System Review.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

None

8. **Committee Reports**

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

Trustee Ross shared the purpose and plan of the new standing committee and reported the following topics discussed during the committee meeting;

- **PASSHE 5-year Enrollment:** Challenging time for the State System and everyone is working hard to keep enrollment numbers up. Important to communicate and work together for the greater good for our University and the State System. Enrollment is currently down 1%, part is due to the free tuition being offered in New York.
- **Investment in Facilities:** Important to invest funds in facilities for renovations. There are several buildings over 60 years old and we are now taking the time and money to take buildings off-line for important renovations. Final stages of approval from the East Stroudsburg Borough for the completion of the new student center. Kemp Library will remain at the location it is now and will undergo renovations along with Moore Biology, Stroud Hall, and Gessner Hall. Athletics will be fundraising to complete updates to Koehler Field House academic areas and possible building extension due to the academic programs growth.

- Academic Challenges: Discussion on the SIM Lab, Bloomberg Lab, and new degree programs which will be brought before the Trustees for their approval prior to being sent to BOG for approval.

B. Strategic Initiatives Committee: (Trustee Lingenfelter)

Trustee Lingenfelter shared the purpose and plan of the new standing committee and reported the following topics discussed during the committee meeting;

- Strategic Plan: The draft of the new Strategic Plan entitled; Students First: Empowering Innovation through Collaboration 2017-2020 was shared with all attendees and discussed at length. Trustee Lingenfelter encouraged everyone to be a part of upcoming roundtables to discuss the draft. It is important to communicate and work together to make this plan a success.
- Middle States Recommendations: Mr. Robert Smith, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Assessment shared a presentation with the attendees of the recommendations from the recent Middle States Accreditation visit. Trustee Lingenfelter congratulated the President and the Middle States Committee on the University receiving accreditation for another eight years.
- ACEEU Accreditation: Ms. Mary Frances Postupack, Vice President for Economic Development & Entrepreneurship shared a presentation on the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities.

C. Finance Committee: (Trustee Lee)

Trustee Lee shared the purpose and plan of the new standing committee and reported the following topics discussed during the committee meeting including the following action items;

- (1) Vice President Long presented on the fiscal year 2017/2018 Budget. The Committee's questions and concerns were discussed at length. **Due to the increased projected deficit of 2.4 million dollars, in relation to the acceptance of Collective Bargaining Contracts and unfunded mandates from the PA State System of Higher Education, Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to not approve the fiscal year 2017/2018 Budget. Trustee Lingenfelter called for a roll call vote, completed by recording secretary Marcy L. Cetnar. The votes were unanimous. The motion Carried. Resolution 17-01 Acceptance of Collective Bargaining Contracts and Unfunded Mandates from the PA State System of Higher Education.**
- (2) The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for March to July, 2017, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for March to July, 2017; Trustee Ross seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from 04/11/17 thru 09/01/17, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from 04/11/17 thru 09/01/17; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The committee also reviewed the Project Status Review Report dated September 21, 2017 and the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts dated September 21, 2017. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.

D. Campus Environment Committee: (Trustee Pekarovsky)

Trustee Pekarovsky shared the purpose and plan of the new standing committee and reported on the following topics discussed during the committee meeting;

- Campus Climate: Items discussed included DACA and the fear some students are having of being deported. Student Affairs is making sure students have the information they need to re-register.
- Race and Charlottesville and the new Diversity & Inclusion Committee and their goals in collaboration with the Strategic Plan. Hurricane Support among our campus community. Partnering with St. Matthews Church for the new ESU Food Pantry to help our students who cannot afford to eat properly due to finances.
- Community Support/Neighborhood: Good Neighbor Program was a success with many faculty, staff, and student volunteers visiting over 500 houses in the area surrounding the University.
- Economic Outlook Summit/Economic Engine: This year's Economic Summit was a huge success with the highest attendance since the start of the program. Great support from our campus community, local community, local municipalities, and our local legislators.

9. **Old Business:**

None

10. **New Business:**

- A. **Revision of Council of Trustees Bylaws and Regulations:** Trustee Ross asked for a motion to accept two revisions to the Council of Trustees Bylaws and Regulations. The first revision includes changing of the Standing Committees to include Campus Environment Committee, Finance Committee, Strategic Initiatives Committee, and University Affairs Committee. The second revision is to change the minimum number of regular meetings to be held each year to four. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the two revisions to the Trustees Bylaws and Regulations to include the new Standing Committees and the number of regular meetings; Trustee Lee seconded; no abstentions. The motion was carried.**
- 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. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve the list of executives; Trustee Lee seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- C. **PACT Fall Workshop:** Trustee Ross encouraged Trustee members to attend the PACT Fall Workshop being held on Tuesday, October 17th at the Dixon University Center.
- D. **Next Meeting:** Trustee Ross stated the next Council of Trustee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2017.

11. **Executive Session:** Trustee Ross called for Executive Session at 5:13 p.m.

12. **Adjournment:** Trustee Ross reconvened the meeting at 5:36 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine Ferro
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar