

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

MINUTES

May 19, 2023
Johnson City, Tennessee

The East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees met for a special called session on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 11:05 a.m. in the East Tennessee Room of the D.P. Culp Student Center. The meeting was also live-streamed and recorded.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Dr. Linda Latimer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Secretary Dr. Adam Green led the roll call.

Trustees present were:

Trustee Janet Ayers
Trustee Steve DeCarlo
Trustee Dr. Virginia Foley
Trustee Dorothy Grisham
Trustee Aamir Shaikh
Trustee Melissa Steagall-Jones
Board Chair Dr. Linda Latimer

Trustees absent were: Charles Allen and Ron Ramsey.

Dr. Green informed the board chair that a quorum was present.

III. Action Item: Approval of Gatton College of Pharmacy Tuition for FY24

Ms. Christy Graham, ETSU Chief Financial Officer, said that in light of the historic appropriation of \$2.5 million in recurring state funding received during the 2023 session of the Tennessee General Assembly, the Gatton College of Pharmacy is requesting a commensurate decrease in tuition rates for the 2023-24 academic year. Consistent with discussions that transpired during the legislative session, these funds will be designated toward making the cost of a degree more affordable and to support student success. Ms. Graham told the board that:

- The proposed rates will decrease the cost for in-state students to \$27,000 per academic year, for a reduction of over 30 percent.
- The cost for out-of-state students will decrease to \$33,000 per academic year, for a reduction of approximately 15 percent.
- The decreases will save in-state students \$46,696 over the course of their program, and out-of-state students will save \$22,696.
- In addition to the tuition reduction, a scholarship pool of \$720,000 is being proposed to further reduce out-of-pocket costs for students. A total of 36 four-year scholarships at \$5,000 per year will be funded, meaning that every incoming Tennessee student will receive a \$5,000 scholarship starting in academic year 2023-24 and carrying forward throughout their four-year program. That will bring their tuition cost to \$22,000. The remaining scholarships will be used for incoming students, primarily based on financial need and merit.
- The remaining \$200,000 will fund three new student success coordinators to directly support student success and retention.

Trustee Steagall-Jones made a motion to approve the tuition rates as presented. Trustee Foley seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

President Noland said it is important to recognize the historic significance of the action just taken by the board, which places the Gatton College of Pharmacy in a position of competitiveness with respect to tuition and fees. He expressed thanks to Governor Bill Lee and his administration and to State Representatives Rebecca Alexander, Gary Hicks, and Tim Hicks and Senators Rusty Crowe and Jon Lundberg. Dr. Noland also applauded the work of Dr. Debbie Byrd, Dean of the Gatton College of Pharmacy, for the thorough and tireless grassroots advocacy campaign that helped make this outcome possible.

IV. Action Item: Immunization Rule

University Counsel Mark Fulks presented to the board a proposed change to the university's Student Immunization Requirements Rule. He told the board that, as part of the rulemaking process, a public hearing was held on August 23, 2022. Mr. Fulks included in the board's packet a summary of public comments from the hearing. He indicated that it is the staff's recommendation that the revised rule be approved. The revision involves deletion of the following sentence: "Unless otherwise exempted by this rule or by other law, additional immunizations may be required in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended immunization schedule in response to an epidemic, pandemic, or emergent communicable disease outbreak."

Because this involves a rule, a roll call vote is required.

Trustee Steagall-Jones made a motion to adopt the rule change. Trustee Grisham seconded the motion. Dr. Green then conducted a roll call, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Other Business

Trustee Steagall-Jones asked a process question about President Noland's employment contract. Chairman Latimer responded that a process is in place and that Vice Chair DeCarlo will be reviewing the contract with President Noland, along with university legal counsel. She added that any input from the board is welcome.

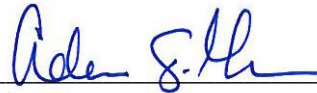
VI. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Green", is written over a horizontal line.

Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its September 15, 2023 meeting.