

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MINUTES

June 15, 2021
Johnson City, Tennessee

The special called meeting of the East Tennessee State University Board of Trustees was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 15 in the D.P. Culp Student Center, East Tennessee Room, and via teleconference. The meeting was livestreamed to allow individuals to attend remotely.

I. Call to Order

Chair Scott Niswonger called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

In his opening remarks, Chair Niswonger spoke about several of the university's major accomplishments since the last meeting in April including:

- In-person Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 and 2021 was held.
- THEC approved for three new academic programs—MFA in Digital Media, Doctor of Occupational Therapy, and the M.S. in Orthotics and Prosthetics
- THEC approved an off-campus location in Chattanooga housing the BlueSky Tennessee Institute
- The Radiologic Science Program announced 100 percent job placement and pass rate for the past five year
- ETSU was named top 10 Military Friendly School

II. Roll Call

Secretary Green called the role.

The following Trustees were present:

Janet Ayers
Steve DeCarlo
Virginia Foley
Kara Gilliam
Dorothy Grisham
Linda Latimer
Scott Niswonger
Ron Ramsey
Melissa Steagall-Jones
Kelly Wolfe

Trustees Ayers, DeCarlo, Grisham, and Steagall-Jones participated in the meeting via Zoom. In accordance with Tennessee Code § 8-44-108 section (c) (3), Secretary

Green asked Trustees two questions for the record – If each Trustee participating remotely could clearly hear and participate in the meeting, and second, if any other persons were present in the room of those participating remotely. Trustees Ayers, DeCarlo, Grisham, and Steagall-Jones indicated that they could clearly hear and participate, and that no other persons were present with them. Those Trustees participating in-person affirmed their abilities to hear those participating via teleconference. Secretary Green also noted that because Trustees were participating in the meeting remotely, all votes would be taken by roll call.

III. Academic, Research, and Students and Success Committee

A. Recommendations for Tenure upon Appointment

Dr. Wilsie Bishop presented the recommendation for tenure upon appointment for Provost Kimberly McCorkle, Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, and Dr. David Shoham, Associate Professor and Chair in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology (College of Public Health). A summary of the recommendations for McCorkle and Shoham was included in the agenda materials, Dr. Bishop said.

Trustee Foley made a motion to approve the recommendations for Tenure upon Appointment, which was seconded by Trustee Grisham and granted final approval following a roll-call vote.

IV. Finance and Administration Committee

A. Revised Pricing Model for Masters of Arts in Public Administration

Dr. Wilsie Bishop provided an overview of a proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Political Science, to offer the complete 36-credit Master of Arts in Public Administration online at a consistent cost for three years for three cohorts, the first starting in Fall 2021. The proposal, which was approved by the University's Academic Council, outlines the high potential to enroll working professionals currently employed in local government.

A motion to approve the revised pricing model was made by Trustee Wolfe and seconded by Trustee Latimer. It was approved following a unanimous roll-call vote.

B. Discussion of Salary Plans for June and July 2021

Dr. B.J. King shared with Trustees that the Tennessee General Assembly approved supplemental appropriation for salary enhancements, which included funding for a salary pool for fiscal year 2021. In line with previous discussions with the Finance and Administration Committee, ETSU staff is moving forward with the implementation of a one-time \$500 bonus for eligible employees in the June payroll. Additional across-the-board enhancements are being considered and will be presented to Trustees once final fall enrollment numbers are available.

ETSU is also increasing minimum wage to \$10.15 per hour effective July 1. This increase impacts 100 positions and will help the University fill open positions, Dr. King noted. ETSU is allocating salary enhancement dollars to facilitate an adjustment in the adjunct pay rate to a minimum of \$800 per credit hour. This one-time funding will assist colleges in raising adjunct base pay for Fall 2021 contracts, Dr. King said.

V. Naming of Building 60

President Noland introduced a recommendation to name the University's Interprofessional Education and Research Center (Building 60) in honor of Dr. Wilsie Bishop upon her retirement from ETSU. Details of the recommendation were included in the agenda packet.

Trustee Wolfe made a motion to approve the naming of the Building 60 located on the VA Campus as Bishop Hall. Trustee Latimer seconded the motion and the Board approved the naming following a unanimous roll-call vote. Trustees and audience members provided a standing ovation for Dr. Bishop.

VI. Election of Board Officers

Chair Niswonger stated that by direction of the FOCUS Act, ETSU is governed by a Board of Trustees that sets policies and guidelines for the operation of the University. Consistent with T.C.A. § 49-8-201(f)(8), the Bylaws for the Board of Trustees provide for the election of the Chair, Vice Chair, and a third executive committee member every two years.

Chair Niswonger asked for the nomination of Trustee Latimer for Board of Trustees Chair. Trustee Grisham made the motion to nominate Trustee Latimer that was seconded by Trustee Ayers. Following discussion, Trustee Latimer was unanimously selected Chair through a roll-call vote.

Next, Chair Niswonger asked for the nomination of Trustee Steve DeCarlo for Board of Trustees Vice Chair. Faculty Trustee Foley made the motion, which was then seconded by Trustee Latimer. Following discussion, Trustee DeCarolo was unanimously selected Chair through a roll-call vote.

Chair Niswonger asked for the nomination of Trustee Steagall-Jones for the third member of the executive committee. Trustee Wolfe made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Ramsey. Trustee Steagall-Jones was unanimously selected the third executive committee member through a roll-call vote.

VII. President's Report

In his report, President Noland provided the following updates to the Board of Trustees:

- The University is taking aggressive actions to fully open campus for Fall 2021.

- Many high school graduates have not made a final decision about their plans for Fall 2021; projected enrollment numbers for freshmen and transfers are trending ahead of this time last year.
- Housing will return to double-occupancy and applications are on the rise.
- Overall budget built around a decrease of 100 students and the budget going into the fall is balanced.
- ETSU will complete the transition to Modified Stage IV operations July 1 and the face-covering mandate has been lifted. A modification to the telecommuting policy permits Vice Presidents/Deans to approve temporary telecommuting on a case-by-case basis.
- The public/private partnership, BlueSky Tennessee Institute powered by ETSU, received final approval from THEC to take place at the BlueCross BlueShield headquarters in Chattanooga.
- Lamb Hall construction will formally break ground in July 2021.
- Period of major transition at the University: Provost McCorkle starting soon following Dr. Bishop's retirement; Dr. Dennis Depew is retiring as Dean of the College of Business and Technology; New Dean of College of Nursing will be announced later this summer; Selection of a permanent Dean of College of Arts and Sciences will launch this fall.
- The Committee for 125 Chapter II will meet later this month will then transition to community outreach stage; challenging everyone to "dream big."
- President Noland assured the Board of Trustees that ETSU is firmly rooted in its values that helped create the university. He thanked Chair Niswonger for his service to the Board of Trustees.

VIII. Other Business

Chair Niswonger said it had been an honor to be part of ETSU's inaugural Board of Trustees. Since its founding in 1911, the University has not lost sight of its mission and continues to provide education for students and working adults to obtain meaningful lives and careers, he added.

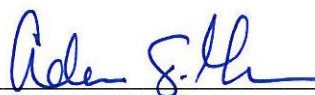
IX. Executive Session

The Board of Trustees determined it was not necessary to meet in Executive Session.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam Green
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Approved by the Board of Trustees at its September 17, 2021 meeting.