

**Minutes of a Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Eastern Kentucky University
Board of Regents**

August 29, 2019

**O'Donnell Auditorium
Whitlock Building
Eastern Kentucky University**

Call to Order

A regular quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened at 3:22 p.m. at the O'Donnell Auditorium, Whitlock Building, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Mr. Lewis Diaz, Chair of the Board, presided. The following members of the Board were present:

Present

Mr. Lewis Diaz
Mr. Alan Long
Mr. Juan Castro
Ms. Laura Babbage
Mr. Bryan Makinen
Dr. Jason Marion
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye
Mr. Vasu Vasudevan
Ms. Madison Lipscomb

Absent

Ms. Nancy Collins

Others Present

Dr. Michael Benson, President
Mr. Skip Daugherty, Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Life
Mr. Steve Lochmuller, Director of Athletics
Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel
Ms. Betina Gardner, VP for University Development and Alumni Engagement
Dr. Jerry Pogatshnik, Interim Executive Vice President for Academics and Provost
Dr. Gene Palka, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management
Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration
Mr. Ryan Wilson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Vice President for Operations
Members of the faculty and staff
Members of the media

Information Items

A. Staff Reports

1. Mr. Ethan Witt, Legislative Update

Mr. Ethan Witt presented an overview of House Bill 1 relative to EKU's KERS non-hazardous retirement system to the Board, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

The Bill gives EKU five options moving forward. These options include:

- Remain in KERS Unchanged and Pay Full ARC Going Forward
- Hard Freeze Exit with Lump-Sum Payment (4.5% Discount Rate)
- Hard Freeze Exit with Installment Payment (3.5% Discount Rate)
- Soft Freeze Exit with Lump-Sum Payment (3.5% Discount Rate)
- Soft Freeze Exit with Installment Payment (3.0% Discount Rate)

In order to understand the full financial picture of the retirement obligation, the Regents requested a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a vendor that will assess EKU's financial liabilities in the KERS non-hazardous plan. Once this assessment is complete, the Board can make an informed decision as to the best course of action to take. It is expected that a decision will have to be made by April 2020.

B. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Dr. Marco Ciocca, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Marco Ciocca, Chair of Faculty Senate, submitted a written report to the Board, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Ms. Caelin Scott, Staff Council Chair

Ms. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council, delivered the following report:

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Diaz, President Benson & members of the Board, for allowing me the opportunity to give a report on current Staff Council initiatives.

Earlier this summer, Jillian Faith, Vice Chair of the Council resigned her position and seat. With having two vacant seats to fill after losing our Facility Services representative earlier this year, and Jillian, our Student Success representative, I'm happy to report that Staff Council is once again at full member status after holding a special election. We would like to welcome to the Council Laura Kearns, Judicial Affairs Officer, as the representative Student Success, University Council, Dean of Students, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Campus Life, Enrollment Management, and Retention and Graduation. Additionally, we would like to welcome Kimberly Cook, Assistant Director for Administrative Support Services. Kim will be representing the area of Facility Services and Project Administration. Their first Staff Council meeting will be at our next regularly scheduled meeting date on September 10. We've extend them a big welcome and look forward to having both Laura and Kim on the Council.

Our Family Pool events hosted at Lake Reba's Paradise Cove this summer were a huge success with over 300 ECU Employees and their families attending between both scheduled event dates. This annual event is always one employees and their families look forward to attending, and we plan to continuing offering these functions in the future based on the positive feedback we receive.

Staff Council had the privilege to help sponsor along with the Office of the President, the ECU Day of Service that took place Friday, August 2nd. It was a wonderful opportunity for employees to give back to campus and come together as a community to help maintain the Campus Beautiful. Employees volunteered to help remove weeds, mulch flower gardens, and do trash pick up to name a few. I hope others would agree, but I believe it was a very successful day of service!

We also had a number of Staff Council members volunteer for Move-In Day on August 16th to help welcome new and returning Colonels to campus. Additionally, we had Staff Council representatives participate in the Welcome Walk at Turner Gate that evening.

Staff Council also had the honor to provide volunteers to assist with the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs Welcome Back Picnic on Saturday, August 24th. The picnic was very well attended and coordinated and I'm thankful to Barbara for asking Staff Council to assist with volunteers.

At our Staff Council meeting in July, we had a working retreat to revise the current by-laws and review our Staff Council Standing Committees to see if they align with needs of our staff. As an extension to that retreat, we will continue working on our standing committee structure to ensure we are doing our best to promote the welfare staff and meet the needs of our employees.

A few upcoming initiatives the Council has planned include a fall Breakfast with Benson on September 25th where employees will have the opportunity to have breakfast and conversation with President Benson. Information on this event will be sent to ECU Employees soon for staff to submit their names. Staff Council would like to extend our gratitude to President Benson for his willingness to participate in this event after the success and feedback we received from the breakfast we hosted in the spring. Additionally, Staff Council will be hosting programming for employees during ECU's Homecoming week in hopes to get everyone in the spirit of the week. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding those initiatives as well.

As you can see, Staff Council is very busy with ongoing initiatives and we hope you see the value in what we are doing for employees. Once again, I'd like to thank you, Chair Diaz, President Benson, and members of the Board for your continued support of Staff Council.

3. Ms. Madison Lipscomb, President, Student Government Association

Ms. Madison Lipscomb, SGA President, delivered the following report:

So I spent a majority of today with you guys, so I hope that you know who I am. For the people that were not with me from 9 o'clock this morning, my name is Madison Lipscomb. I am the Student Body President. A little bit of information: I am a Human Resources major. I am a

senior. I am supposed to graduate in May. So just a little tid bit of who I am for everyone who might not know who I am.

But as far as student government is going, it's pretty fresh. I mean, we're still two weeks into the semester. Summer was pretty quiet, so it's really great to be able to see all the students back on campus. It was like a deserted wasteland. A pretty one, a beautiful wasteland over the summer. Campus is beautiful of course. But it's really nice to have some life given back into it. It was really lonely this summer being here by myself. But as people start getting back in the groove, getting the semester back in motion is really reassuring.

As far as student government is going, we had a really big success over the summer with my executive Vice President Grant Minix getting the position as the student representative for the Council on Post-Secondary Education. It's a huge success for him and the University as a whole, so any CPE trouble that you may have, send them Grant's way. He is more than happy to hear it. I think he is not really sure what he's got himself into, but he's learning.

We will be hosting elections on September 10th. These elections are almost specifically for new students here at ECU who are interested in joining student government. We had an information last week that had a really good turnout, so I think that we will be seeing a really good, full Senate this year. We have about 33 seats available with 15 filled right now, so we have about 15 spots that are going to be considered for elections.

We recently passed our budget last Tuesday at the Senate meeting, which is a really huge success. It passed unanimously without any revisions being made, so I'm going to pat myself on the back for that one, for pleasing them in that aspect. They also had the Committees at the Senate meeting last week present goals that they have for the semester. We have about five different committees that range from sustainability to residential affairs all the way to student rights and student safety and things like that. It was really awesome to see the goals that they have for this year, a lot of them being sustainability initiatives, IT commons that we've set up with the libraries.

I'm looking to you (Betina Gardner), but I'm not looking to you anymore, which is okay. I'm still going to look to you for IT. She is in my heart as IT for always. But last year when we did come up with the initiative to have an 80/20 split with our 100,000 IT grant that we receive every year, 80,000 of that going to the new IT commons that we are going to see on campus and the rest of the 20,000 being distributed to student groups throughout campus for any IT needs that they may have.

Also looking into the rest of this semester, we are probably hosting another airing of grievances event or "Not Your Average Colonel Corn Roast", as we decided to call it. We had a great turnout last semester. It was a great way to wrap up the year. Great turn out as far as administrators and students went. We had a lot of good points brought up to administrators, and I think maybe opened their eyes into some things that were going on on campus that they might not have known were going on. So, I expect the Board of Regents to be receiving an invite for our now semi-annual, I guess we'd call it bi-annual airing of grievances event. So make sure you guys come out to that. I'll let you guys know when that's going to be happening.

But other than that, it's been a great day so far. I'm really happy to be here, and it's been a great day spending time with all the Regents up there. I think one of my favorite parts of today is after we had toured Powell and the new Rec Center, we went into Starbucks and the line into Starbucks was very long. Almost overpowered the entirety of Powell. Regent Castro, Regent Diaz, and Regent Tye had this great idea that they were going to pay for all of the students', a majority of the students were in line, pay for their Starbucks. So, not only did they get to have a nice little photo op and set a good tone for this semester and a great tone for this Board of Regents this year. And make some students' day, because coffee always makes students' day. When in doubt, just bring coffee. But it's going to be a great year, and I'm really excited to work alongside everybody.

4. Dr. Michael Benson, President

President Michael Benson delivered the following report:

I did not want to impinge on President Lipscomb's time, I just wanted to come off the frozen tundra and warm up a minute. But, good to be with you. I'll be very quick.

Madison mentioned Grant Minix. This makes two now ECU representatives on the CPE Board. So when he fulfills his two-year term, in addition to Sebastian Tomez, who was the previous two years, we will have had a full four years of CPE representation on the Board. I don't know if anybody else can say that, so that's a big deal for us.

I forgot to mention when I was up here talking about our diversity and inclusion efforts, when we had the Turner Gate walk, as I was going back into the middle of campus, two students came up to me- Latino students. And they said, "Hey, we went to Camino Camp, and we're here now as freshmen, and we just wanted to say 'hi.'" And I thought, how cool is that? And Abby showed us the bar chart, of all the students who have gone through the Camino Camp, and the ones that have now matriculated as students at ECU. And our goal is to capture all of them. Capture is not the right word, but have them come, entice them to come here as students. We do want to get them, retain them, and graduate them. And to think that we started where we did, and we're almost now to 500 Latino students. I know we've talked about the 1,000 mark, and we'll get there. I can promise you we'll get there. I want Ethan to come up here, because Caelin mentioned the Day of Service, and where did Ethan go?

[He went to help with Tailgate. He is volunteering.]

Oh my word, can someone call him and get him back here? I have a special presentation. I kid you not. I have been waiting all day for this. I was invited to go to the signing of House Bill 1, and the Governor gave me my very own copy of the bill with a pen and I was going to give it to Ethan. Because he is the one who bird-dogged this thing, and he deserves it. So, boy, this is anticlimactic.

Chair Diaz: Mr. President there is a football game today with a halftime show. You could do it there if you so choose.

Well anyway, okay. I wanted to present that to him today because I can't overemphasize enough how much work he put into it. David has been trying to hire him to EKV for a while now, and we are so lucky to have him representing us up on the Hill.

This is the front page of the Richmond Register on the weekend of August 3rd, and it chronicles all the folks that came to help. I want to brag on Brian here for a second because Brian and I have had our fits and starts, not because of him but because of me. Brian Wilcox had a plan when he came in, and at times I doubted the plan, because I didn't see enough progress. And at the end of June I walked around campus, and quite frankly campus did not look very good. At least I didn't think so, and I think, Barry, you concur. And so I would send notes to Brian, and I would call him, and I would bug him, and I kind of put him on notice that hey, we've got to improve things. Now if you go out and look at campus today, there is a 180 degree improvement. The way that Brian has gone about the changes and the savings and you saw the net effect to the bottom line. Brian, I tip my cap to you because you've brought a whole new approach to our facilities management and its working, so I commend you and your team.

We've got flowers and planters now, because I was bugging them because there weren't flowers in front of signs, and it was driving me nuts. And the Turner Gate looked terrible, and now look at it. It's something we can all be proud of, so thank you very much.

I am teaching at class this semester on World War I, and I have ten graduate students, and five of the ten students are high school teachers. And the reason I tell you that is, it has reinforced in my mind once again, that teaching is hard work. I don't know if we really truly appreciate the work that our faculty do. Not only our faculty but K-12 teachers. To prepare lesson plans every single day and to put up with kids, listen I've got 3 kids that are in school. I know what it's like. But I really have enormous respect for teachers. So to the teachers out there in the audience, to the faculty, I thank you for what you do. Because I go to class I think, boy, if I did this every single day, these are bright young people, and I say young people. I have a 65 year old man in there too. And the only reason he is taking this class is he is teaching a class on Appalachian music and he has to have a master's degree to teach this class. And he is a late bloomer. And it's just a real joy every Monday night from 6:00-9:00 to teach this course. And so, to Sara Zeigler, who is my Dean, thank you for giving me the opportunity to teach again because I'm really enjoying it.

September 27th is our big campaign kick-off, and you would be dumb as dirt to miss it. So, please be there. The Center for the Arts. Betina and her crew are going to put together a fantastic night. Betina of course, as you know, is our new Vice President for Development. Julia George will you stand up? Julia is our interim Dean of the Libraries and is doing a fantastic job. It really will be a wonderful kick-off to our public phase of our campaign.

Lastly I will mention that I had the chance to be on Bill Bryant the other day on Newsmakers, and I misspoke. I said we had 4,124 graduate. I apologize I shorted that by 30. 4,154 graduates. Now, as Vasu pointed out, our enrollment is down slightly. It's coming back. But one reason it's down is we've graduated so many students. That is the all-time high. We have never, ever eclipsed 4,000 graduates. And think about that. That's 4,000 people, 4,154 people that are out there being productive citizens. I hope, paying taxes, making a difference, and representing the

University. And that's what it's all about. I'm proud to be a part, along with you, in this endeavor. So thank you very much.

Regent Babbage and Regent Marion echoed the President's appreciation for teachers and encouraged the President to share his experience in the classroom and the impact it has had on his thankfulness for teachers in both the alumni magazine and when speaking at high school recruiting events.

Chair Diaz informed the President that Ethan Witt had returned to the meeting.

Come on up here, Ethan. On behalf of the University, Ethan, I know how hard you worked on behalf of not only ECU but all of higher education on House Bill 1. I was on a plane coming back from Utah for our family vacation and I was invited to represent the presidents at the bill signing, and you should have been there. But the Governor presented me with a copy of the bill and a pen, and I thought, if anybody deserves a copy of this, you do.

5. Lewis Diaz, Chair

Chair Lewis Diaz delivered the following report:

I want to make a couple of observations, and I'll be very, very brief. The first observation is that through the committee meetings today, I sat back and listened to you all ask questions, converse. Good questions. Targeted questions. Questions that were on the right track. And I just felt fulfilled, frankly. Because as we restructured our bylaws, you make a move like that, and that's something we all did together. And you don't really know how it's going to work. Right? How is the Diversity and Inclusion Committee going to go? How's the Organizational Planning and Strategic Initiatives Committee going to go? And I thought it went really well. And I'm particularly proud of Bryan and Jason because there is often this concept of, there's faculty and then there's staff. And you guys are uniquely talented, and your ability to work as co-chair and drive that initiative is so important. Not just because of the work that you're doing, but how you're going about doing it. And working in partnership is the model that we want to put out there. You guys are the model for everyone else on this campus of how faculty and staff can interact together. You guys working together on that committee is intentional. And you guys are the example, and I'm extremely proud of how you got the first meeting off and how you're running it and it's just very exciting. All of us, I'm just proud of the group. I wrote Dana a quick note, I said "I think you have a good team here." And I think everyone is engaged. I think everyone is looking at the materials in advance of the meeting. You're coming into meetings prepared. I'm just really, really proud of everyone here, and I'm excited about the direction of this body.

Second observation, or thing that's worth sharing with everyone, is that 18,500 is a real number. I know that we graduated a lot of students. I know that we have to replace a lot of students. But we have the best physical assets on this campus. We have a new student center, a new Rec center. This is the year that we should see a larger increase in our new student/new freshmen enrollment. New transfers. We really need to see a return on that investment. And so that is something that I can't emphasize enough. We have been looking at the 18,500 number for three years. And it's real. And if we don't strive to do the very best that we can, which I'm told is 18,500,

then we are effectively selling ourselves short. So I don't know that we'll get there, but the effort has to be to get there, and then we'll see where we end up. So I'm just really proud of the group, and I want to encourage everyone here to focus on retention. Focus on enrollment growth. And focus on the partnership between faculty and staff, because that's when we win.

And I suppose lastly, in all things be student-centric. When we are student-centric, we always win. We always win.

Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

Chair Diaz presented to the full Board the following items on the Consent Agenda for approval:

i. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on June 18, 2019

A motion was made by Regent Tye to approve the minutes for the Full Board meeting on June 18, 2019. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

ii. Personnel Actions Report

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Personnel Actions Report. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

iii. Strategic Plan Extension

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Strategic Plan Extension. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

iv. Richmond Utilities Easement

A motion was made by Regent Castro to approve the Richmond utilities easement. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

v. Reelection of Officers

Chair Diaz requested a motion to reelect the current slate of officers to their respective positions upon the swearing in of Janice Sword Way to the Board. The motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote.

New Business

As required by law, Open Meetings and Open Records information was distributed to and signed by all Board members.

Two resolutions were presented to the Board for approval:

Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents Resolution in Recognition of the Engle Family

Regent Long presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, beginning in 1928 with Dr. Fred Allen Engle, Sr., three generations of the Engle family have served with distinction on the Eastern Kentucky University faculty, completing a combined ninety years of distinguished familial leadership and meritorious service that continues with the service of Dr. Allen D. Engle; and

WHEREAS, during those years, their special contributions to the University have included serving as members of the faculty and teaching courses in math, education, commerce, economics, business law, human resources, and English, for which numerous teaching awards have been conferred; and

WHEREAS, throughout their tenure on the faculty, members of the Engle family have demonstrated dedication and commitment to academic rigor, as well as the welfare of its students, faculty, and staff; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents hereby highly commends the Engle family for their important contributions made to Eastern Kentucky University, and, hereby formally records its appreciation for the excellent leadership they have provided, for the countless hours they have devoted, and the exemplary service they have rendered.

Done this the 29th day of August, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Resolution in Recognition of the Engle Family. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote.

Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents Resolution in Recognition of Ryan Wiggins

Regent Makinen presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Ryan Wiggins has served with distinction since 2018 as the Student Regent on the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents, having been elected by his campus peers as Student Regent; and having also served as a member of the Student Life, Discipline and Athletics Committee;

WHEREAS, he selflessly shared with the University and colleagues the resources of his time, expertise, and guidance;

WHEREAS, he demonstrated dedication and commitment to speaking for and representing the student body and to maintaining and growing the student experience; and

WHEREAS, he steadfastly served as a valued and effective advocate for Eastern Kentucky University and the higher education community of the Commonwealth;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents officially records its sincere appreciation for the service and leadership given by Student Regent Ryan Wiggins;

Done this the 29th day August, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Makinen to approve the Resolution in Recognition of Ryan Wiggins. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Diaz requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Regent Makinen to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting was thereby adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Bryan Makinen

12/12/19
Date