

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

December 12, 2019

**Black Box Theater
Center for the Arts
Eastern Kentucky University**

Call to Order

A regular quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened at 1:02 p.m. at the Black Box Theater, Center for the Arts, 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
Ms. Nancy Collins
Dr. Jason Marion
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye
Mr. Vasu Vasudevan
Ms. Janice Sword Way
Ms. Madison Lipscomb
Mr. Bryan Makinen, Corporate Secretary*

Absent

None

Others Present

Dr. Michael Benson, President
Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel
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
Members of the faculty, staff and media

*Bryan Makinen resigned his duties as Staff Regent on December 1, 2019, but will continue to act as Corporate Secretary.

When the U.S.S. Malvern, Admiral David Farragut's flagship, could not pass a line of obstructions the Southerners had placed in the river, the President transferred to a shallow-draft barge, pulled by the tugboat Glance. After the strong river current forced the Malvern against the bridge, the tugboat was detached to rescue it, and twelve sailors rowed the President's barge upstream. President Lincoln was amused. "Admiral," he said to David D. Porter, who was in the party, "this brings to my mind a fellow who once came to me to ask for an appointment as minister abroad. Finding he could not get that, he came down to some more modest position. Finally, he asked to be made a tide-waiter (or a customs inspector). When he saw he could not get that, he asked me for an old pair of trousers." "But it is well to be humble," Lincoln concluded (p. 576).

Here is the greatest president in our nation's history, being rowed into Richmond in a small barge just days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox and 11 days before his tragic assassination at Ford's Theatre. And he uses the occasion as a teaching moment with one of his inimitable stories. What a lesson in humility and leadership.

No one of us is bigger than this place. We are simply stewards of the resources granted to us with a charge to make it better. To quote one of my heroes, George Washington Carver, "Start where you are, with what you have. Make something of it and never be satisfied." That is what we have tried to do here at Eastern Kentucky University, a place that has meant so much to so many for so long. We will always be Colonels.

At each of your places are evidences of two things I'm very proud of: the first is a booklet detailing the transformational projects which have reinvigorated our campus; the second is an infographic about our recent high school recruiting visits. We talk constantly about budgets and programs and facilities and pensions and many other things: but at day's end, we are here for students. Full stop. They are and should always remain our primary focus. My family and I thank you for this privilege to serve and wish you all the best in the future. Go Colonels!

2. Lewis Diaz, Chair

Chair Lewis Diaz delivered the following report:

Thank you, Mr. President. You mentioned Coach Wells. I watched the press conference and I first want to share with you that the hashtag "Hell's Bells Here Comes Wells" is pretty good. I liked it.

Mike, your service to EKV has been outstanding. I looked at some information that Craig gave me from your first couple years about the things that you set out to accomplish, and when you look at that list, it's this update that you just gave us. Everything that you set out to do when you got here, you have done. You have served as President with tremendous zeal, and the university is better for you having been here. You have faithfully done your duty.

As President, Dr. Benson worked to create a new ceiling for this institution and the students it serves. During his tenure we saw an increase in retention rates, graduation rates, freshmen class GPA, periods of record enrollment, record giving, and as we have talked about, the most extensive revitalization of our campus in more than fifty years that includes new residence halls, a first-class

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

iii. Approval of the OVC Governing Board Certification Form

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the OVC Governing Board Certification Form. The motion was seconded by Regent Vasudevan. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

iv. Approval of Degree Candidates for Fall 2019

A motion was made by Regent Castro to approve the Degree Candidates for Fall 2019 commencement. The motion was seconded by Regent Marion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

v. Council on Academic Affairs Presentation

A motion was made by Regent Castro to approve the Council on Academic Affairs program proposals. The motion was seconded by Regent Collins. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

vi. Approval of Honorary Degree for P.G. Peoples

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve an honorary degree for P.G. Peoples. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

vii. Approval of Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

viii. Land Lease – Kit Carson Commons Project

A motion was made by Regent Castro to approve the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

New Business

Regent Long recommended a made motion to employ David McFaddin as the interim President for Eastern Kentucky University. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

One resolution was presented to the Board for approval:

for the countless hours he has devoted, and the exemplary service he has rendered, the Board of Regents hereby officially bestows the title of President Emeritus upon Dr. Michael T. Benson.

Done this the Twelfth Day of December, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the Resolution in Recognition of Michael T. Benson and Designation as President Emeritus. The motion was seconded by Regent Long. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment

Regent Marion thanked President Benson for the model of moral character that he sets in the Richmond community and his service to Eastern Kentucky University.

Student Regent Lipscomb thanked President Benson for his leadership throughout her time at EKU.

Regent Makinen thanked President Benson, his wife, and children for their service to EKU and the Richmond community. Regent Makinen praised President Benson's character and integrity in the face of the hardest economic times of the institution's history.

Regent Vasudevan praised President Benson's efforts in increasing the visibility and reputation of EKU throughout his tenure.

Chair Diaz stated that there will be a search committee for a permanent President. Regent Marion will co-chair that search committee together with Bryan Makinen as Corporate Secretary. The Board will immediately issue an RFP to hire a search firm to assist the co-chairs in creating a committee and to guide the committee in the process of choosing the next President of EKU.

There being no further business, Chair Diaz requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Regent Long to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting was thereby adjourned at 3:56 p.m.



Bryan Makinen



Date