

**Eastern Kentucky University
Board of Regents
Special Meeting Minutes**

July 26, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Via Video Teleconference: Zoom

Public Viewing Link: <https://epresence.eku.edu/bor-meeting>

Call to Order

The special meeting of the Board of Regents was called to order by Lewis Diaz, Chair on July 26, 2021 at 2:02pm with all regents participating via video teleconference. The public was able to view the meeting through a live stream feed and a physical primary location was provided for public viewing in Powell 219.

Chair Diaz welcomed newly sworn in Staff Regent, Jeremiah Duerson and Student Regent Jenna Grace Smith to their first official meeting as Regents

Present

Lewis Diaz, Chair
Laura Babbage
Juan Castro
Mike Eaves
Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel
Alan Long, Vice Chair
Dr. Jason Marion, Faculty Regent
David McFaddin, President
Lynn Taylor Tye
Vasu Vasudevan
Ashley Ward
Jeremiah Duerson, Staff Regent
Jenna Grace Smith, Student Regent
Whitney Crowe, J.D. Deputy Counsel

Absent

None

Swearing In

Chair Diaz welcomed newly appointed Regent, Mr. Ashley Ward

Regent Ward was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl

Regent Babbage, being reappointed was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl.

Information Items

Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin delivered the following report, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

EKU will fully reopen for the start of classes for the fall semester in just three weeks, and the sense of anticipation is palpable across campus. Most all of our staff have returned to their offices, and faculty will be back soon after the summer break. In-person meetings, training, tours, and summer camps are once again filling campus spaces, and it almost feels like normal again. As we frequently say with cautious optimism, it is our next “normal”, one that we have worked hard to shape in the most positive way possible.

Among the experiences we are most excited to see return is our Big E Welcome week. Freshman move-in will begin August 11 with a robust schedule of activities to welcome the Class of 2025. You will be receiving an invite this week to participate where your schedule might allow. Our newest students will be the first to pick up their FREE BookSmart textbooks and course materials for all undergraduate classes, and there will be a unique celebration to mark this historic occasion. Another highlight of the Big E Welcome that will return this year is the Welcome Walk. We officially and ceremoniously usher the new freshmen class through our campus entryway at Turner Gate. I invite all of our Board of Regents, faculty, staff, and the local community to gather along Lancaster Avenue for the Welcome Walk that will take place between 4:30-5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13. This spirited event is an opportunity for us to welcome and congratulate our newest members of the Colonel family. They’ve had an atypical experience as they finished high school and prepared for college. We are grateful that every student found and chose EKU as the School of Opportunity during an unpredictable recruitment cycle. We will hold to our mission and give them an exceptional education focused on excellence in every area.

Exceptional is a word you will hear quite a bit this year, as we introduce the “Exceptional Eastern Experience” that we call “E3”. Beginning with the Big E Welcome, E3 is a year-long lineup of campus activities, including free concerts, DJs, comedians, bonfires, festivals, athletic events, and pep rallies. E3 programming also includes:

- Unique heritage and cultural programs.
- Celebrations.
- Academic enrichment opportunities will feature national guest lecturers.

It will be a unique experience for EKU students, faculty, staff our community and of course our board members. You will be receiving an official E3 calendar in the coming days as your official invitation to join us for these exceptional experiences.

With structured plans and a return to pre-pandemic campus capacity for classes, housing, and events, we are committed to the health and safety of both our ECU family and local community. For example, our COVID-19 task force meets and reviews the latest guidance and information on the infection rate and delta variant from local, state, and federal health officials. We also continue to offer education and encouragement for vaccinations for all who are medically eligible, and ECU will offer vaccine clinics and testing access on campus to our student population. In addition, we are developing incentives to promote student vaccinations further, and maybe a future Colonel will win one of the free scholarships Kentucky is offering in the prize drawing for vaccinated students! As of today, enrollment continues to trend upward with over 400 students enrolling last week. We are solidly on target to hit our budgeted enrollment goals based on this snapshot. The delayed enrollment phenomenon created by the pandemic will have our outstanding enrollment management team and academic affairs leaders working to enroll students all the way up to the add/drop period this fall. A few key successes include across the board increases in underrepresented minority students, increased number of housing contracts, our new freshman class number has eclipsed our targeted goal and is up year over year, in-state, service region and e-campus enrollments are up as well. All of this is possible only through the hard work, determination, and student-first commitment of our ECU team.

Speaking of the ECU team, you should have received an official announcement from my office on Friday, naming Mrs. Colleen Chaney our new Chief of Staff and Chief Communications Officer. We are beyond excited to welcome Colleen to the team starting August 1st, but it comes with parting of one of my dear friends as Doug Cornett retires after 32 years of dedicated service to ECU.

Finally, it wasn't the lottery, but rather a selfless and generous alumna of ECU who gave us a \$2.5 million gift earlier this month. We are forever grateful for the generosity of 1968 graduate Karen Ann Hawkins of Anderson County. Her bequest is the single largest gift in the school's history, and this is excellent news to share as we start the new academic year. Karen Ann passed away last November. Over the last several months we have gathered together with her family and friends to recognize and present her gift, it is clear that she always carried ECU in her heart. Her life and legacy will live on as scholarships. A portion of the gift is reserved for students from Lawrenceburg, her hometown. The first of which has already been awarded for three students in this year's freshmen class.

There are many exciting days ahead, and we can't wait to kick off another year of excellence at ECU.

Following President McFaddin's report, Chair Diaz took the opportunity, on behalf of the board, to thank Doug Cornett, Associate Vice President of Communications and Brand Management for 32 years of service to the university, as he retires in the Fall.

He also expressed his gratitude to Dr. Tanlee Wasson and Dr. Dannie Moore for the partnership they have in driving enrollment at the university, both overall enrollment and the enrollment of underrepresented minorities. He applauded them for the work they have done during the pandemic

to stay engaged with the students, keeping them in a place where they are thinking about their futures.

He also acknowledged President McFaddin for continuing to innovate and find top talent as he did with Ms. Chaney, and in bringing together the best group of talented individuals to form a cabinet, to serve the university in the best way possible.

Action Items

A. Re-elect Vice Chair and Secretary

Chair Diaz explained that by statute, every time there is a new appointee to the board, it is required to vote for a Vice Chair and Secretary. A motion was made by Regent Castro to re-elect Vice Chair Alan Long, and Secretary Jason Marion. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Approval of Kentucky Utilities Easements for the Ky. Wired Project (Whitney Crowe, J.D.)

Deputy Counsel, Whitney Crowe gave a report for approval of two easements between EKU and Kentucky Utilities Company relating to the Ky. Wired Project, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the agreements. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Diaz adjourned the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting was thereby adjourned at 2:24 p.m.


Jason Marion

 
Date