

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

**February 25, 2022
9 a.m.**

Partially Via Video Teleconference

**Powell 219
Eastern Kentucky University**

I. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on February 25, 2022, at 9:01 a.m. at the Powell building, Room 219, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky.

Present

Mr. Lewis Diaz
Mr. Juan Castro
Mr. Jeremiah Duerson
Ms. Jenna Smith
Mr. Alan Long
Dr. Jason Marion
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye
Mr. Mike Eaves

Via Video Teleconference

Mr. Vasu Vasudevan
Ms. Laura Babbage
Mr. Ashley Ward

Absent

None

II. Election of Officers

Regent Marion made a motion for Regent Diaz to remain as Chair, Regent Long to remain as Vice-chair, Regent Duerson to serve as secretary, and Vice President Poynter to continue serving as

treasurer. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Information Items

A. University Reports

1. Dr. Dannie Moore, Student Life Update

Dr. Dannie Moore, Vice President for Student Life and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, gave a presentation on the continuing success of the Exceptional Eastern Experience events, including a few top name artists coming to campus, the value of social media platforms, and the excitement of the student body. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Student Success & Enrollment Update

Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Engagement & Opportunity, gave a report detailing Fall 2022 recruitment goals and successes. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

3. Mr. Barry Poynter, Financial Update

Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a financial update as of December 31, 2021, as well as a bond resolution update. The report is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

4. Ms. Betina Gardner, Development Update

Ms. Betina Gardner, Vice President for University Development and Alumni Engagement, and Executive Director of EKV Foundation, presented a report on the progress of the Make No Little Plans Campaign, the FY22 fundraising report through December 31, 2021, and the upcoming annual giving campaign slated for April 13, 2022. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

5. Dr. Sara Ziegler, Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented the academic affairs update, including a report on the Dean searches, cross-college collaborations, and addressing the mental health needs of the students through integrated behavioral health. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:20 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:37 a.m.]

6. Mr. Matt Roan, Vice President and Director of Athletics

Mr. Matt Roan, Vice President and Director of Athletics, gave a presentation, including a report on academic excellence amongst student-athletes, the status of the athletic programs, and a campaign for ECU athletics. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

7. Ms. Colleen Chaney, Chief of Staff & Chief Communications Officer

Ms. Colleen Chaney, Chief of Staff & Chief Communications Officer, presented the communications and brand management update, including a brief description of the responsibilities of the department, the results of the 2021 E-Expectations Trend Report, and the upcoming new web system deployment. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

8. Mr. Ethan Witt, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Relations

Mr. Ethan Witt, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Relations, presented a legislative update, which included a report on the recent Colonels at the Capitol event, as well as notable legislation for Higher Education. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

B. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Written Reports

a. Dr. Richard Crosby, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Richard Crosby, 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.

b. Dr. Caelin Scott, Staff Council Chair

Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council, 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.

c. Ms. Jenna Grace Smith, Student Government Association President

Ms. Jenna Grace Smith, President of Student Government Association, delivered the following report:

Members of the Board,

It is an honor, as always, to have the opportunity to address you all. Unfortunately, there won't be many more opportunities like this one because SGA is hosting their elections on March 22nd. Voting will take place between 8AM and 6PM, and students can cast their vote at one of the in-person polling sites, or from another location via their My ECU account. Additionally, the

Executive Debate will be taking place on March 8th at 7PM in the Combs building, and I would love for any of you to attend.

Our senate has had a busy semester so far and has already passed 27 pieces of legislation regarding topics like acknowledging neurodiversity as a form of diversity, supporting Kentucky House Bills, and even creating a more “fun” environment in our student center. Our Senate has shown a lot of interest in the initiative to “bring back the fun” in the Powell building.

The senate also allocated \$20,000 to 18 registered student organizations just this past Tuesday.

Our annual Diversity Week took place last week. Our new Director of Diversity, Dante Webb, has done a great job since being appointed. SGA collaborated with several departments to host panels, workshops, and tabling to educate students on diversity, equity, and inclusion. As an administration, we have been able to acknowledge that not only do our diverse populations and minorities feel under-represented at the institution, but they are under-represented in our SGA. Our Diversity and Inclusion cabinet is focusing on outreach efforts to make sure everyone has a seat at the table. Additionally, it is a priority of the cabinet to make sure every branch of SGA, and as many RSO’s as possible, are getting proper DEI training.

Our Campus Activities Board is having an extremely successful semester with a full docket of events prepared for students. We are hosting our pillar events like Safe Sex Bingo, Midnight Breakfast, and a Spring concert with JP Saxe. CAB is adding new events like EGGstravaganza, Field Day, and doing several other small events where they do giveaways and interactive workshops and are engaging with students that we haven’t been able to reach in the past.

The Sustainability Cabinet recently completed a project we started last year called The Bottle Cap Bench Project. SGA collected recycled bottle caps from different groups across campus and gathered enough to purchase 2 benches that will be placed on campus and unveiled during SGA’s annual Earth Week in April.

This past Thursday, President McFaddin joined me and about 20 other students in the Board of Regents room in Case Dining Hall for Dinner with the President. This was a great opportunity for students to ask questions and air concerns directly with administration and student leadership. We have already planned another dinner for March 31st, and after conversations with the President, this may be something we try to do each month to encourage transparency. We had a good showing of SGA students at the event, but we are hoping to get more students to attend who would otherwise have no idea how to access these resources.

March 1st will kick-off one of my biggest initiatives while in office regarding Mental Health. EVP Nguyen and I ran our campaign on promises to bring awareness to mental health and mental health resources. Our SGA will be highlighting mental health resources throughout the month of March and hosting events to help students de-stress. Through collaboration with representatives from the Student Recreation Center, the Counseling Center, Libraries, and many others, the goal of what we are calling “Mental Health Month” is to help make students aware of the resources they have available to them here on campus. Over the past few weeks, we have

worked with the provost's office and were able to make a change in all campus syllabi to include mental health resources.

Finally, as the end of my term as Student Body President draws closer, I have reflected on things I would like to improve for the next group of student leadership. It has been my experience running SGA that the organization is highly dysfunctional to no fault of any administration. Our governing doctrines do not support a high-performing organization, and my executive cabinet unanimously agreed that a restructuring of our SGA from top-to-bottom could help drastically improve involvement, retention, and representation. Unfortunately, we will not get to be an active part of this process, but we plan to offer our thoughts, advice, and notes to the incoming administration that we truly believe will enhance our SGA.

I will take any questions that the board might have.

3. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin delivered the following report:

As we gather here for our first board meeting of 2022, I am excited as ever to serve this great institution with you. Each area of campus works diligently every day to ensure students truly have an exceptional Eastern experience. I appreciate your commitment and dedication to ECU as we provide transformational opportunities for everyone in our region.

Legislative Session

More than in any session in recent history, higher education, and specifically ECU, has seen the largest commitment of funding in both the Executive and the House budgets. We continue to communicate our facility needs including Alumni Coliseum, Model Laboratory School, and asset preservation projects.

ECU represented the campus community well at the annual Colonels at the Capitol. I want to commend the work of Ethan Witt, our AVP for Government and Community Relations, who orchestrated an outstanding lineup of speakers for our delegation. This list included members of leadership from both chambers, our local delegation, and many of our ECU alumni who serve us in the General Assembly.

All A Classic

In January, Alumni Coliseum once again served as the front door to Eastern Kentucky University, welcoming 41,000 visitors to the All "A" Classic basketball tournament. Despite winter storms hitting the region, the five-day event had the highest attendance in over 13 years. I want to give a special thank you to our ECU Conferencing and Events team as well as the Communication and Brand Management team for their work on this signature event.

Mask Optional Status

In the coming days, we will be communicating with campus about the modification of our mask status to “mask optional” in all areas except for academic spaces. This decision comes as decreasing rates of COVID-19 are being seen nationally, statewide, and locally. With vaccination readily available for any interested party and a decrease in usage of ICU beds at our local hospitals, we feel our campus community is prepared to address any issues or concerns. We will continue to provide faculty, staff and students with non-surgical masks and KN-95 masks. As always, our health and wellness teams continue to monitor our rates of COVID-19 and make plans accordingly.

President’s Excellence Award

You have heard me use the word “excellence” on numerous occasions throughout 2021. Without a doubt, I have witnessed excellence in many areas across our campus community. I am thankful to be the president of an institution with faculty and staff who provide exceptional work. We will host our first annual President’s Excellence Awards on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, on the main stage of the Center for the Arts. This awards ceremony will recognize six winners in the areas of leadership, engagement, hospitality, philanthropy, diversity and inclusion, and innovation. Each winner will receive an award and \$2,500. During the awards ceremony, I will also recognize ECU milestone employees who have worked 25 years or more. ECU’s success is dependent on the excellent work provided by our employees, and I look forward to recognizing the award recipients.

Dean Searches

Over the past year, ECU has had the good fortune of having many excellent deans serve our institution. While it is always hard to watch our colleagues depart for new adventures, it provides an opportunity for us to grow and evolve our colleges under new leadership. I am pleased to welcome Dr. Tom Martin as the Dean of the College of Business and Dr. Mercy Cannon as Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science (CLASS). I also want to thank Dr. Ryan Baggett who served as the interim dean of the College of Business, Dr. John Bowes who served as the interim dean of CLASS, and the many campus and community leaders who assisted with the dean searches.

Presidential Installation

Thirteen times our campus has hosted a Presidential Installation recognizing the transition of leadership for our institution. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve my alma mater as the 14th President, and I am excited to celebrate with our campus community. The installation theme will be One Eastern. One Eastern is the acknowledgement that it takes all facets of our ECU community, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and students, to come together to elevate ECU to the next level. Please mark your calendars as we will have a week of installation celebrations for the week of April 25, culminating with the installation ceremony on Friday, April 29, 2022.

ECU Recognition

This has been an exciting time on campus as many of our academic programs, student services, and faculty have been recognized nationally.

- Dr. Eric Fuchs, chair of the department of exercise and sports science was recently named a 2022 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer by the National Athletic Trainers' Association.
- Ms. Chaise Robinson, the Course-Embedded Consultant Coordinator for the Noel Studio, was honored with the Graduate Tutor Award from the Southeastern Writing Center Association in recognition of her leadership, commitment, and overall excellence to the tutoring services we offer undergraduate students.
- Mr. Wayne Sherman, who serves as a flight instructor and safety manager for our aviation program, earned his Designated Pilot Examiner status from the Federal Aviation Administration. He is only one of 10 Designated Pilot Examiners serving the entire Commonwealth.
- Our Risk Management and Insurance program was named the top vote recipient in Best's Review monthly magazine's biennial poll of collegiate programs. This ranking proves that our alumni value their excellent education experiences and have worked to pay it back by providing similar experiences to today's students.
- The Military Times ranked ECU in the Top Ten in its Best for Vets survey, an important recognition of the wrap-around services and support we offer to ensure veterans are successful during their time here. We are anticipating improving this ranking for 2022.
- We enjoyed an array of events to commemorate Black History Month, including a powerful discussion with Mr. Shannon LaNier, a descendant of President Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings.

I look forward to updating you at the next Board of Regents meeting on our work toward the 2022 Strategic Plan. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 11:30 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:41 a.m. Regent Marion called the roll and established that a quorum was present.]

4. Mr. Lewis Diaz, Chair of the Board

Chair Diaz delivered the following report:

Members of the Board,

We've had an opportunity today to hear various presentations, mostly from members of the President's Cabinet, and it's been a long time since we've had this number of presentations. I think this was needed and is valuable for several reasons. First, it gives us an idea of what everyone is working on, but also gives an opportunity for the chairs of faculty senate and staff council, along with other members of the campus community to hear what the President's administration is working on in more detail.

I am reminded of all the things we have faced over the last several years as a Board, such as pension issues, challenges to our budget that led to an overall reduction to our staff, and the ongoing pandemic. However, in listening to your reports I am optimistic about where we are as an institution, and that we seem to be trending in the right direction. It's so refreshing to be where we are, knowing where we have been.

I continue to wonder what the next issue might be, and what we will have to deal with, however Regent Duerson reminds me that our focus should be on our people. In his report, the President mentioned the value and importance of exceptional employees. The talent and competition for employees is real, and maybe the next thing for us is making sure we have the best possible people in place to preserve those exceptional experiences we are building, academic, on-campus, etc. This is most likely something we will focus on as Board and talk about during the budget season in terms of the right things that we need to do with the budget to ensure that the President and his team have the tools necessary to keep and invest in the people, who will in turn invest in our students, which is our primary mission as an institution.

I am very appreciative of those of you who presented today, and seeing where we are as a university, I think I can speak freely for the Board in expressing our gratitude with where we are, understanding what we have been through.

I do appreciate some of the new deans being in attendance today, such as Dr. Tom Martin, new dean of the College of Business. Dr. Gill Hunter, thank you for stepping up to serve as interim dean of the College of Education and applied human sciences. As we move forward, maybe in the fall or winter, we will have an opportunity to hear from the new deans about the direction they want to take their colleges and how they are going to put their individual thumbprints on the future of their college. There is a time of renaissance at ECU with great leadership, a new cycle of deans, so the timing is right for each of the deans to do something meaningful with their college. I have no interest in defining it, but I'm very interested in seeing how well each of the deans perform in their respective positions.

We will have to go into closed session for two different matters, one of them will involve litigation, the other will involve the innovation funds. Historically, the innovation funds were presented in open session, however on advice of University Counsel and external counsel we cannot do that moving forward, as the awards that will happen following our closed session involve items that are capable of being patented. If we talk about those during open session, that might destroy the ability to obtain a patent on those items. Therefore, we must go into closed session for the innovation proposals, and then will come back into open session for the awards.

IV. Action Items

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

A. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on December 9, 2021

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021, Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Approval of Personnel Actions

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

C. Approval of Degree Candidates for Spring 2022

A motion was made by Regent Smith to approve the degree candidates for Spring 2022. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

[The Chair adjourned for lunch at 12:13 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:14 p.m. and the Chair confirmed that a quorum was established.]

Chair Diaz indicated that the Board requires a closed session for the purpose of discussing matters which federal law specifically requires to be conducted in privacy, including information the public disclosure of which is prohibited under federal IP law, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(k). The Chair entertained a Motion pursuant to KRS 61.815 to adjourn to closed session. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Diaz noted that no action will be taken in closed session. The Board will entertain a Motion to return to the regular session of the Board meeting once closed session has concluded.

[The Chair adjourned for closed session at 1:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:36 p.m.]

Chair Diaz stated that no action was taken nor were any decisions made in closed session and called for a motion to return to open session. A motion was made by Regent Marion. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Diaz wanted to note that the Board had three outstanding discussions with faculty about the work that they are doing. He indicated that it is a real privilege for the Board to invest in the work they are doing, to learn the things that they are passionate about, and thanked them for bringing their proposals before the Board for consideration.

D. Innovation Fund Presentations & Awards

Chair Diaz called for three separate motions for the approval of the following innovation fund presentations.

1. To support the project of Dr. Fredericks in the amount of \$41,000. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. To support the project of Dr. Jarvis in the amount of \$120,000. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Smith. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
3. To support the project of Dr. Zyzak in the amount of \$88,175. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Diaz indicated that the Board requires a closed session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c). The Chair entertained a Motion pursuant to KRS 61.815 to adjourn to closed session. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

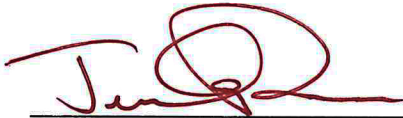
Chair Diaz noted that no action will be taken in closed session. The Board will entertain a Motion to return to the regular session of the Board meeting once closed session has concluded.

[The Chair adjourned for closed session at 2:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:04 p.m.]

Chair Diaz called for a motion to return to open session. A motion was made by Regent Tye. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. He noted that no action was taken in closed session.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Diaz called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Castro. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.



Jeremiah Duerson, Board Secretary

6/14/2022

Date