

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

**September 12, 2024
12:30 p.m.**

**Powell 219
Eastern Kentucky University**

I. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on September 12, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. in Powell 219 Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Chair Eaves called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

Present

Mr. Mike Eaves
Ms. Laura Babbage
Mr. Jeremiah Duerson
Mr. William Lampert
Mr. Alan Long
Dr. Jason Marion
Mr. Edwin Orange
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye
Mr. Ashley Ward

II. Information Items

A. University Reports

1. Dr. Bryan Makinen, Construction Update

Dr. Bryan Makinen, Chief Campus Operations Officer, gave an update on recent and ongoing housing renovations, as well as the status of general and academic building projects, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Mr. Brian Mullins, Financial Update

Mr. Brian Mullins, Interim Vice President for Finance & CFO, presented a financial update as of June 30, 2024. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

3. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost, and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and subject matter experts offered an update that included the Program Review revision process, faculty retention study (presented by Drs. Lisa Kay and Kerem Kalkan), First Year Courses and student support (presented by Ms. Starr Wentzel), and the STEM Center for Excellence and high school bridge program (presented by Dr. Judy Jenkins). The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

4. Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Student Success and Enrollment

Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, offered a presentation that included, amongst other topics, Fall 2024 enrollment numbers, new freshmen profile and growth, retention, campus housing and residence life updates, the 2024 Big E Welcome, and initiatives for future graduate and online enrollment growth. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 2:12 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:17 p.m.]

5. Ms. Carrie Ernst, Information Technology Update

Ms. Carrie Ernst, Chief Innovation and Optimization Officer, addressed the board on the assessment summary, key findings, and realignment strategies from the most recent Information Technology audit through BerryDunn consulting firm. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

6. Committee Reports, Mike Eaves J.D., Chair

Chair Eaves did not have any committee reports to share with the board.

B. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Written Reports

i. Dr. Lisa Kay, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Kay submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

ii. Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council

Dr. Scott submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

iii. Mr. William Lampert, Student Government Association President

Mr. Lampert submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

iv. Mr. John Dixon, Human Resources Update

Mr. John Dixon submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President McFaddin delivered the following report:

We had a great kickoff to the academic year with the opening of Keene Hall, record enrollment and retention, and great increases in academic programs like aviation, education, social work and manufacturing engineering. In addition, the rounding out of our cabinet with the additions of Vice President and Director of Athletics Kyle Moats and Interim Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer Brian Mullins ensures a great start to the semester.

Fall 2024 Commencement

The Fall 2024 Commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Thursday, December 5 and Friday, December 6, 2024, at the ECU Center for the Arts. We will return to Alumni Coliseum for the 2025 Spring Commencement. Due to the seating capacity of that facility, there will be five ceremonies scheduled to honor graduates from the university's six academic colleges. The ceremonies will be as follows:

- Thursday, December 5, 2024
 - 1:00 p.m.: Master's and Doctoral Graduates from all Colleges
 - 4:30 p.m.: College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science
 - 7:30 p.m.: College of Education and Applied Human Sciences/College of Business
- Friday, December 6, 2024
 - 9 a.m.: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

- 1 p.m.: College of Health Sciences/College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Enrollment

We proudly announced this year's class as the largest freshman class in school history with 2,985 freshmen on the first day of classes. This surpasses the previous school record of 2,931 set in 2015. In addition, this class outperformed the previous class in both standardized testing and high school GPA. Overall, our enrollment for Fall 2024 is 15,576. In addition, this year's programs that grew the most year over year are: Elementary Education, Social Work, Aviation, Child and Family Studies, Nursing and Accounting. We also have record enrollment in many programs including the Honors Program.

Budget Lunch and Learn

Over the past few months, EKU modified the way we do much of our financial budgeting and fund allocation. For some this has been the process they experienced at other institutions and for others this method is new. To help address questions and concerns ranging from budget planning, performance funding, credit rating outlooks and other financial related topics our new Chief Financial Officer Brian Mullins will be joining me to host a Faculty Lunch and Learn in October. A registration will be sent in the coming week.

EKU College of Osteopathic Medicine (EKU-COM) Feasibility Study

The Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) selected Deloitte as the firm to complete the feasibility study for EKU-COM (EKU), R2 Research Status (Western Kentucky), Veterinary School (Murray State), and a PhD in Integrated Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture (Kentucky State). Later this month, the selected firm, Deloitte, will be on campus with faculty and staff reviewing our proposal for the EKU-COM. The final report will be submitted to the General Assembly in December.

Legislative Session

We are preparing for the 2025 Legislative Session. We will be hosting members of the General Assembly this Fall on campus to highlight the campus, showcase some of our signature programs and discuss opportunities for policy changes and partnerships. We will be strongly advocating in the 30-day session for the EKU College of Osteopathic Medicine Program.

Strategic Initiatives

At our university convocation last month, I shared some new and expanded strategic goals that will continue to position EKU to reach more and different student populations while increasing access and affordability. These four key initiatives are as follows:

1. 8K28 – Focusing on our nontraditional learners with a goal of 8,000 students by 2028 through the evaluation of the required programming, operational adjustments across the institution.
2. Competency Based Education – Creating a learning environment where students may acquire and demonstrate their knowledge and skills reflecting an alignment with core outcomes.
3. Credit for Prior Learning – Designing curriculum that meets our students where they are in their educational journey and identifying the tools necessary for success.
4. Essential Education – Repositioning and reimagining General Education to a concept I call Essential Education to equip our students with skills that result in ultimate success in the workplace. This will be faculty-led, industry-invested, administration-supported and board-approved.

State of the University

We will be hosting our Madison County community members for the annual Chamber of Commerce State of the University on Wednesday, September 18 at 12pm. We will be showcasing the Whitlock Building. In addition, we will highlight successful partnerships from the past year including the Central Kentucky Regional Airport Aviation Terminal project and events such as the Millstone Festival, Late Night with the Colonels at Dillingham Park, and the upcoming inaugural Neon Run that will come right through the Campus Beautiful.

SACSCOC Decennial Reaffirmation

Reaffirmation of accreditation occurs every 10 years and is an opportunity for Eastern Kentucky University to evaluate our programs and services. The University's next reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) will take place in academic year 2024-2025. This is an extensive and fairly long process. Our accreditation liaisons Dr. Bethany Miller and Dr. Jennifer Weis will be coordinating this significant effort. We will share more information on this process in a later meeting. If you would like to review the policy or process, please visit the links below.

- <https://saescoc.org/app/uploads/2019/08/ReaffirmationPolicy.pdf>
- <https://saescoc.org/accrediting-standards/reaffirmation-process/>

Upcoming Events

- October 14 and 15 – ECU Fall Break
- October 22 – Dedication of Art Exhibit at the Center for the Arts
- October 25-26 – Homecoming
- October 26 – Portrait Dedication for President Mike Benson
- November 5 – Presidential Election (University Closed)

- November 14 – Board of Regents Meeting
- November 27-29 – Thanksgiving Holiday (University Closed)
- December 5-6 – Fall Commencement

3. Mr. Mike Eaves, Chair of the Board Report

Chair Eaves did not have a report to share with the board.

III. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Clay County Scholarship Project Resolution

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Clay County Scholarship Project Resolution. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Approval of FY 24-26 Asset Preservation Project Update

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the FY 24-26 Asset Preservation Project Update. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Discussion and/or Action regarding Surplus Property Designation of Facilities

A motion was made by Regent Marion to authorize the Surplus Property Designation of the Stone Walker House, and demolition if necessary. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approval of Award of Honorary Degree

President McFaddin addressed the board seeking approval of an honorary degree to be presented during the commencement ceremonies to be held in December to Mr. Richard Mattingly.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the honorary degree for Mr. Richard Mattingly. The motion was seconded by Regent Marion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Approval of Resolutions of Recognition

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the resolution recognizing Vasu Vasudevan. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the resolution recognizing Michael Garland. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. New Business


There was no new business.

V. Executive Session

There was no need for an Executive Session.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Tye. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.



Jeremiah Duerson, Board Secretary

11/14/2024
Date