

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

**May 15, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

**EKU Library, First Floor Study Area  
Eastern Kentucky University**

**I. Call to Order**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the ECU Library, first-floor study area, 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. Alan Long  
Dr. Jason Marion  
Mr. Edwin Orange  
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye  
Mr. Ashley Ward

**Absent**

Mr. Camden Ritchie

**II. Information Items**

**A. Welcome from Julie George, Dean of Libraries**

Julie George, Dean of Libraries, welcomed the board and attendees to the Crabbe Library, sharing a document, "EKU Libraries at a Glance", a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

## **B. University Reports**

### **1. Audit Plan by Crowe, LLP**

Mr. Pete Ugo, Partner at Crowe, LLP, introduced Mr. Kevin Kerswick, a partner in the audit and assurance business unit at Crowe who will become the engagement partner for EKU with Pete moving to a concurring review partner role with the university. Kevin gave a brief presentation regarding the audit approach for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, which detailed, amongst other things, the audit process timeline, and new accounting and auditing pronouncements, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

### **2. Mr. Barry Poynter, Financial Update**

Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a financial update as of March 31, 2024, for fiscal year 2023-24 compared with March 31, 2023. 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, offered an update that included the Program Review revision process, the 2024-2025 cohorts for the Provost's Faculty Internship Program, First Year Courses Awards, and the Faculty Awards & Recognition Ceremony. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

### **4. Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Student Success and Enrollment, and Student Life Update**

Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, offered a presentation that included, amongst other topics, Spring 2024 enrollment numbers and Fall 2024 total enrollment projections, new freshmen growth, campus visits, and engaging students and potential students through social media. Regarding Student Life, Dr. Wasson shared an update on the Keene Hall Renovation, and the Welcome Back concert to take place on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

### **5. Ms. Mary Beth Neiser, Development Update**

Ms. Mary Beth Neiser, Vice President of University Development and Alumni Engagement, addressed the board thanking them for their financial support, during the fifth-ever Giving Day where every member of the Board of Regents, the Foundation Board, and the Alumni Board all

contributed and were included in the numbers which surpassed this year's goal of 2,324 donors as well as the \$700,000 mark, indicating significant growth over the past five years. She offered up the year-to-date number as of June 30, 2023, which was at \$7 million, and as of Monday, May 13, 2024, at \$8.9 million for the year overall.

## **6. Ms. Colleen Chaney, Communication & Brand Management Update**

Ms. Colleen Chaney, Chief of Staff & Chief Communications Officer, offered a presentation that included a report on the Game Changer campaign, Social Media impressions, updates on WEKU, Best Practices in Strategy and Efficiency, and what is next on the horizon. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

*[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:22 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:36 a.m.]*

## **7. Committee Reports, Mike Eaves J.D., Chair**

Regent Lynn Taylor Tye, chair of the Finance Committee, gave a summary of the general activities of the April 1, 2024, and May 1, 2024, Finance Committee meetings wherein Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a draft FY 2024-25 Operating Budget summary. The committee discussed some of the challenges faced this year and reviewed the draft budget summary for the FY 2024-25 Operating Budget. Mr. Poynter presented a revised budget model which helped the committee have a clearer view of how the budget was prepared for the coming fiscal year.

### **C. 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. Camden Ritchie, Student Government Association President**

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

**iv. Ms. Amy Scarborough, Legislative Update**

Ms. Scarborough submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

**v. Ms. Dana Fohl, Policies and Regulations Report**

Ms. Fohl submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

**2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President**

President David McFaddin delivered the following report:

**A Year in Focus Annual Report 2023-2024**

President McFaddin addressed the board and took a few moments to thank them for continuing to support the university's commencement exercises, which sends a positive message to the students, their families, the faculty, the staff, and anyone involved in the journey that culminates on that stage.

President McFaddin then presented the 2023-24 annual report, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

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

In the absence of Chair Eaves for the afternoon session, Board Vice-Chair Long thanked Regent Tye for her work chairing the Finance Committee meetings concerning the budget. He expressed that having as a long-serving board member, he knows that some of those functions had not been done in the past, and he appreciates Regent Tye leading that effort.

**III. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the Audit Plan**

Vice-Chair Long indicated that approval of the audit plan was not necessary, and this item will be removed from future agendas.

**B. Consent Agenda**

Before the vote, Vice-Chair Long pointed out that the minutes from the February 21, 2024 meeting reflected that Chair Mike Eaves was appointed by the board for another 4-year term which actually should have reflected he was appointed by the board for another 1-year term.

A motion was made by Regent Tye to approve the Consent Agenda (with minutes as amended). The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **C. Recommendations for Model Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25**

President McFaddin addressed the board by bringing their attention to the recommendations for Model Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25 in the agenda and asked the board for their approval.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the recommendations for Model Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **D. Recommendations for Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25**

Dr. Zeigler addressed the board by bringing their attention to the recommendations for Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25 in the agenda and asked the board for their approval.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the recommendations for Promotion and Tenure for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **E. Approval of Annual Operating Budget FY 2024-2025**

President McFaddin gave a brief preview of the proposed budget before Mr. Poynter's presentation. Addressing the board, the President explained that this is the fourth annual budget for this administration, which includes some recurring items that have been prioritized to continue to invest in, such as an across-the-board two percent (2%) pay increase for employees for the fourth consecutive year, investing in students and student opportunities with the continuation of the hallmark BookSmart program, and student support services provided through the Academic Support Centers.

He added that since the April 1<sup>st</sup> Finance Committee meeting, the university has certified its performance funding data, and the state budget has been adopted, therefore, all of this has been contemplated into this budget line item. As it pertains to zero-based budgeting this offers more consistent reporting that is more applicable to the areas and the work that goes on at the university.

This will also allow comparative data to make sure there is a high degree of comfort and confidence but will also offer some flexibility.

Mr. Poynter then addressed the board to present the FY 2024-2025 Annual Operating Budget document included in the agenda packet and provided a summary of those totals for approval.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the FY 2024-2025 Annual Operating Budget. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **F. Proposed Tuition & Fees, Residence Hall, and Dining Rates for 2024-25**

Mr. Poynter then brought the attention of the board to the Proposed Tuition & Fees, Residence Hall, and Dining Rates for 2024-25 included in the agenda, and asked the board for their approval.

A motion was made by Regent Orange to approve the proposed Tuition & Fees for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the proposed Residence Hall rates for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the Dining rates for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **G. Approval of Extension of President's Contract with Modifications**

Chair Eaves explained that the approval of the President's contract previously ran on a calendar year basis. However, one of the reasons the vote to extend or approve his contract was delayed was a direct result of wanting to move that consideration to an academic year basis. Many things the board considers in determining the success of the university, which also reflects the success of the president are based on academic year numbers. As a result, the board delayed this year's review. During this time, the Chair worked closely with Dana Fohl, University Counsel, in reviewing the contract to simplify and eliminate some items in the earlier year's contract. Research in this process included reviewing other Presidential contracts in the state to ensure the institution remains competitive in the area of compensation.

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the extension of the President's contract with modifications. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **H. Appointment of Committee Members**

Chair Eaves explained that due to the adoption of the new by-laws, the committee assignments must be reassigned out of necessity because the board is currently two members short. He indicated that he may entertain some migration after the board is fully represented but for now, he will appoint current members to serve.

Alan Long will continue to serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee, and Chair Eaves appointed Edwin Orange, Lynn Tye, and William Lampert to serve on this committee.

Lynn Tye will continue as the Chair of the Finance Committee, and Ashley Ward, Alan Long, and Jeremiah Duerson will continue to serve as members.

Chair Eaves, Vice-Chair Alan Long, and Lynn Tye are members of the Executive Committee. The Chair recommended Laura Babbage and Jeremiah Duerson to serve in interim roles to fill the two vacancies until the board is fully represented. Chair Eaves indicated that he could propose these individuals to serve on the Executive Committee, however, the board must approve these two appointments.

A motion was made by Regent Tye to approve the appointment of Laura Babbage and Jeremiah Duerson to serve on the Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Regent Marion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

*[The Chair adjourned for lunch at 11:45 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m. with Vice Chair Long calling the meeting back to order.]*

## **I. Approval of Resolutions of Recognition**

### **1. Resolution Recognizing Camden Ritchie**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Long to approve a resolution recognizing Camden Ritchie, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Regent Marion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **2. Resolution Recognizing Barry Poynter**

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve a resolution recognizing Barry Poynter, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **3. Resolution Recognizing Dannie Moore**

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve a resolution recognizing Dannie Moore, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **4. Resolution Recognizing Matt Roan**

A motion was made by Regent Duerson to approve a resolution recognizing Matt Roan, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **IV. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **V. Swearing In**


A. Newly elected Student Regent William Lampert, Term Beginning 7/1 (Dana Fohl, J.D.)

## **VI. Executive Session**

There was no need for an Executive Session.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Long 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 2:19 p.m.

  
Jeremiah Duerson, Board Secretary

9/12/2024  
Date