

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

**May 14, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on May 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Chair Eaves called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

**Present**

Mr. Mike Eaves  
Mr. Jeremiah Duerson  
Mr. William Lampert  
Ms. Lynnette Noblitt  
Mr. Edwin Orange  
Mr. Ashley Ward  
Mr. Garth Bustle  
Ms. Lori Cooksey  
Ms. Teresa Hail  
Ms. Laura Babbage

**Absent**

Mr. Alan Long

---

**II. Swearing In**

Regent Lynnette Noblitt was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl.

---

**III. Election of Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair)**

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to nominate Regent Ashley Ward as Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to nominate Mr. Brian Mullins as Board Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to nominate Regent Alan Long as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **IV. Information Items**

##### **A. Kevin Kerswick, Audit Plan by Crowe Horwath, LLP**

Mr. Kevin Kerswick, Partner at Crowe, LLP, gave a brief presentation regarding the audit approach for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, 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.

##### **B. University Reports**

###### **1. Brian Mullins, Financial Update**

Mr. Brian Mullins, Interim Vice President for Finance / Chief Financial Officer, presented a financial update as of March 31, 2025. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

###### **2. Mr. Brad Hall, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program Initiative Update**

Mr. Brad Hall, Executive-in-Residence and Presidential Fellow for Strategic Initiatives, offered a presentation that included, amongst other topics, an anticipated timeline of activities regarding the Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine initiative. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

###### **3. Committee Reports**

In the absence of Vice Chair Long, who serves as the Finance Committee Chair, Chair Eaves gave a summary of the general activities of the March 27, 2025 and April 30, 2025 Finance Committee meetings.

##### **C. Additional Reports to the Board**

###### **1. Written Reports**

###### **i. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**

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

**ii. Dr. John Brent, Chair of Faculty Senate**

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

**iii. Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council**

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

**iv. Mr. William Lampert, Student Government Association President**

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

**v. Ms. Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations Officer**

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

**vi. Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel**

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:

As we conclude another academic year, I am pleased with the immense amount of progress we made this year in a variety of areas. From the great work during the legislative session, the hard work during the budget season, the exceptional work in enrollment growth, and the gratifying work of watching our faculty and staff support our students in every way imaginable, there is no doubt we had a great year. While there is much work to do, the 2024/2025 academic year has provided many reasons to celebrate.

**Largest Regional University in the Commonwealth**

In the most recent Council on Postsecondary Education annual enrollment report, Eastern Kentucky University ranked as the largest enrolled comprehensive university for degree-seeking students, beating out WKU, NKU, Murray, Morehead and KSU. This is the result of a team effort from across campus. ECU has the largest full-time student enrollment of

any regional institution in the Commonwealth with 14,463 students (a 5.1% increase). Traditional students are up 2.8% and online students are up 10.5% to 4,448. As we refine our strategy with 8K by 28, I anticipate continuing this progress next year with increased overall enrollments. In addition, our freshman retention rate is up 2.6%, higher than our benchmark year.

### **Successful 2025 General Session**

I want to take a moment to thank Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations Officer Amy Scarborough. I know Amy has worked with many of you throughout the session. She tracked more than 230 bills for ECU. Her tireless efforts in Frankfort led to significant victories for ECU.

- **ECU College of Osteopathic Medicine (ECU-COM)**

SB 77 eliminated the restriction on comprehensive universities offering PhD and doctoral programs for professional licensure and created a pathway for CPE approval of doctoral. The bill also creates a CPE process to make funding recommendations for new doctoral programs as part of the biennial budget process. The bill passed the House and the Senate unanimously and has been signed into law by the Governor. ECU will now move to the next stage of the process to open a DO school on ECU's campus.

- **HB 306 Fire Protection Engineering Path to Licensure**

House Bill 306 removed the statutory prohibition for fire protection engineer graduates to begin the licensure process in Kentucky. Before passage, ECU graduates had to seek licensure in other states and many never returned to Kentucky. ECU Fire Protection graduates will now pursue licensure in Kentucky by passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exams and by working under a licensed engineer for 6 years. HB 306 will enable ECU to recruit and attract more students into this specialized, high-impact program.

- **SB 87 Air Traffic Control and Air Traffic Safety**

The bill will enhance and expand air traffic control education in Kentucky. It directs CPE, in collaboration with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, to assess the capacity of public universities to offer programs that lead to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-recognized credentials in air traffic control safety, submit a report to the LRC and notify institutions identified as capable by December 1, 2025. By January 1, 2026, the institution(s) will submit requests to CPE for approval and by June 30, 2026 CPE will approve the program(s). Air Traffic Control and Air Traffic Safety are a natural fit to join ECU's Aviation Program and we are excited

to work with the State to identify how we can continue to enhance workforce opportunities for Kentucky in the Commonwealth.

### **Giving Day**

Congratulations to the Development Team and all of their campus partners who made the 2025 Giving Day a very successful day. Vice President Mary Beth Neiser proudly announced that yet again, ECU met our donor goal—this year of 2,425 donors, representing the 2024-25 academic year. In addition, we raised nearly \$1 million in less than 24 hours. The total gifts continue to be calculated and we will announce the final Giving Day totals in the coming weeks.

### **Groundbreaking of Model Lab School and Announcement of School of Education**

It was with great anticipation that Superintendent John Williamson, Dean Elizabeth Smith, and I celebrated with our campus community and ECU family the groundbreaking of the Model Laboratory School last week. The event featured House Postsecondary Education Chair James Tipton, Sen. Jared Carpenter, and Rep. Deanna Frazier along with faculty and students from both ECU and Model. In addition, we formally announced the creation of the School of Education—solidifying the focus between the two programs. We are excited to finally begin construction on this generational investment that will improve and transform education in the Commonwealth.

### **President's Excellence Awards**

A tenet of our strategic plan is being an Employer of Choice. Celebrating our best and brightest is one of the best ways to highlight the great work being done around our campus by faculty and staff. This year's President's Excellence Award Recipients encapsulate all that is great about our One Eastern. Congratulations once again to our winners:

- Excellence in Community and Belonging - Dr. Clint Stivers - Noel Studio for Academic Creativity
- Excellence in Engagement and Hospitality - Dr. Brenda Caudill - Student Health Services
- Excellence in Innovation - Kyle Willis - Facilities Services
- Excellence in Student Support - Dr. Rae Loftis - Student Affairs
- Emerging Leader Award - Heather Brent - Enrollment Management
- Excellence in Leadership - Dr. Judy Jenkins - Center for STEM Excellence

### **ECU in the News**

- **April in the News**
  - ECU Students host Needs Fair - Public Health Program
  - ECU Homeland Security program feature
  - ECU Giving Day

- ECU celebrates increased enrollment, high retention rate
- ECU Faculty Receives Continuation Patent for Cancer Research
- ECU Faculty Honored for Excellence
- ECU Scholars Showcase highlights Alumni Spotlight with Chris Hacker
- Kentucky public universities are reviewing how to implement anti-DEI law
- ECU Clinical Closet Initiative - College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
- Experts discuss DNA evidence as arrest is made months after hit-and-run
- WKYT Investigates: Crucial role of arson investigators
- More KY universities could award advanced degrees under new program
- Prior Learning Credit
- Physiology Friday: Managing Stress and Performance for Tactical Populations w/ Dr. Mike Lane, Anders Varner, Doug Larson, and Travis Mash - ECU Expert on Podcast
- ECU nursing program receives \$150,000 for home simulation and student support

- **March in the News**

- CPE, colleges and universities launch new initiative to expand credit for prior learning
- KATS Soil Properties Workshop at Meadowbrook Farm
- Largest Regional University in KY
- Kentucky Guard enters agreement with ECU
- Dr. Geri Polvino
- ECU hosts career fair for aviation program
- Classroom in a box
- ECU and Kentucky National Guard sign MOU to benefit service members and their dependents
- Cow Wearables Help America's Dairy Farmers Detect Bird Flu and Other Illnesses - ECU Expert
- ECU x Republic Airways
- "Go to bed at least an hour earlier..."; Ways to combat Daylight Saving Time
- ECU nursing students inspired by care, driven to serve
- Electric outage
- Grad/Dean/Presidents List/Awards:
- ECU Med Lab Science cultivating careers, one sample at a time
- Scholarships available to attend Foster Music Camp at ECU
- Encouraging Women in Stem: ECU hosts annual STEM Goes Red event for young women

- ECU students among campus groups protesting against proposed anti-DEI legislation
- Rescue squad members recognized by First Lady Brittainy Beshear

### **Upcoming Events**

May 15-16, 2025 – Commencement

May 19, 2025 – ECU Summer Advantage Schedule Begins

August 11-15, 2025 – Big E Welcome Week

August 12, 2025 – Employee Convocation

### **Commencement**

No better exclamation point can be put at the end of our academic year than to gather together and celebrate the success of our students at commencement. I am looking forward to being back home in Alumni Coliseum to welcome our graduating class of 2025. This commencement will feature performances by many in the School of Music including vocalists and a specially composed recessional music piece by our own former Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Richard Crosby. We will be celebrating nearly 220 graduates and I want to personally thank our faculty and staff for all of this hard work this year and look forward to a great day of celebration and joy.

Reminder of times for ceremonies starting tomorrow:

- Thursday, May 15, 2025
  - 6:00 pm: Master's and Doctoral Graduates from all Colleges
- Friday, May 16, 2025
  - 9:00 am: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences and the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
  - 1:00 pm: College of Health Sciences and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
  - 4:00 pm: College of Business and the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science

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

Chair Eaves communicated that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on July 9, 2025. Additionally, he communicated that the Board would begin the process of the Board self-evaluation, as well as the evaluation of the president this upcoming July.

*[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 9:57 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m.]*

### **V. Action Items**

## **A. Consent Agenda**

Items i. and viii., Approval of Updates for House Bill 4 Compliance and Report from the Council on Academic Affairs

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve items i. and viii. The motion was seconded by Regent Cooksey. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item ii. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on Feb. 19, 2025

A motion was made by Regent Duerson to approve item ii. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item iv. Approval of Six Year Plan amendment

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item iv. The motion was seconded by Regent Lampert. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item v. Approval of the Personnel Actions

A motion was made by Regent Ward to approve item v. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item vi. Approval of Degree Candidates for Summer 2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item vi. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item vii. Recommendations for Faculty Emeritus for 2024-2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item vii. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.



**B. Recommendations for Model Promotion and Tenure for 2025-26**

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

**C. Recommendations for Promotion and Tenure for 2025-26**

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**D. Approval of FY26 Asset Preservation Pool Allocations**

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**E. Approval of Surplus of Lancaster Campus property**

A motion was made by Regent Cooksey to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**F. Discussion / Action of the Full-Time Plus Proposal and Fee Schedule**

A brief presentation was offered by Dr. Bethany Miller, Chief Data and Reporting Officer, to summarize the proposal originally presented at the Finance Committee meeting on April 30, 2025 and to announce the Full-Time Plus Transition Scholarship.

Regents Cooksey, Ward, and Babbage discussed the proposal's impact on student affordability. They also sought clarification on the eligibility requirements of the transition scholarship and the current number of students who would qualify for it; additionally, they discussed the impact of financial aid packages and cost of attendance.

Regent Noblitt sought clarification on several implementation concerns, particularly the practical implications for students, the timing of the scholarship, curriculum planning / advising, and anticipated communication strategies. She also inquired about the university's competitive market position.

Chair Eaves asked Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, if she believed this proposal – if approved – would have a significant impact on future enrollment. Dr. Wasson stated that she did not anticipate the proposal to have an overall significant impact on future enrollment.

Regent Ward thanked Dr. Miller and other administrators for being available to answer questions. He emphasized that the Board had received a substantial amount of data, including input from students (via SGA survey), faculty, and others. He affirmed that these perspectives received thorough consideration throughout their deliberations.

A motion was made by Regent Ward to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The roll was called. The following members voted “aye”: Laura Babbage, Garth Bustle, Lori Cooksey, Jeremiah Duerson, Mike Eaves, Teresa Hail, Edwin Orange, Ashley Ward. The following members voted “nay”: William Lampert, Lynnette Noblitt. The motion passed.

*[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 11:34 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:58 p.m.]*

#### **G. Proposed Tuition and Fees, Residence Hall, and Dining Rates for 2025-2026**

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **H. Approval of Annual Operating Budget**

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the three resolutions. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **J. Consent Agenda (iii)**

Item iii., Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Committee on April 30, 2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item iii. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **VI. Executive Session**

The Board required a closed session for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition or sale of property in accordance with KRS 61.810(1)(b). Chair Eaves entertained a motion to

enter a closed session. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The Board entered closed session at 1:25 p.m.

#### **VII. New Business**

The Chair called for a motion to end the closed session and re-enter the open session. A motion was made by Regent Bustle. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The Board reconvened in an open session at 2:16 p.m.

Regent Ward motioned to amend University Policy 1.5.5 POL Delegation of Authority section 4(i) dealing with the purchase of real estate, so that the new version as amended would read: "Approve of the sale or purchase of any ECU owned real estate over \$500,000, and any sale or purchase of such real estate under that amount is authorized to be conducted by the President with concurrence of the Board Chair;" The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

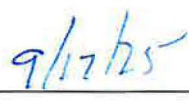
#### **VIII. Swearing In**

Regent Aaron Barker was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl for a term beginning July 1, 2025.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Cooksey. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Ward, Board Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date