

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

**September 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

**Powell 219
Eastern Kentucky University**

I. Swearing In

Regent Caelin Scott was formally administered the oath of office by Dana Fohl, Vice President of Compliance and University Counsel.

II. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on September 17, 2025, at 9:03 a.m. Chair Eaves called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

Present

Mr. Mike Eaves
Mr. Alan Long
Ms. Caelin Scott
Mr. Aaron Barker
Ms. Lynnette Noblitt
Mr. Edwin Orange
Mr. Ashley Ward
Mr. Garth Bustle
Ms. Lori Cooksey
Ms. Teresa Hail
Ms. Laura Babbage

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

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

IV. Information Items

A. University Reports

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

Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, offered a presentation that included, among other topics, student enrollment, retention, housing updates, Big E Welcome, and the strategic enrollment management plan, and is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Regents Ward inquired about the impact of the full-time plus tuition model implemented in Fall 2025. Dr. Wasson stated that preliminary research indicated the policy had minimal effect on enrollment compared to federal Pell Grant uncertainty, though minor administrative issues in student billing had been identified and resolved. Regent Cooksey asked about freshman enrollment origins and recruitment priorities. Dr. Wasson reported that most freshmen are from central and south-central Kentucky, within a 22–23 county radius, and that recruitment remains focused on Madison County and surrounding regions while targeting workforce needs. Regent Noblitt inquired about academic program prioritization. Dr. Wasson responded that her team has concentrated on researching prospective students in ECU's enrollment pipeline to identify program areas of interest and to prioritize recruitment accordingly. President McFaddin noted that approximately 90 percent of ECU's enrollment remains in-state and that recruitment west of Louisville presents challenges. He emphasized efforts to expand out-of-state recruitment while maintaining strong in-state participation.

Chair Eaves asked how ECU's freshman enrollment compared to peer regional institutions. Dr. Wasson stated that Morehead State University may have reported slightly higher figures, while most comprehensives reflected similar trends, excluding the University of Kentucky. Regent Cooksey remarked on statewide growth in community college enrollment. Dr. Wasson confirmed the trend and reiterated ECU's focus on increasing transfer enrollment.

2. Brian Mullins, Financial Update

Mr. Brian Mullins, Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, presented a financial update as of June 30, 2025. The presentation included, among other topics, ECU's budget summary, net position, revenues, and the initial outlook for FY 2025–2026, and is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Regent Noblitt inquired about the impact of enrollment and the change to the University's scholarship model on tuition revenue in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026. Mr. Mullins provided clarification regarding the University's change in scholarship model and the multiple factors that can offset tuition revenue. Regent Bustle asked for confirmation that the current and projected budgets reflect an overall improvement from the previous fiscal year, which Mr. Mullins affirmed.

3. Bryan Makinen, Construction Update

Mr. Bryan Makinen, Executive Director of Facilities Management and Capital Planning, provided a construction update. The presentation, which included, among other topics, project updates on Burnam and Clay Halls, Alumni Coliseum, the new Model Laboratory School, and the Aviation Terminal Building and Flight School, is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

4. Mr. Brad Hall, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program Initiative Update

Dr. Brad Hall, Chief Medical and Strategic Partnerships Officer, presented an update on the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine initiative. The presentation, which included an anticipated timeline of activities and related 2026 legislative priorities, is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Chair Eaves inquired about when the associated financial support for construction would be requested from the legislature. Dr. Hall confirmed that the capital funding request is planned for submission during the 2026 legislative session.

5. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented an Academic Affairs update. The presentation included, among other topics, information on strategic research initiatives, Essential Education at ECU, the Provost Internship Program, and the New Faculty Symposium, and is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Regent Babbage inquired about the proposed reduction of Essential Education hours to 30 and whether the integration of "Essential Employability Skills" would require new courses. Dr. Zeigler clarified that the skills will be embedded within existing Essential Education courses as part of the integrated pathway model, with an anticipated launch in Fall 2026. Regent Babbage also asked about the New Faculty Symposium. Dr. Zeigler stated that the project began approximately six to seven years ago and has since become a model for other institutions.

President McFaddin noted that the Council on Postsecondary Education awarded ECU a grant in Summer 2025 to advance these academic initiatives and that related legislation is expected, as several bills have been filed to standardize Essential Education requirements statewide. He emphasized that ECU aims to play a leading role in shaping this area and ensuring the University's initiatives remain proactive in anticipation of legislative developments. Dr. Zeigler affirmed, stating that ECU's goal is to lead rather than be led in this work.

6. Mary Beth Neiser, Development Update

Ms. Mary Beth Neiser, Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement, offered a presentation including information on record-breaking fundraising year, national donor sources, ECU Giving Day, and other related topics, which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Regents Babbage and Bustle commended the Development team for their efforts and attention to personal donor engagement, noting the thoughtful practice of individualized thank-you messages from students following contributions.

7. Kyle Moats, Athletics Update

Mr. Kyle Moats, Vice President and Director of Athletics, presented an athletics update. The presentation, which included information on ECU's transition to the United Athletic Conference (UAC), season tickets, sports streaming, and other related topics, is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

Chair Eaves inquired whether the University's athletics streaming platform will allow tracking of listener or viewer engagement. Mr. Moats confirmed that it will. At President McFaddin's request, Mr. Moats provided additional information regarding season ticket holders, seating in Alumni Coliseum, and the priority point system, noting its connection to donor engagement and access management. Regent Babbage commented on the potential benefits of these efforts for both enrollment and fundraising.

8. Committee Reports

Chair Eaves provided a summary of the general activities of the Executive Committee meeting held on July 16, 2025. He noted that the Executive Committee reviewed and resolved a student disciplinary issue and emphasized that no major item should be presented to the full Board without prior consideration by one of the Board of Regents committees to allow proper review.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:12 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.]

B. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Written Reports

i. Dr. John Brent, Chair of Faculty Senate

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

ii. Micah Hunsucker, Chair of Staff Council

Micah Hunsucker submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

iii. Mr. Aaron Barker, Student Government Association President

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

iv. 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.

2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin gave the Annual Report for 2024-2025, a copy of which is incorporated herein, and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 11:15 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.]

3. Mr. Mike Eaves, Chair of the Board

Chair Eaves noted that he had no additional updates at this time. He reported that recent efforts have focused on the evaluations of both the Board and the President, which will be addressed later in the meeting under Action Items.

[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

i. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on May 14, 2025

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

ii. Approval of the Personnel Actions

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

iii. Approval of Policy Updates for Model Lab School

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

iv. Approval of the Board of Regents Bylaws Update

A motion was made by Regent Noblitt to table the issue of the update to the Board of Regents bylaws (item iv.). The motion did not receive a second. A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item iv. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed by voice vote, with Regent Noblitt opposing.

v. Approval of the Reappointment of ECU Representatives to the Madison County Airport Board

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

vi. Approval of Surplus of McKinney Skills Tower and Garage/Shed

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

vii. Approval of the Amended Asset Preservation Items

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

B. Discussion on the Board's Self-Evaluation and/or the President's Evaluation

Chair Eaves reported that the evaluation of the Board and the President has been completed, summarized, and reviewed with the Board and the President for future performance planning. On the President's evaluation, the results reflected six ratings of "greatly exceeded expectations," three ratings of "exceeded expectations," and one rating of "met expectations."

C. Approval of the CPE Bucks for Brains Scholarship Match

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the CPE Bucks for Brains Scholarship match. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. New Business


There was no new business.

VII. Executive Session

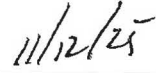
There was no need for an Executive Session.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Bustle. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.



Ashley Ward, Board Secretary



Date