

**Eastern Kentucky University
Board of Regents
Executive Committee Meeting**

December 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

**Powell 229
Eastern Kentucky University**

I. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents, convened on December 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in Powell 229, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Chair Mike Eaves called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Present

Mike Eaves, Chair
Regent Laura Babbage
Regent Alan Long, Vice Chair
Regent Ashley Ward
Regent Teresa Hail

Also in attendance were Regent Garth Bustle, Regent Lynnette Noblitt, Regent Aaron Barker, Regent Caelin Scott, Dr. John Brent, Ms. Colleen Chaney, Ms. Dana Fohl, and President David McFaddin.

II. Information Items

There were no information items.

III. Action Items

A. Discussion and/or Action on Essential Education (Dr. Sara Zeigler)

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented an overview of proposed revisions to Essential Education via Zoom. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

The Board discussed the purpose and goals of the proposed revisions to Essential Education, the forthcoming Council on Postsecondary Education requirements, the development process, and the anticipated effects on students and academic programs.

Dr. John Brent, Faculty Senate Chair, summarized the Faculty Senate's decision not to vote to recommend the proposal. The Provost noted that the proposal had been reviewed by and received support from multiple faculty committees and administrative bodies.

B. Discussion and/or Action on Four-Day Instructional Week (Dr. Sara Zeigler)

Dr. Sara Zeigler provided an overview of the proposed four-day instructional week via Zoom. Dr. Zeigler noted that the proposal would adjust class meeting schedules to longer instructional periods earlier in the week, has been reviewed through multiple academic governance bodies, and was informed by faculty and staff survey feedback.

C. Discussion on Air Traffic Control Initiative

Dr. Tim Holt, Chair of the School of Aviation, provided an overview of EKU's Air Traffic Control Initiative, outlining a proposed Air Traffic Control concentration that aligns with the Federal Aviation Administration's enhanced Collegiate Training Initiative (e-CTI) standards. He noted the initiative's responsiveness to workforce shortages in the aviation sector and the program pathway for students.

The Board and President David McFaddin engaged in a general discussion regarding the feasibility of the program, and the initiative's role in supporting the development of the aviation workforce in the region and EKU's flagship aviation programs.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:57 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:06 a.m.]

D. Discussion and/or Action on Baptist Health Land Lease Amendment

Ms. Colleen Chaney, Chief of Staff and Chief Communications Officer, provided a brief overview of a proposed amendment to the existing land lease with Baptist Health, which includes renewal of the lease and expansion of the leased parcel. Board members discussed the partnership and the proposed use of the property.

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

E. Discussion and/or Action on University Master Plan

Ms. Chaney provided a presentation on the University master plan. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

F. Discussion and/or Action on Central Kentucky Regional Airport Land Lease for Flight School

Ms. Chaney deferred to Dana Fohl, Vice President for Compliance and University Counsel, and President McFaddin, who provided a brief informational update regarding ongoing discussions with the Central Kentucky Regional Airport Board concerning a potential land lease for the future construction of a flight school.

G. Discussion and/or Action on President's Contract

Chair Eaves provided an overview of President McFaddin's current employment contract and the President's request for a one-year contract extension. A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the one-year contract extension. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chair Eaves further reported that, consistent with the terms of the contract, the Board bylaws, and University Policy, the Board reviewed the President's performance, including progress toward established goals and objectives submitted by the President and assessment of overall institutional performance. Chair Eaves stated that he met with President McFaddin to discuss his performance, also pursuant to the applicable Policy. Based on this review, Chair Eaves recommended to the Board the approval of a performance bonus in the amount of \$75,000, as detailed in the contract.

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

H. Discussion of Board Bylaws Update (President's Evaluation & Board Self Evaluation)

Chair Eaves led a discussion regarding potential updates to the Board's bylaws related to the President's evaluation process and Board self-evaluation. Chair Eaves reviewed practices at peer regional institutions and led a discussion with the Board on a proposed framework for future contract negotiations, which would allow Board members to provide individual input to the Chair. After some discussion, there was consensus that the Board supported Chair Eaves meeting with the President to reach consensus on a proposed contract, which would then be presented to the Executive Committee for review. It was noted that the President's current contract runs through June 30, 2026, with any new contract to take effect July 1, 2026.

The Board also discussed the structure and frequency of the Presidential evaluation process in light of recent legislative changes, including consideration of a more streamlined annual evaluation approach. Board members discussed the use of measurable goals and performance indicators to support a more efficient and meaningful evaluation process. University Counsel was tasked with reviewing the presidential evaluation process and policy, in light of recent legislative changes, and bringing a recommendation back to the Committee or the full Board for any changes.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn. 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 12:28p.m.

Ashley W. Ward
Mr. Ashley Ward, Board Secretary

5/13/26
Date