



Roll Call

IN ATTENDANCE: John Abbruzzese, Kwaku Adjei-Bohyen, Roberto Albano, Justin Amann, Debra Ballinger, Nurun Begum, Leslie Berger, Sara Burfiend, Alberto Cardelle, Robert Cohen, Robert D’Aversa, Esther Daganzo-Cantens, Dianne Devlin, Scott Dietrich, Susan Dilmuth-Miller, Kathleen Duguay, Johan Eliasson, James Emert, Robert Fleischman, Melissa Geiger, Tom Gioglio, Michael Gray, Sheila Handy, Jeffrey Hardy, Peter Hawkes, Jan Hoffman, Jeffrey Hotz, Chin Hu, Jonathan Keiter, John Kercksmar, Pamela Kramer-Ertel, Donna Leitner, Clare Lenhart, Liza LoMonaco, Kenneth Long, David Mazure, Andi McClanahan, Robert McMullin, Joe Miele, Gavin Moir, Bob Moses, Edward Owusu-Ansah, Tasso Papadopoulos, Mary Frances Postupak, Suzanne Prestoy, Van Reidhead, Brad Seid, Daniel Steere, Yoshi Tanokura, Doreen Tobin, Marcia Welsh

ABSENT: Abdalla Aldras, Mary Beth Allen, Todd Behr, Teri Burcoff, Li-Ming Chiang, Rudolf Clark, Richard Connell, Ronald Eith, John Freeman, Glenn Geiser-Getz, Kelly Harrison, Yi-hui Huang, John Kercksmar, Heon Kim, Effia King, Rebecca Keck, Amy Majani, Leah Majdic, Carter McClure, Barbara Miccio, Shawn Munford, Frank Pulgiano, Jerry Sheska, Pat Smeaton, Mike Southwell, Nancy Van Arsdale, Lisette Vergara, Carl Wambold, Jeff Wilson, Myia Woodson, Rebecca Zirkelbach

1. Roll Call (Sign in)

2. Approval of Minutes: February 10, 2014

A. Motion Approved

3. University President’s Report, Dr. Marcia G. Welsh, President of East Stroudsburg University

- It was a busy weekend on campus, including the Dr. Seuss Party, a business meeting on campus, and a sky top event with children. There was the PSAC championship announcement that ESU would host the Division II, Atlantic Conference Basketball Conference: great public relations and visibility for ESU.
- We hope for a big attendance at these games; students may stay on campus longer to attend the events. Food service will be available.
- Yvonne Troiani Sweeney Lecture Series begins. The inaugural speaker will be Dr. H. Branch Coslett, and the topic will be on dementia. This will be a paid lecture series and is sponsored by Niedbala Family Foundation, which is run by Sweeney’s sister, Linda Lee Niedbala. Please support this series.
- The 2014 symposium for student research will be on April 3. This is for student research, innovation and entrepreneurship. This is a successful, high impact practice that improves skills and leads to better retention. This is our 2nd symposium.
- Strategic Plan: we are continuing to adapt the plan based on the roundtable discussions. We are planning another conversation on March 26, from 8:30-10:00 a.m.
- There will be three taskforces: Finance, the Academic Plan Steering Committee, and the Staff. We will have the list of names of those participating soon, and these will be distributed to the campus.
- ESU Foundation: we are changing our partnership with the ESU Foundation on March 1. Those offices under Research and Economic Development will now be part of the Office of University Development. Mary Frances Postupak will be the new leader
- Additional Announcement: Dr. Sheila Handy will be leading a panel discussion for students at the Innovation Center for the College of Business and the Innovation Club related to entrepreneurship—if you have people that are interested in a business idea, please let the committee know.

4. Approval of Agenda and Committee Reports:

The agenda was approved with two additional add-ons: a discussion of the university's proficiency profile and a discussion of the University Senate and whether the Senate needs a strategic plan.

Committee Reports: Four committees gave reports.

- A. Rules and By-laws Committee: this committee will meet after spring break to discuss updating the bylaws.
- B. Budget Committee: this committee will meet every 2 weeks for the duration of the semester, excluding spring break: this committee will also participate in campus-wide hearings and discuss the assumptions, such as enrollment projections, retirements, healthcare increases, tuition increase, etc., that drive the budget.
- C. Student Affairs Committee: this committee is moving along discussion of emergency protocols for the university community. Student Senate spoke with President Welsh and Dr. Doreen Tobin in order to raise awareness about sexual assault, and under the leadership of Efia King and Sarah Kahn, there will be a march against sexual assault in the week after spring break. There will also be a poster session 11 2-4 poster making sessions. Tomorrow / and then on March 24: Publicity and the marching route. President Welsh noted that students will participate in Advocacy Day (Monday, April 7) on a trip to Harrisburg, PA, in order to advocate on behalf of ESU and PASSHE to legislators.
- D. Nominations and Elections Committee: this committee met to review how nominations should happen and reviewed the bylaws review: an e-mail will be sent out to solicit nominations, and this list will be sent out to the Executive Committee. This will take place at the beginning of the year. Ballots will be drawn up and ballots will be counted. No officers will be announced at that meeting. You can self-nominate.

5. Old Business:

- Motions from Rules and By-Laws Committee: The Second Vote on the Motion, which is required by the By-Laws, in order to add one student senator to the Academic Affairs Committee passed, satisfying the 2/3 vote requirement from the University Senate. The addition of one student senator to this committee will be reflected in the Rules and By-Laws going forward.

6. New Business:

- A. Report and Question/answer Session on NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) by Joann Stryker, Institutional Research
 1. We need to know what students are saying about our school, and NSSE offers comparisons with PASSHE institutions, Carnegie Masters Wide schools, and public institutions
 2. This is an indirect measure—it is what students think,
 3. NSSE is part of a national study—on campus we have to create an awareness that the survey is happening on campus—we cannot select people to participate. The survey is for first years and seniors: all those considered freshman should have <30 credits, and seniors are those at 90 + credits.
 4. The survey was recently changed (50% of the survey), which makes longitudinal assessment a challenge.
 5. Response rate: 23% [seniors responded higher than freshmen (19% to 26%)]
 6. PASSHE paid for the administration of this.
 7. The survey was done last academic year—spring 2013: one can spend a lot of time mining the information and packaging it to different groups
 8. Some highlights from the report include the following:
 - A. Students are busy outside of the classroom: 62% work on or off campus; 2/3 participate in co-curricular; and many spend a lot of time commuting.
 - B. ESU scores lower than surveyed schools among First Year Students (2nd semester) in these areas: Collaborative Learning (talking with other students and collaborating with them on projects) and Campus Environment (i.e., quality of interactions, including opportunities to be involved socially and attending campus events)

- C. ESU scores lower than surveyed schools among Seniors in these areas: Academic Challenge, Reflective and Integrative learning (connecting in-class learning to world issues), and prompt feedback from faculty.
- D. ESU scores higher than surveyed schools in faculty and student relationships/interaction, and in discussions with peers related to diverse.
- E. Learning with peers and diversity is another strength.
- F. Global Questions for First-Year Students: 78% of first-year students responded that their overall experience at ESU was good or excellent; the PASSHE-wide, the average is 87%. 76% of first year students said they would attend ESU again, in comparison to 84% in PASSHE.
- G. Global Questions for Seniors: 78% of seniors responded that their overall experience at ESU was good or excellent; the PASSHE-wide, the average is 87%. 68% of seniors said they would attend ESU again, compared to 80% in PASSHE.
- H. Here are some take-away items: 1. We have busy students; 2. We have a diverse campus with good interactions; 3. We have good faculty interaction with students; 4. We need to improve quality of interactions with students at all levels on the campus; 5. We need to make sure that academic challenge involves deep learning, reflecting higher order thinking.
- I. We are currently conducting a NSSE Pilot, which is now in a mobile compatible form: ESU is participating in pilot for free. In the first two days, ESU has had a higher response rate
- J. General Questions from NSSE that ESU should ask: A. what can we do differently, and what concerns do we have as a community?; B. What can the University Senate do?; C. How might departments and units use this information?

Questions and Discussion: Members of the Senate asked questions related to focus groups using this data and how students become aware of the survey; how often the survey is given; matters related to diversity and social equity; the need for more students to participate in the survey; how we might use this data; and what percentage of ESU students are working, in relation to PASSHE and other comparison schools.

- B. Proficiency Profile Report, by Dr. Sheila Handy
 - 1. This is a direct measure (not an indirect measure like NSSE)
 - 2. Performance here is tied to Performance Measures Money from PASSHE.
 - 3. ESU must improve on four measures for Performance Funding, and those measures that are covered through the Proficiency Profile include critical thinking and writing.
 - 4. This is a value added program; ESU is compared to other programs, and this affects our funding.
 - 5. Students need to have students to take this survey; we cannot administer this in class.
 - 6. There will be drop in times and the tests take about 40 minutes: It is important for students to give it their best.
 - 7. 79 completed so far, and there are 188 pending: we need to have 200 usable surveys. These need to be completed by the beginning of May.

Questions and Discussion: Members of the Senate discussed how this the proficiency profile is important for PASSHE funding and for Middle States assessment. Also, the point was made that the data must be used to improve the school.

- C. Discussion about the University Senate and the Possibility of a Strategic Plan for the Senate
 - The University Senate discussed for about ten minutes how it could become a more useful body and the purpose and meaning of the University Senate, particularly since it is the most representative group on campus.

Discussion Points: One view expressed was that this is a planning body that should make choices and recommendations; another view differed, seeing the Senate as an informational body, with a more limited role given contracts and campus unions. One senator recommended that Joe Cavanaugh, emeritus professor of Mathematics, be consulted to provide historical context. One senator asked if the senate should be “the go-to organization” for planning. There was a recommendation to appoint a committee to examine all of these

questions. Another point of view was that this is a recommending body where we have conversations primarily about topics of interest and concern for the university. One senator discussed the importance of asking questions. Another talked about the senate's purpose of expressing collective views of the campus. There was discussion about the possibility of the Senate making concrete proposals, as well as how the senate could have an impact in terms of university standards, including in academics.

Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Reminder of Approved Meeting Dates for Academic Year, 2014-2015:

September 15, 2014

October 20, 2014

November 17, 2014

December 8, 2014

February 16, 2015

March 16, 2015

April 20, 2015

May 4, 2015