

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
December 7, 2017**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:37 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross. Trustee Ross asked for a moment of silence in honor and in memory of Pearl Harbor.

2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Edward Abraham
Dr. Vincent DeFranco
Ms. Josephine Ferro

Mr. Bruno Klaus
Mr. Harry Lee
Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter

Mr. John Pekarovsky
Mr. Pat Ross
Ms. Abigail Soto

The following members were not present:

Hon. Mario Scavello

3. **Public Comment:**

No Public Comments

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Lee made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2017 meeting; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

Fall 2017 was a challenging semester at ESU for many reasons. We experienced the presence of a number of hate groups on campus and trying to help students understand free speech versus hate speech. The Inclusion poster project, which actually initiated a lot of very good, allowed for much needed discussion on the polarization in our country and the feeling of exclusion of many of our students, regardless of their political beliefs. Both being involved with and staying on top of the System Redesign initiative coming from the State System Review, we are trying to balance keeping our autonomy as a university, while being a part of a system trying to meet the fiscal and operational challenges of 14 institutions of higher education. The approval of the new one-year faculty contract with no input from ESU nor financial support from those who negotiated it has presented additional challenges as has the Cheyney University loan forgiveness by the state system for which we are required to pay our share. The reduction in the performance funding allocation to the institutions and a slight decline in enrollment for the first time in 4 years resulted in reduced revenues.

We have also had many positive things happen on campus including, but not limited to the grand opening of Sycamore Suites, which has really changed the landscape of our campus. The One Book/One Campus program culminating in having the author of The Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls, on campus to speak to a packed house in Abeloff, which was very inspirational. The completion of the next three-year ESU Strategic Plan, "Students First: Empowering Innovation through Collaboration" with the involvement of many members of our campus community including a number of community members and alumni. Along with the strategic plan discussions we were able to fully open SITE (Scholarship, Innovation, Teaching, Entrepreneurship), giving faculty, staff and students a place to be creative, moving the strategic plan goals of Innovative Faculty, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship to a new level at ESU. Our second presenter for the President's Entrepreneurship Lecture Series, Dr. Sam Neidbala spoke about his successes and failures as a serial entrepreneur. Students and community members are always talking about how exciting this series is and how much they are learning. The Al Cohn Memorial Jazz Collection presented the Duke Ellington Nutcracker Suite played by the Water Gap Jazz Orchestra and narrated by Nancy Reed and Duke Ellington's grandson, Edward Ellington II. ESU and the ESUF participated in Giving Tuesday and raised \$81,510 and continue to

engage and reengage our alumni and community with increasing participation in alumni events. ESU students continued to give with helping many service projects both in the community and on campus. Greek Life again participated in Project Turkey in partnership with the Salvation Army, raising over \$9000 to purchase turkeys for families in the community. Our football team and coaches helped ring the bell again for the Salvation Army, and our student athletes held a Holiday party for Head Start children. Those are only just a sampling of the service projects our campus community completed this semester. Our men's and women's soccer teams won the PSAC conference championships with the women going as far as the DII NCAA Atlantic Regional Final where they fell to West Chester University, and the ESU Women's Soccer coaching team was named NCAA DII Atlantic Regional coaching Staff of the year by the United Soccer Coaches (previously NSCAA). Our women's Field Hockey team went all the way to the NCAA DII Final four falling in the final game, again to West Chester University. Both men's and women's basketball teams got off to a great start, with the men's team still undefeated in both conference and non-conference games. It will be a very exciting January in the Koehler Field House. The Provost's Colloquium Series continues to draw great topics and large attendance with students, faculty, staff and community members. If you get a chance, I would encourage you to drop in to one of these amazing sessions. Finally, we dug up the time capsule that was buried during ESU's centennial celebration and will be opening it to share the contents and the memories on January 22 in Common Grounds in the Student Center. With us to kick off our 125th anniversary celebration, we will have Dr. Frank Pullo, professor emeritus and member of the ESU Foundation Board who helped bury the time capsule 25 years ago. It will be a year full of celebrating ESU and I look forward to sharing the memories, and the excitement that is ESU. On December 16, 382 students will be graduating during the graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies in Koehler Fieldhouse.

6. **Chair's Report:**

Trustee Ross reported on the good representation at the PACT Conference. There was a lot of discussion and it was made known that the COT's are not satisfied they are given unfunded mandates without any discussion or say. COT members from all PASHHE schools were able to talk to the search team for the new Chancellor with a very interesting conversation regarding what the COT is expecting in a new Chancellor. A Chancellor will not be successful unless the system changes the way that it does business. Need to take politics out of the equation and run the system for what is best for the students.

7. **Secretary's Report:**

None

8. **Committee Reports**

A. **Strategic Initiatives Committee: (Trustee Lingenfelter)**

Trustee Lingenfelter discussed the following action items:

The committee was presented with the proposal from the College of Arts and Sciences for the creation of a Masters of Arts in Communication by Dr. Robert McKenzie, Chair of the Department of Communication. The Committee's questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. The Committee offers Resolution 17-02 for the proposal of the Masters of Arts in Communication be forwarded to the Board of Governors for approval. **Trustee Lee made a motion to approve Resolution 17-02 Masters of Arts in Communication and forward to the Board of Governors for approval; Trustee Soto seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The committee reviewed and discussed the new three-year Strategic Plan. The Committee's questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. The Committee offers a resolution for the three year Strategic Plan 2017-2020. **Trustee Ferro made a motion to approve Resolution 17-04 Strategic Plan 2017-2020; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

B. **Finance Committee: (Trustee Lee)**

Trustee Lee discussed the following Information items:

- The Committee toured campus and reviewed the Annual Facilities Inspection report for 2017. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.
- The Committee reviewed the Report of Notice to Proceed on Construction Contracts dated October 20, 2017. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.
- The Committee reviewed the Project Status Review Reports dated October 20, 2017 and November 13, 2017. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily.
- Vice President Long updated the Committee on the University discussions with the Office of the Chancellor regarding the Tuition Pilot Program. All questions were answered satisfactorily and the University may proceed with updating its proposals for the Board of Governors January Meeting.
- Mr. Long updated the Committee on the Keystone Information Commons Project and proposed plans to renovate academic buildings in-lieu of building a new Library. All questions were answered satisfactorily and the University may proceed with plans.

Trustee Lee discussed the following action items;

- (1) Vice President Long presented a summary of the University's affiliated organizations for the Committee's review and discussion. After review, the Committee determined that the University is in full compliance with the requirements of Board of Governors Policy 1985-04. The Committee offers a resolution, which certifies the University's compliance with the requirements of this policy. **Trustee Abraham made a motion to approve Resolution 17-03 Certifying Compliance of all University Affiliated Organizations with BOG Policy 1985-04; Trustee Ross seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (2) Representatives of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP made a presentation to the Committee concerning East Stroudsburg University's Audited Financial Statement for Fiscal Year 2017. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Lingenfelter made a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2017 Audited Financial Statement; Trustee Klaus seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (3) The committee reviewed the Cash Disbursement Reports for August 1 through September 30, 2017 and October 1 through October 31, 2017 and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Klaus made a motion to approve the cash disbursement journals for August 1 through September 30, 2017 and October 1 through October 31, 2017; Trustee Abraham seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**
- (4) The committee reviewed the listing of non-bid purchases made under the authority of Act 57 from September 1, 2017 through November 2, 2017, and found that all were handled appropriately and were in order. All questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Ross made a motion to approve the Act 57 purchases report from September 1, 2017 through November 2, 2017; Trustee Pekarovsky seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

C. Campus Environment Committee: (Trustee Pekarovsky)

Trustee Pekarovsky reported on the following items of discussion at the Committee meeting:

- Jeannette Walls, Arthur of this year's One Book/Once Campus selection "The Glass Castle" was on campus to speak and meet with campus and community members which was very well attended well received
- The 15 week long mentoring program aimed at incoming students concluded and culminated with a ceremony. The program is now being evaluated for potential improvements.

- Recent hate groups which were on campus were discussed and how they will be addressed in the future. Providing proper assistance to students.
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee, consisting of faculty, staff, and students is focused on improving diversity throughout the curriculum and staying on top of emerging issues and providing forums to accomplish these initiatives.

9. **Old Business:**

None

10. **New Business:**

- A. Trustee Ross stated how fortunate ESU is to have Ken Long in the position of Vice President of Finance and Administration. ESU has been going through some tough times and Mr. Long has been absolutely terrific dealing with the Borough, financial problems, and the facilities on campus.
- B. Trustee Ross reminded the Committee that Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement is scheduled for Saturday, December 16th. Please RSVP to the President's Office.
- C. **Next Meeting:** Trustee Ross stated the next Council of Trustees Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2017. Trustee Ross thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year.

11. **Executive Session:** Trustee Ross called for Executive Session at 4:58 p.m.

12. **Adjournment:** Trustee Ross reconvened the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Trustee Ross adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Josephine Ferro
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar