

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

**January 9, 2019**

**Black Box Theatre  
Center for the Arts  
Eastern Kentucky University**

**I. Call to Order**

A regular quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened at 10:48 a.m. at the Black Box Theatre, Center for the Arts, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Mr. Craig Turner, Chair of the Board, presided. Chair Turner noted for the record that the members of the Board were present as follows:

**Present**

Mr. Craig Turner  
Ms. Laura Babbage  
Mr. Juan Castro  
Dr. Richard Day  
Mr. Lewis Diaz  
Mr. Bryan Makinen  
Ms. Holly Wiedemann  
Mr. Ryan Wiggins

**Absent**

Ms. Nancy Collins  
Mr. Vasu Vasudevan

**Others Present**

Dr. Michael Benson, President  
Dr. Jerry Pogatshnik, Interim Senior Vice President for Academics and Provost  
Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Regents  
Mr. Dan McBride, Interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations  
Dr. Gene Palka, Vice President for Student Success  
Mr. Barry Poynter, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Members of the faculty and staff  
Members of the media  
Members of the community

## **II. Presentation of Hazardous Duty Retirement Coverage**

Regent Makinen presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, The Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents has determined that it is in the best interest of Eastern Kentucky University that the Board of Regents desire to transfer eligible positions within the University to hazardous duty retirement coverage;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents hereby authorizes the filing of appropriate application materials with the Kentucky Hazardous Duty Retirement Board of Trustees to consider eligible positions with the University for hazardous duty retirement coverage with the earliest start date possible;

Done this the 9th day January, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Diaz to approve the Hazardous Duty Retirement Coverage Resolution. The motion was seconded by Regent Long. The motion passed by voice vote.

## **III. Presentation of Resolutions and Commendations of the Division of Public Safety and Conferencing and Events**

Regent Makinen presented the following resolutions:

**WHEREAS**, the EKU Conferencing and Events and Division of Public Safety teams were given only eight days to prepare for the visit on October 13, 2018 by U.S. President Donald Trump, Sixth District Congressman Andy Barr and other dignitaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Conferencing and Events staff worked tirelessly in close collaboration with the President's advance team to plan logistics for an event that would be safe and secure for attendees as well as those who came to protest;

and the Division of Public Safety personnel worked tirelessly in close collaboration with the President's advance team and the United States Secret Service to plan logistics for an event that would be safe and secure for attendees as well as those who came to protest;

**WHEREAS**, Members of the Conferencing and Events and Division of Public Safety personnel fulfilled their responsibilities with exemplary professionalism, reflecting great credit on themselves and the University; and

**WHEREAS**, the highly successful staging of the rally earned plaudits from participants and visitors, further inspired confidence in the University's ability to host major events and may lead to more such opportunities in the future;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents hereby recognizes both the EKU Division of Public Safety and Conferencing and Events and

proudly bestows this Commendation in recognition of their tremendous contributions on behalf of the University, community and the Commonwealth;

Done this the 9th day January, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the Resolutions and Commendations of the Division of Public Safety and Conferencing and Events. The motion was seconded by Regent Wiggins. The motion passed by voice vote.

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

##### **A. Committee Reports**

###### **i. Audit and Compliance Committee**

Committee Chair Long reported that the Audit and Compliance Committee met that morning, accepted the Audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018, and approved the minutes from the September 24, 2018 meeting. There was no new business and the committee adjourned.

###### **ii. Finance and Planning Committee**

Committee Chair Diaz reported that the Finance and Planning Committee met that morning and heard presentations from Mr. Barry Poynter regarding the financial update and Mr. Kelly Crocker regarding the construction update. The committee approved the minutes from the September 24, 2018 meeting and approved the demolition of surplus property. There was no new business and the committee adjourned.

###### **iii. Executive and Academic Affairs Committee**

Committee Chair Turner reported that the Executive and Academic Affairs Committee met that morning and received an update by Dr. Palka regarding Student Success update; an update by President Benson on personnel actions; and the Report from the Council on Academic Affairs by Dr. Robinson. Three items placed on the consent agenda, including the approval of the September 24, 2018 meeting minutes. There was no new business and the committee adjourned.

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

###### **i. Mr. Craig Turner, Chair**

Mr. Craig Turner, Chair of the Board of Regents, gave the following report:

As I got ready for this meeting today, I took a look at a photo of when I became a Regent a little while back. Have you ever seen the photos of presidents before and after? It's interesting, I had black hair, I was a lot thinner, etc. So it kind of hit me and I went "Wow, it actually has an effect." The other thing that happened this morning that my wife does not know, and I do want to take a moment here -- Madonna, my wife, is here, and she is involved in this as much as I am. She has been behind me, beside me, the entire way.

So, this morning I was making a lot of noise in the closet and I had this weird idea. When I became the Chair, I saw the photo of what I was wearing, so I thought I would put it on today. I would start it and end with it on. Something happened to my clothes in the closet, okay? I don't know if they've dried up or what the problem was, but they didn't fit. So I was in there making all kinds of noise -- she didn't say anything, but I'm sure she was going, "Oh my goodness, what is he doing now?"

But anyway, my thoughts on this are that every story has a beginning and an end. Between those, we have a collection of moments. You know that I've talked about moments a number of times when I speak. But there was a moment twelve and a half years ago that truly changed my life. As a new board member on the ECU Board of Regents, I realized that there were opportunities to raise the bar and to help others have a real advantage to succeed. I was excited to have the opportunity to contribute in academics and in an area, candidly, that I had no experience in. I thought many of my ideas and approaches would be unique but I learned very early that the process requires a successful consensus from others. That was something I wasn't used to, since in my small company I had to make all of the decisions.

So I fast-forward to today and to let you know I have enjoyed a very fulfilling "moment" to serve as your Chair. It has allowed me to work with regents, I can assure you, who care. We have a president who cares. We have staff who care. And we have faculty that have a unique love affair with the students that they help mold and educate. The greatest gift any of us can give to our students is hope and confidence so they can be what they want to be.

The image of college students has changed over the past generations and it remains the challenge of every board member and president to change and adapt when appropriate, and to make tough decisions that ensure the future of the institution. We must protect our core values and our core curriculum. It is the responsibility of regents and trustees to ask questions about what their university is doing to ensure that students are getting a well-rounded education. You've heard me say many times that my definition of a well-rounded education also includes the entire student experience. Students have a choice when they come here, and when they invest it in education at Eastern, it's our responsibility to give a return. One that will give them the tools to be successful.

I never dreamed that when I attended Eastern, that one day I would be the Chair of the Board, but during the past twelve and a half years, over 42,000 students have received degrees. Simply amazing. Everyone in this room does make a difference. It hasn't been easy at times to make some of the tough decisions. We spend a lot of time in life reacting to events we didn't create but we must address. There are more challenges ahead. But, just think how interesting it would be if we could back in time and hear all of the stories since Eastern was founded. Imagine the difficulties that they faced and how they persevered. We are just one small part of the story but I believe ECU is in a better place because of all of us here.

This has been of the most rewarding and challenging things that I have ever done in my life. I have walked across campus and I've seen faces reflecting joy, fear, excitement, regret, insecurity, happiness, pain, exhaustion, heartache and love. The most compelling moment for me occurs during commencement, when first-generation students are recognized. I am amazed each year to see the number of students who stand, and I realize that their lives and the lives of future generations have just been changed.

For me, life is all about family; you just have to ask my kids. It's the most used saying other than "you can't climb the ladder of success with frozen feet" and "if you're not the lead dog, the scenery is always the same." We should never forget that it is the people who make the university, not the other way around. Surprises and challenges remain around every corner, but the secret to success is to be prepared to deal with those surprises.

I believe Eastern is prepared. Eastern is in good hands. To the Regents, keep your heart in the right place and continue to do the right thing. To President Benson, it's been an incredible ride and we have forged a lifetime friendship. My time at Eastern as a student-athlete prepared me for a successful career. Serving on the Board of Regents has enabled me to utilize my education and experience to help lead the University. I made some great friendships here and I thank you for the opportunity to give back. Thank you very much.

**ii. Mr. Ryan Wiggins, SGA President**

Mr. Ryan Wiggins, SGA President, delivered the following report:

This past semester, my first semester as student body president, was challenging but very successful. We saw a lot of changes early on with the loss of our administrative assistant, but we had a lot of help along the way. Everyone that I talked to was very kind, very willing to help us. So the first thing I would like to do is thank everyone in this room or outside of this room that has helped SGA get to where we are after this semester because we wouldn't have been able to do the things that we did this past semester without all of your help.

Just a few things to report on. SGA has a new inspector general, his name is Cole Bailey, and he has been tasked with leading our chief justice search committee. If you will remember, when I gave the report back in September we had formed that committee but the inspector general at the time had not completed his duties and he was removed from his office. So, we will be having a recommendation for a new chief justice by the second senate meeting this next semester.

You also heard me talk about SGA's new Colonel Pride initiative. That was something that Laura started last year when she was on the board and she served as president, and is something that I wanted to continue. We had a very successful semester with that. Before, we had seven events all of last year and we had 14 or 15 this semester alone. We were able to partner with Greek Life, Student Life. We were able to partner with the Rec and even with Athletics. At the first home basketball game against Marshall, we were able to have our signature event where SGA helped work that event and we were also able to give out some awesome prizes like Yeti cups, EKU sweatshirts, fire sticks, speakers, and it was awesome because we had one of the highest attendances at a basketball game in a very long time for that game. I think everyone in here will remember the half-court shot that will go down in EKU history. So we were very happy to work with Athletics for that.

This next semester SGA has an election that will be coming up in late March. That will be to determine the new slate. So, the new student body president, the new student body president, the new executive vice president, the new SAC vice president, as well as a new senate for the next year. Currently, the SGA office is in Roark, but we have been working right now to move to Coates. We had some issues with our building before. Just look for that move to be

happening as we will be over in the Coates building and we will be updating our information as we get everything there.

Our bylaws and constitution revisions have been going very well. We are almost finished with the constitution, a lot of revisions have been made to the bylaws as well. Once those pass, they will go to our advisory board, and then the constitution of course will have to be brought before the Board of Regents to be approved. So that's something that will be happening hopefully very soon.

Also, the Student Activities Council on SGA, we had one of the most successful semesters that we've ever had. Three of our biggest events were the Colonel Corn Roast, which you heard Dr. Palka talk a little bit about. We also helped with the Zips and Zombies event. We had our haunted house at that event. In years past, that event had 100 to 150 students attend. We had 450 to 500 attend this year. Colonel Corn Roast, it was very successful. We held it in the Powell Plaza. We were able to invite the football team, basketball team, the homecoming court. Dr. Benson was kind enough to come and talk and introduce court as well with that. We had about 600 students come to that event as well. SGA's famous midnight breakfast was not held in its normal location this year, but we were actually able to partner with Aramark and we held that event in the Case Dining Hall. Everyone that we talked to, we did some surveys as well, they said they loved that location and it was very successful. We had over 800 students attend that event as well.

So, it was a very successful year for SGA. There was a lot of growing pains that we had to go through. But we're moving in the right direction and we are excited to see what this next semester brings.

### **iii. Dr. Marco Ciocca, Faculty Senate Vice Chair**

Dr. Marco Ciocca, Faculty Senate Vice Chair, delivered the following report:

The Senate has started its work this Fall Semester with the idea of moving forward after the rather difficult times of last academic year. The standing committees have progressed on their charges, and presented their work to the Senate.

The Academic Quality Committee worked on the charge of how to best deliver quality instruction to large classes (>100 students), without losing sight that on of EKV's commitment to student success. The report is due in March.

The Faculty Welfare committee presented the rates for Health Benefits for the calendar year 2019, and lead a discussion of the new printer program, which promises to realize substantial savings.

The Elections Committee described the procedure for the upcoming Faculty Regent election.

On a somewhat disappointing note, the Co-chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Shirley O'Brien informed the senators of the non-successful status of the search for a new Provost and reminded them that Dr. Jerry Pogatshnik has been asked to step into the role as Interim Provost after Dr. Whitehouse retirement on January 1.

The Senate also showed its appreciation to Dr. Deborah Whitehouse for her well-deserved retirement.

As per Chair Winslow's report of last September, the Senate has reserved 10 minutes at the start of every Senate meeting for the floor will be open to ideas, discussion, proposals, plans, anything that will make EKU a better regional comprehensive university. Lively discussions have ensued and recommendations from the floor were then further discussed by the Executive Committee of the Senate to determine how to proceed.

**Recruiting.** Provide opportunities for our diverse faculty, graduate assistants and students to assist with both on-campus and e-Campus international recruiting.

**Advisor Training.** Provide more advisor training for faculty which could positively affect student retention.

**Strategic Plan.** The campus should have a multi-level discussion (department, college, university) to answer the question: what is the university? The university is essentially academic, and what does that mean? This should be included as part of the strategic plan, and that process should begin soon.

Textbook costs have increased 3 times the rate of inflation and the increased costs place an extra financial burden on students. As a reminder, the library provides a plethora of resources both as subscribed and open access for faculty to use in their courses instead of requiring a textbook. An ad-hoc Committee to Review Textbook Resources has been empaneled, chaired by Senator Z. Eser.

The policy for late class add, as it stands now, has a add date that is late enough that in some cases students can miss up to 2 to 3 class periods as well as 2 labs. There was some concern that this would be a detriment to success. The Executive Committee asked Drs. Gill Hunter and Tanlee Wasson to address this issue. They pointed out that our last day to add is 6 days after the semester begins which closely follows the process used by other Kentucky institutions.

**iv. Ms. Stephanie King, Staff Council Chair**

Ms. Stephanie King, Chair of Staff Council, delivered the following report:

Good Morning Chair Turner, President Benson and Board of Regents, thank you for allowing me to present one last time to you regarding ongoing Staff Council initiatives.

Not only is today Chair Turner's last BOR meeting this will also be my last time reporting for Staff Council. As you know, Staff Council members are elected to serve three-year terms on a rotating basis and 2018 was the end of my three-year term. I decided that after serving on the council in the duration of its 14-year existence that I would not run for re-election. You could say it is the end of an era, or maybe an end of an error.

Elections were held in November and the following members were elected:

- Ashley Thacker – College of Education and Libraries
- Amanda McIntosh – College of Business & Technology
- Chris Pearl – Maintenance and Skilled Trades in Facilities Service and Housing and Project Administration
- Jennifer Cochran – Training Resource Center
- Heather Foster – College of Health Sciences, Academic Policy & Process, Graduate School and Research, Institutional Effectiveness and Research
- Jeremiah Duerson – Information Technology and Communications & Marketing

Newly elected members attended our December meeting and a review of our by-laws as well as dialog on the importance of attendance and participation were discussed. Terms for these representatives began January 1, 2019. They all showed up to January meeting so we didn't scare anyone off. Sherry Sparks who represented Internal Audit, President's Office, Accounting and Financial Services, Business Services, Budgeting and Financial Planning, Human Resources resigned from the University as of January 3, 2019, therefore, her seat is open and an election will be held soon for her position.

In December, we held our end of year celebration and had some special guests in attendance, President Benson, Chair Turner, and Shelley Park, Staff Emeritus. Shelley was presented with a well-deserved award for her dedication and 34 years of service to ECU.

As part of our Staff Council initiatives we believe it is important to give back to our employees when possible. A movie event has been scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> in the ECU Center for the Arts. We will have some pre show activities beginning at 2pm and "Ralph Breaks the Internet" will begin showing at 2:30pm. Bottled water and popcorn will be provided. This event is open to all Staff members and their immediate family; on behalf of the Staff Council, I would also like to invite all Regents and their families as well.

Our January Staff Council meeting was held yesterday and officers for 2019 were elected. Caelin Scott is here today and will be serving as chair this year. Caelin has been a staff member at ECU for 11 years. She earned her Bachelors, Graduate and Doctoral Degrees from ECU. She will be giving reports at future BOR meetings. I am certain that Caelin will do a fantastic job in the chair position and I am excited to see what the council will accomplish this year and many years to come. Jillian Faith was elected as Vice Chair, Ann Cotton was reelected as Secretary and Heather Foster will serve as Treasurer.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support of the Council and our initiatives during my time as chair. I trust your support to Staff Council will continue and as I will be serving as an ex-officio member this year, I will be sure to keep you all in check.

**v. Dr. Michael Benson, President**

Dr. Michael Benson, President, delivered the following report:

Good morning, board members and Happy New Year to everybody. From our vantage point we get to look out and see all the reflective "E" lapel pins and Gene has been blinding me all morning because the light hits it just right. We were in a meeting yesterday with senate



leadership and Senator McDaniel took note of our lapel pins and I said if I turn a certain way I can pick up a DirecTV signal. They are very noticeable, and as I looked out and saw so many faculty and staff -- I even have students that come and ask me for pins; if you want one we have plenty in our office -- Mr. Chair, this is emblematic of the pride that all of us feel in this institution and when you see it on a blouse or a jacket or a sport coat, it's close to our heart and that's how we feel about Eastern.

Jerry, I'm so glad you came back for your sixth day. Thank you very much. We welcomed Jerry to his new position. We had a President's Council meeting just the other day and I spoke glowingly of Jerry because I have yet to hear from anybody any criticism of this appointment and Jerry said, "Well, just give it time." He is well prepared and well-suited, and we are delighted to have you, Jerry.

This marks my 25th year of public higher education. Craig mentioned graduation ceremonies. I can't remember how many I've been to, nor how many speakers I've heard, but I would say the student speakers we had in December were some of the best I've ever heard. Now, it may come in May that I'll say those speakers were the best I've ever heard, but it was something about their preparation, the sincerity of their message, their tone. That's what it's all about. And when you get to hear from those speakers that are elected to represent their respective colleges, it was just a very gratifying moment. So I look forward to May but I just wanted to commend the speakers that we had just a few weeks ago.

It's exciting to have students back on campus beginning on Monday. It gets kind of lonely around here. We're really excited for classes to launch. David McFaddin, I don't want to share his news without him being here but he's not here because his wife did give birth to their baby boy last night. His name is Conner. I said, "David, keep Conner out of the Kentucky pension system, whatever you do." So, that was my advice to him.

Crowe talked about GASB 75. You can see it's a liability on our books, and it's not just a number on a paper. I say that because I spent a day yesterday with my fellow comprehensive presidents in Frankfort talking about the issue. I mentioned to some legislators that while UK and U of L were not in the room, they certainly share in the seriousness of this problem. Because until the pension issue is resolved or at least addressed in a way that is moving forward it will continue to suck the oxygen out of the room. Whether it's a committee hearing, whether it's an appropriations discussion, it is the primary focal point right now of all of our discussions. Performance based funding, on top of our pension obligation, really presents some unique challenges for us. I think you heard from Barry that we're doing ok, but we've got to do better as it relates to a few specific areas.

So, moving forward my priorities for the institution, I am certainly open to ideas from the board and we'll have these discussions in the coming weeks. Enrollment, continuing to focus on our students, and Gene talked about that it's important to get them through the door, but those continuing students are so key as well. Also finishing off our facilities projects because we've done a lot in a short amount of time and now it's time for us to kind of reap the benefits of those finished projects. I've heard Dr. Palka talk about the challenges of walking prospective students across campus on tours through construction areas and showing them images on fences, but the finished product is really what's going to help sell these students and their families.

Also, I've been in discussions with Professor Winslow and he has a faculty group that is looking at ways that we can really, I think, be the leader and the tip of the spear with some ideas relative to some faculty innovation.

And finally, I will say we've got to address some acute teaching and learning areas on campus, in terms of facility upgrades. We are delighted that we have the asset preservation fee and we have some ideas to come to the board of how that fee can be used in specific areas as it relates to the Wallace building and to the Combs building, because if a student has a positive or negative experience in that classroom, in that seat, that has a direct correlative effect or impact on that retention and graduation that we have been talking about. So, we have some ideas and we will be bringing them as plans develop with what we want to do with these rooms.

Finally, if I may have a moment of presidential privilege, Mr. Chair. It will be six years ago next month that I met Craig Turner for the first time. Ever since that first encounter, the life of Team Benson has been dramatically and positively impacted. For this and for much more, Chair Turner, I thank you. Socrates once said this: "Be slow to fall into friendship, but when thou art in, continue firm and constant."

For EKU and for me personally, the friendship of Craig Turner has been firm and constant. It has been said that truly effective leaders have the ability to translate vision into reality. Throughout his professional life, Craig -- and I would add that most of the success goes to Madonna, and I am delighted that Madonna is here today -- but you can see Craig's successful endeavors all around us. I was at Triangle Park in Lexington on Saturday to drop Tatum off at a skating party. As I parked along the construction fence of the convention center, there was the hand of Craig Turner, as evidenced by the progress of this nearly \$250 million renovation project. Ask anyone who knows the details of this endeavor and you will quickly learn that without the vision and leadership and dogged determination of Craig Turner, this undertaking does not happen.

Shortly after I dropped off Tatum, Truman insisted, after soccer training, that I take him for his favorite meal: a Caniac Combo. For those faint of heart in the audience, the Caniac Combo is 2,100 calories of what Truman calls "pure deliciousness." As we pulled through the drive-thru of Cane's on the bypass and saw the EKU flag flying proudly by the restaurant, there was the hand of Craig Turner.

Every single day I drive to campus and I approach the intersection of Barnes Mill Road and Lancaster Avenue. I pass the Turner Gate, now arguably one of our campuses most distinct and iconic landmarks. Yes, it's the hand of Craig Turner, but for him, as he stated on the day we cut the ribbon on the gate, this entry point into campus is emblematic of the welcome his entire family has received at Eastern. His wife, Madonna, his parents, his siblings, in-laws, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. I encourage to go by the gate and read the names on the placard of the Turner family members who have entered to gain wisdom and knowledge and left with passion and purpose.

Craig has turned his vision toward Eastern and what has happened these past five years is nothing short of remarkable. Thanks to his steady support and unwavering commitment, we have achieved what many thought was impossible.

I want to end with a story. Four years ago this month, Craig called me and he said he wanted to have a special dinner for all the members of the Board of Regents, the President's

Council, and the Deans. Unbeknownst to me, he had contacted our top-drawer marketing and communication folks and asked them to do a video to one of his favorite songs, "Wake Up Everybody," with Teddy Pendergrass on the lead vocals. I'd like to share that with you today. The world premiere, by the way, was four years ago so it is on YouTube. I would encourage you to watch it. But this is what we watched that night.

[VIDEO PRESENTATION]

As you can see, some of the projects have changed, but most have materialized. We're still waiting for that indoor facility, Mr. Chair, so definitely you and your wife will be welcome. That really says it all.

Finally Hamlet, in speaking of his father, summed it up best, and today I take literary license and apply Hamlet's words to Chair Turner: "He was a man, take him for all in all. I shall not look upon his like again." Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you Board of Regents.

**V. Action Items**

**A. Consent Agenda**

Chair Turner presented to the full Board the following items on the Consent Agenda for approval:

- i.** Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on September 24, 2018
- ii.** Personnel Actions
- iii.** Approval of the Report from the Council on Academic Affairs

The consent agenda items came before the Board upon motions from their committees by committee vote. A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**B. Approval of Surplus Property Demolition**

A motion was brought forth by the Finance and Planning Committee to approve the surplus property demolition. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The roll was called and the following members voted "aye": Laura Babbage, Juan Castro, Richard Day, Lewis Diaz, Alan Long, Bryan Makinen, Holly Wiedemann, Ryan Wiggins, Craig Turner. Nancy Collins and Vasu Vasudevan were absent. The motion passed.

**C. Approval of the Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018**

Regent Long made a motion to approve the Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Regent Wiedemann. The roll was called and the following members voted "aye": Laura Babbage, Juan Castro, Richard Day, Lewis Diaz, Alan Long, Bryan Makinen, Holly Wiedemann, Ryan Wiggins, Craig Turner. Nancy Collins and Vasu Vasudevan were absent. The motion passed.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Election of Officers**

A motion was made by Chair Turner that Regent Lewis Diaz becomes Chair, Regent Alan Long continue as Vice Chair, Barry Poynter continue as Treasurer, and Regent Bryan Makinen becomes Secretary. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The roll was called and the following members voted “aye”: Laura Babbage, Juan Castro, Richard Day, Lewis Diaz, Alan Long, Bryan Makinen, Holly Wiedemann, Ryan Wiggins, Craig Turner. Nancy Collins and Vasu Vasudevan were absent. The motion passed.

**B. Resolution in Recognition of William Craig Turner and Designation as Chair Emeritus**

Regent Alan Long presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, William Craig Turner (“Turner”) was first appointed to the Eastern Kentucky University (“EKU”) Board of Regents (“Board”) by Governor Ernest L. Fletcher on July 28, 2006, and was reappointed to the Board by Governor Steven L. Beshear on July 25, 2012;

**WHEREAS**, Turner was the chair of the Presidential Search and Screening Committee, which successfully recruited and hired the University’s 13<sup>th</sup> and current President, Dr. Michael T. Benson;

**WHEREAS**, having previously served as Vice Chair and Finance and Planning Committee Chair, on January 25, 2013, Turner was first elected as the Chair of the ECU Board;

**WHEREAS**, under Turner’s leadership, the University embarked on a \$250 million campus revitalization, the most ambitious initiative in its history;

**WHEREAS**, as part of that revitalization initiative, Turner led ECU in successfully securing the state funding for a two-phase, state-of-the-art Science Building, totaling \$130 million and spanning more than 326,000 square feet, the largest such facility on any college campus in the Commonwealth, with Phase 2 becoming the University’s first academic space to earn LEED Gold status by the U.S. Green Building Council;

**WHEREAS**, Turner was instrumental in spearheading and negotiating the University’s first ever public-private partnership, which resulted in the privately-funded construction of Martin and North Halls, a \$75 million project resulting in 1,096 beds in suite-style rooms; the acquisition of the Grand Campus structure, ECU’s first 500+ student apartment complex; the University’s first parking garage, an \$8 million project, resulting in four levels and more than 360 spaces; and the construction of the Carloftis Gardens;

**WHEREAS**, continuing the revitalization efforts, Turner steered the University through a number of other capital improvements, including: the University’s privately funded new student dining facility, a 55,000-square-foot, \$24 million project; the University’s new \$43 million, 130,000-square-foot student recreational center; renovations to the University’s student center, a \$22 million project; and \$15 million in athletics facility improvements, including a new baseball stadium, new

softball stadium, new baseball and softball hitting and pitching facilities, and a new east side of Roy Kidd Stadium;

**WHEREAS**, under Turner's tenure, EKV partnered with the Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc. for the construction of the \$10 million Eastern Scholar House to serve single-parent families who are attending college;

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2016, Turner Gate was dedicated, made possible due to the generous philanthropic support of the Turner family, and quickly became a landmark for EKV, reminding all students of the "wisdom" and "knowledge" imparted by the University;

**WHEREAS**, Turner established The Arlington Classic in 2014, which has raised more than \$100,000 for the EKV men's and women's golf teams;

**WHEREAS**, Turner, alongside Dr. Michael T. Benson, established the President's Research and Scholarship Fund;

**WHEREAS**, Craig and Madonna Turner created and provided the seed money for the Board of Regents Scholarship Fund;

**WHEREAS**, since Turner's tenure on the Board, EKV has awarded 41,253 total degrees;

**WHEREAS**, during Turner's tenure, EKV's enrollment reached a record high of 16,881 students;

**WHEREAS**, during Turner's tenure, EKV's freshman retention rate increased by 11%;

**WHEREAS**, during Turner's tenure, EKV's four-year graduation rate increased by almost 20%;

**WHEREAS**, Turner has completed nearly 13 years of distinguished leadership and meritorious service on the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University;

**WHEREAS**, Turner steadfastly served as a valued and effective advocate for Eastern Kentucky University;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents hereby highly commends Mr. Turner for the invaluable contributions he has made to Eastern Kentucky University; and, with special appreciation for the excellent leadership he has provided, for the countless hours he has devoted, and the exemplary service he has rendered, the Board of Regents hereby officially bestows the title of Chair Emeritus upon Mr. William Craig Turner.

Done this the Ninth Day of January, 2019, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Resolution in Recognition of William Craig Turner and Designation as Chair Emeritus. The motion was seconded by Regent Castro. The motion passed by voice vote.

Following the motion, Chair Diaz made the following remarks:

Craig, you have been a friend, you have been a mentor, and all of my life I have been very lucky, from my older brother to the current day, to have good mentors.

I came to EKU in 1996. I was 17 years old when I got here. I was in a locker room full of men, competing. To be honest with you, every day I wanted to go home. I was homesick. It was a little bit of a culture shock from Miami to Richmond. Man, am I glad I didn't go home. In the locker room there was a sign that said, "Those who stay will be champions," and on the practice field there was a big sign that said, "Expect to Win." Sometimes if you just keep showing up, you can win.

What did I gain? I gained an education that has served me my entire life and set the foundation for many of the successes that I have had. I gained a wife -- I met my wife here at EKU --- and I gained a very specific understanding of what it takes to win at a championship level.

Folks, I know that I can't be Craig Turner. That job is taken and it's adequately performed. But I can promise you, Craig, and everybody else in the room that I will give it everything that I've got. I will serve with a passion that will make you proud, and I will never apologize for expecting EKU to win and I will never apologize for having the highest possible degree of Colonel Pride.

With that being said, there is particular medallion that is worn during graduation. I think it's somewhere in the room, I don't know where, but we want you to have that medallion.

[CHAIR EMERITUS TURNER PRESENTED WITH MEDALLION]

Chair Emeritus Turner made the following remarks:

There were a lot of nice things said but I do mean it from my heart that obviously I didn't do all those things by myself, by no stretch of my imagination or anybody else's. It is everybody in this room. There are some special things that take place here and it's actually fun and it's exciting to see people's lives change when they come here. I read an article the other day about people who have been state dignitaries, who have been on university boards, to our founding fathers, a number of whom have been on boards or benefactors to universities. All the people that have served on these boards, from the very beginning to now, have given a lot of time and a lot of energy. I do think that they've made a difference, and this group will continue to make a difference.

Thank you for all the great and kind comments. I love it when you embellish things and make me feel good. I noticed I did not get an award about timely board meetings. Which is something for some reason I have great difficulty with. To all of you that are out there: thank you. Over these years I've been able to meet and know a lot of people and develop a lot of unique friendships. As we all know, it's not easy all the time. But I think as long as you keep doing the right thing, it will all work out.

Again, thank you very much. I am honored and I am humbled, and I thank you.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Diaz requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Regent Makinen to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Regent Long. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting was thereby adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



February 22, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Makinen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date