

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

**November 15, 2023
9:30 a.m.**

**Powell 219
Eastern Kentucky University**

I. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on November 15, 2023, at 9:35 a.m. in Powell 219, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Chair Eaves called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was established.

Present

Mr. Mike Eaves
Ms. Laura Babbage
Mr. Jeremiah Duerson
Mr. Michael Garland
Mr. Alan Long
Dr. Jason Marion
Mr. Edwin Orange
Mr. Camden Ritchie
Ms. Lynn Taylor Tye
Mr. Vasu Vasudevan
Mr. Ashley Ward

II. Information Items

A. Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Pete Ugo of Crowe, LLP gave a presentation regarding the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

B. University Reports

1. Mr. Barry Poynter, Financial Update

Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a financial update as of September 30, 2023. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost, and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs offered an update that included highlights focusing on First Year Courses, the Noel Studio, and the STEM center. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

3. Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Student Success and Enrollment Update

Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Senior Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, offered a presentation that included Fall 2023 Highlights, freshmen retention numbers, and Fall 2024 recruitment, along with news of an updated FAFSA form expected by the end of the year. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

4. Mary Beth Neiser, Development Update

Ms. Mary Beth Neiser, Vice President of University Development and Alumni Engagement addressed the board for the first time since joining the university in July 2023, relaying her professional and academic background. She offered a brief update reporting that the fiscal year ended with a \$200,000 increase from the previous year.

5. Ms. Amy Scarborough, Legislative Preview

Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community, and Corporate Relations Officer began her update by sharing the success of the 2023 Legislative ECU Interns program and the 2023 Legislator Day held at ECU in October, and then discussed the priorities for the Phase II Capital projects, as well as additional priorities. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

6. Committee Reports, Mike Eaves J.D., Chair

Chair Eaves shared that the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Governance and Evaluation met that morning before the board meeting, and Regent Marion, chair of that committee, indicated that he would share his report later in the meeting.

C. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Written Reports

i. Dr. Lisa Kay, Faculty Senate Chair

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

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:46 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:05 a.m.]

ii. Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council

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

iii. Mr. Camden Ritchie, Student Government Association President

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

iv. Dana Fohl, J.D., Policies and Regulations Report

Ms. Fohl submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

President McFaddin gave an update on the Survey Regulation included in that report indicating that work has been suspended, and the group will pivot to begin working on developing a comprehensive institutional survey instrument that will be used on an annual basis to evaluate if the institution is moving forward.

2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin delivered the following report:

As hard as it is to believe, the close of the 2023 Fall Semester is upon us. This academic year, I challenged our team to FOCUS: F: Finish What We've Started; O: Outcomes over Ownership; C: Communication; U: Understand our Why; and S: Shared Success. Many of the results of that FOCUS can be seen through many of the informational reports you have heard today. As a team, we are working hard to deliver the very best for our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

2023 Best for Vets School

Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) ranks first in Kentucky in the 2023 Best for Vets: Colleges. Additionally, EKU came in as the number four best college for military service members and veterans in Appalachia. In the spirit of celebrating our veterans, on November 4, 2024, we dedicated the EKU Veterans Memorial at Carloftis Gardens. Like the previous location in Powell Plaza, the new Veterans Memorial has a granite slate inscribed with the names of those who gave their lives while serving, a flag display, benches dedicated by veterans and their families, the Fallen Soldier Cross sculpture, and other features representing those who serve in the nation's armed forces. Additionally, the new location provides a more accessible, reverent, and appropriate space on campus to honor those who gave all.

Organizational Changes to Construction Management and Aviation

The Aviation and Construction Management programs have moved from the College of STEM to the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science. The reorganization produces the following benefits for the programs and for EKU:

- Both Aviation and Construction Management will have a natural fit with the safety and security programs in CJSMS.
- Aviation and Construction Management will be included under the Program of Distinction (POD) banner, helping to further elevate their brands with the Council on Postsecondary Education and others within the State.
- The smaller number of Departments within CJSMS will help us to provide more focus and resources to these programs than in a college with a larger and more diverse portfolio of departments. They will be one of four departments in CJSMS as opposed to one of 8 units in CSTEM. This also benefits the programs in CSTEM by ensuring more college-level attention and support.
- EKU is the only University in Kentucky with both Construction Management and Occupational Safety degrees providing us an advantage in producing high-quality graduates for critical sectors of the Kentucky economy. Housing them together in the same college should provide advantages in fundraising and resource sharing.

EKU Legislative Day

EKU was pleased to host numerous members of the Kentucky General Assembly earlier this month. The visit included highlighting some of EKU's signature programs including the Aviation Flight Simulator, the Fire, Arson and Investigation program and the Nursing Simulator. Not only were we able to highlight our programs, but we also were proud to showcase our students in a student panel. Having legislative members on our campus enables us an opportunity to prepare our legislators to better understand our mission and needs.

Spring 2024 Commencement

EKU announced last month that we will be moving the 2024 Spring Commencement to

the Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Kentucky. Factors including Alumni Coliseum beginning under construction, weather, and seating capacity with other venue options on campus all played a part in the decision to relocate commencement. This decision was not made lightly, and we had this graduating class in mind as they were the class that didn't get a high school graduation. For this reason, we want to ensure the very best graduation experience possible.

EKU Named A Kentucky Best Employer by Forbes Magazine

For the first time, ECU was named a Kentucky Best Employer by Forbes Magazine. Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to survey 70,000 workers at companies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Participants were asked if they would recommend their employer to others, and to evaluate their employer based on working conditions, diversity, compensation packages, potential for development, company image, and more.

Thanksgiving Dinner

With Thanksgiving around the corner and recognizing the important role that our faculty and staff play in making ECU such a special place, the President's Office and ECU Dining Services are hosting all ECU employees and their families to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner at Case Dining Hall from 5-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

Gift of Giving

Manchester Campus Endowed Scholarship Fund: On September 12, 2023, ECU joined Senate President Robert Stivers and CPE President Aaron Thompson to launch a \$1.5-million fundraising initiative to establish a scholarship for students attending the ECU Manchester Regional Campus in Manchester, Kentucky. The kickoff event raised money including a \$100,000 gift from East Kentucky Power and its 16 Owner Member Cooperatives.

City of Richmond Christmas Parade Grand Marshals

The ECU Athletics program and I are proud to represent ECU as the Grand Marshals of this year's City of Richmond Christmas Parade. This is another wonderful opportunity for ECU to collaborate with the City to reflect our town-and-gown relationship.

Winter Advantage Schedule

The ECU Winter Advantage Schedule begins the week of December 4, 2023, and will conclude on January 12, 2024. By enabling our employees to have a flexible 4-day work week during the winter session while students are away, we are once again reflecting our commitment to being the Employer of Choice.

EKU Highlights in the News-October 2023

- Sustainability Expert - Dr. Angela Dial
 - <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/me/maine/news/2023/10/31/halloween-costume-sustainability>
- Manufacturing Engineering Feature
 - <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/me/maine/news/2023/10/27/eku-manufacturing-engineering-program>
- Perfectly Imperfect Event
 - https://news.yahoo.com/celebrate-being-perfectly-imperfect-womens-035900835.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9hcHAubWVsdHdhdGVyLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAKubsPrP3b7GzOB3z0HodKLSOdznzbfWUEtHg-HILN4q50T6grTHHwYNzWTIWTjyCT5iTTKArXbRBnEY6dOJIQDQUSi1I2Y5SX9F49NUDwbeVyU9XOjeQhb0gmOUzXrssd8A55ncxcD4yX_JhE-b8R5I26RB5SyZR17bozODuIC5
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/celebrate-being-perfectly-imperfect-at-women-s-wellness-fun-day/article_04cf0fd6-7392-11ee-9f13-0bb4cf7c89e2.html
- Natural Areas Expert - Dr. Stephen Richter
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/10/25/what-should-you-do-if-you-find-snake-your-home/>
- Ivan Olivas Feature
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/local/eku-alum-giving-back-to-his-school-and-his-culture/>
- Wall Street Journal Ranking
 - <https://d1softballnews.com/eku-recognized-among-the-best-universities-in-the-united-states-by-the-wall-street-journal-news/>
 - https://article.wn.com/view/2023/10/24/EKU_Recognized_Among_America_s_Best_Colleges_by_the_Wall_Str/
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-recognized-among-america-s-best-colleges-by-the-wall-street-journal/article_42d5f434-72a7-11ee-95f2-133b9fae68b1.html
- EKU Facilities Team Feature
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/facilities-team-maintains-eku-s-reputation-as-the-campus-beautiful/article_8b9a4d9b-a490-5bbd-94ee-d9c654c75023.html
- Nursing students help administer flu vaccine
 - <https://www.winchestersun.com/2023/10/24/health-department-holds-vaccine-clinic-ahead-of-flu-season/>
 - <https://ground.news/article/health-department-holds-vaccine-clinic-ahead-of->

flu-season-winchester- sun

- EKU Commencement Announcement
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-spring-2024-commencement-to-be-held-at-alltech-arena/article_9bc3fdb2-6f59-11ee-a912-7f34dd65bee9.html
 - https://article.wn.com/view/2023/10/21/EKU_Spring_2024_Commencement_to_be_held_at_Alltech_Arena/
- Aviation Expert - Sean Howard:
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/10/19/aviation-professor-majority-flight-instructors-have-less-than-one-year-experience/>
 - <https://www.wflx.com/video/2023/10/19/watch-aviation-professor-majority-flight-instructors-have-less-than-one-year-experience/>
 - <https://www.wymt.com/2023/10/19/aviation-professor-majority-flight-instructors-have-less-than-one-year-experience/?outputType=apps>
- Homecoming King/Queen 2023
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-crowns-2023-homecoming-king-and-queen/article_8507854a-6dd2-11ee-b769-bb4f0d048c48.html
- 2024 Best Colleges Ranking
 - <https://www.inkl.com/news/eku-listed-among-the-2024-best-colleges-university-president-says-its-important-to-recruit-locally>
- History of Cooking Expert - Dr. Cynthia Resor (retired):
 - <https://www.wnky.com/cooking-in-kentucky-before-the-civil-war/>
- New EKU Regent - Michael Garland:
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/executive-leader-michael-garland-appointed-to-eku-board-of-regents/article_514bed84-6c3a-11ee-9751-77d8f222db52.html
 - <https://targetednews.com/> (requires subscription)
- Kim Hatley Homecoming feature:
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/proud-alumna-and-mom-becomes-eku-s-biggest-fan/article_e3f295f8-6c2f-11ee-ac8a-1fd00a2a4d20.html
- EKU Human Resource Mgt Course Featured
 - <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2023-10-16/eku-students-will-study-louisville-ford-strike-as-it-happens>
- Astronomy Expert - Dr. Pitts
 - <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2023-10-12/annular-eclipse-visible-in-kentucky-saturday-if-clouds-cooperate>
- Psychology Expert - Joshua Turner

- <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2023-10-09/eku-psychologist-says-sports-wagering-incentives-can-be-triggering-for-problem-gamblers>
- El Centro Feature
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-dedicates-new-space-to-the-campus-growing-bilingual-student-population/article_c57a21f4-69cd-11ee-8ea2-77506b11eb1c.html
- Political Science Expert - Dr. Cizmar
 - <https://www.inkl.com/news/mccarthy-firing-and-political-polarization-topics-for-eku-government-students>
 - <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2023-10-04/mccarthy-firing-and-political-polarization-topics-for-eku-government-students>
- Ivan Olivas Feature
 - <https://targetednews.com/> (requires subscription)
- CSTEM Week - Barbara Ramey
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-college-of-stem-announces-first-female-iconic-professor/article_ca04f082-58ca-11ee-a75b-03e152024122.html
- Most affordable cities in KY
 - <https://www.universitymagazine.ca/most-affordable-cities-for-students-in-kentucky/>
- Meadowbrook Farm Feature
 - <https://edairynews.com/en/you-need-a-farmer-ekus-meadowbrook-farms/>
- Manchester Fund
 - https://www.northwestgeorgianews.com/tribune/regional/eku-launches-1-5-million-scholarship-initiative-to-support-eku-manchester-campus/article_5bb00852-52d1-559a-b9b1-0a595def7da0.html
 - <https://news.yahoo.com/eku-scholarship-fund-goal-set-035900195.html>
- Flight Expert
 - <https://www.inkl.com/news/after-fatal-western-kentucky-plane-crash-eku-chief-flight-instructor-discusses-safety-issues>
 - <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2023-10-01/after-fatal-western-kentucky-plane-crash-eku-chief-flight-instructor-discusses-safety-issues>
- U.S. News & World Report Ranking
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-ranks-among-2024-best-colleges-by-u-s-news-and-world-report/article_507cf796-5eec-11ee-bc6c-9b6246ee22f0.html
- Manchester Scholarship
 - https://news.yahoo.com/eku-scholarship-fund-goal-set-035900195.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly90cmFuc210aW9

[uLm1lbHR3YXRlci5jb20v&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAiuXEdZtQnT3LAg0F_oaFWUCu8seVcVjmTss02EwOFKO8RScr6wV40QS25BeHk](https://www.kent.edu/office-of-the-president/2023/11/21/2023-2024-graduation-commencement)
[uUlGxTCNnFRZLm4p38s3OAg0qy7wIgu6n56u9x9ajoLv0xm8D-dDbkHo6laPvzygX0W2gcXMA84hSCFqD24D_EELEDn4ST-brZIW88Ybv2Huo](https://www.kent.edu/office-of-the-president/2023/11/21/2023-2024-graduation-commencement)

Calendar of Events

November 21-Thanksgiving Dinner

November 22-24-Thanksgiving Break

December 1-City of Richmond Christmas Parade

December 2-Graduation/Commencement

With Thanksgiving a week away, I want to express my profound gratitude for everyone on this campus who works hard every day to create transformational experiences for our students. I also want to thank each one of our board members for your volunteer service to help lead our EKU into the next chapter of excellence. It is the people that make us the School of Opportunity and I am incredibly proud to have the opportunity to lead my alma mater.

3. Mr. Mike Eaves, Chair of the Board Report

Chair Eaves shared that the agenda included a meeting schedule for 2024 for approval, however he indicated that there were some conflicts with a few of those proposed dates. As a result, the board agreed to meet on February 21, 2024, and by that meeting he will propose additional dates to the board for a final vote.

The Chair indicated that along with University Counsel, Dana Fohl, they have been working on revising the board bylaws in an effort to make them reflect what board really does as some of those practices are outdated. He expressed that he hoped those would be ready for review by the February 21, 2024 meeting.

He expressed his thanks to Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council for her invitation to attend the staff council meeting that took place the day before, which gave him the opportunity to learn about those things that are important to the university staff.

He indicated that he will be meeting in December with all of the Department Chairs across campus and shared that he will report back on that at the February board meeting.

He reported that he and Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost, have discussed evaluating how students are doing academically at the end of each semester and bringing that information to the board, rather than just looking at retention, enrollment, and graduation rates. He's also asked her to include in her report how the university is utilizing our limited resources and making sure that students are aware and provided that information.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Audit Report for FY Ending June 30, 2023

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the audit report for FY ending June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chair Eaves indicated a member of the board had requested to pull item iv. Recommended Sabbatical Program Participants for 2024-25 from the Consent Agenda to be discussed and voted upon separately. He explained that the bylaws provide that any board member can request that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed separately. In addition, due to the conflict of proposed dates for 2024, that item will be deferred to the February 21, 2024 meeting.

The Chair then presented to the full board the remaining items, i.,iii.,v., and vi., on the Consent Agenda for approval. A motion was made by Regent Orange to approve those items on the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- i. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on August 16, 2023, and the Special Called Meeting on October 16, 2023
- ii. Approval of Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Dates for 2024
- iii. Approval of the Personnel Actions
- iv. Recommended Sabbatical Program Participants for 2024-25
- v. Approval of Policy Updates for Model Lab School
- vi. Recommendation for Staff Emeritus

Chair Eaves then brought before the board, the Recommended Sabbatical Program Participants for 2024-25, as discussed. A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the slate for sabbaticals as presented with the caveat that the board directs the president and administration to review policy, compare to benchmark institutions and make necessary changes to ensure strategic institutional priorities and to reduce the financial impact to any one college in a given

year. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Report from the Council on Academic Affairs

Provost Zeigler presented a report from the Council on Academic Affairs to the board which included curriculum proposals of a new program and the closure of others, however Provost Zeigler indicated that after a discussion with Dr. Ginny Whitehouse, Director of the School of Communication, and Dr. Mercy Cannon, Dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, the proposal of a new program is withdrawn for this meeting as they wish to make some refinements and will bring it back before the board in February. A copy of the report is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

A motion was made by Regent Marion that the President and administration draft and/or revise the academic policy and/or regulations pertaining to academic program creation, closure, suspension, or elimination to include additional stakeholder notification and review including (or considering):

1. Involvement of the Provost and President early in the process; and
2. Board notification at the outset;
3. Final approval of the Provost, President, and Board; and,
4. That any recommendations include supporting materials to follow the recommendation through the process for full vetting and review; and

Upon finalizing the new or revised draft of the policy and/or regulation(s), present this policy and/or regulation(s) to the Board for consideration with demonstrated engagement with the Council on Academic Affairs and/or Faculty Senate.

The motion was seconded by Regent Ritchie. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A second motion was made by Regent Marion to refer the matter of the closure of the History Master of Arts program back to the Council on Academic Affairs with a request that they act by voting on whether or not to close the program.

The motion was seconded by Regent Ritchie. The motion failed by voice vote.

Regent Marion made a motion that given the board's action, he moves for approval of the program closures. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Approval of Award of Honorary Degree for Dr. Aaron Thompson

President McFaddin addressed the board seeking approval of an honorary degree to be presented during the commencement ceremonies to be held in December to Dr. Aaron Thompson, President of the Council on Post-secondary Education, ECU Alum, and a native of Eastern Kentucky, who continues to fight for the power of education every day.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the honorary degree for Dr. Aaron Thompson. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approval of Resolution Recognizing Juan Castro

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the resolution recognizing Juan Castro. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Discussion and/or Action Related to President's Performance Evaluation

Regent Marion, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Governance and Evaluation brought before the board an update and report which was approved by the committee that had met that morning prior to the board meeting. He stated that the committee had vetted the report to make sure it was an accurate reflection of the aggregate. A copy of the report is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

[The Chair adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:08 p.m.]

IV. New Business

Chair Eaves indicated there was no new business to discuss.

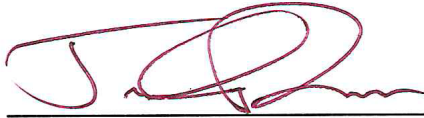
V. Executive Session

Chair Eaves indicated that the Board required a closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(k) to discuss a business proposal where open discussion may jeopardize the business pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(g). The Chair entertained a Motion pursuant to KRS 61.815 to adjourn to executive session. A motion was made by Regent Long. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

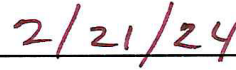
[The Chair adjourned for Executive Session at 1:09 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:41 p.m.]

Chair Eaves called for a motion to return to open session. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.



Jeremiah Duerson, Board Secretary



Date