

**East Stroudsburg University
Council of Trustees Minutes
March 26, 2026
In Person and Via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chair Pat Ross.
2. **Roll Call:** Completed by the Recording Secretary Marcy L. Cetnar, the following members were present:

Mr. Frank Epifano (zoom)
Ms. Ainslee Green
Mr. Thomas Grayuski

Ms. Tina Nixon
Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien

Ms. Tameko Patterson
Mr. Patrick Ross
Mr. Paul Shemansky

The following members were not present:

Mr. Edward Abraham

Mr. Marcus Lingenfelter

Mr. John Pekarovsky

3. **Public Comment:**

None

4. **Approval of Minutes:**

Trustee Shemansky made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2025, meeting; Trustee Grayuski seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.

5. **President's Report:**

President Long reported as we enter the final weeks of the Spring 2026 semester and is pleased to share key achievements and activities at East Stroudsburg University. Since our last meeting: 1,965 students earned Dean's List honors for Fall 2025, we launched a redesigned website enhancing access for the campus community, Psychology Department presented the 54th Biannual Research Forum, 37 faculty and staff completed ACUE's Effective Teaching Certification and 42 completed the Belonging course, faculty and students engaged nationally through Professor Michael Gray's presentation on Civil War history, and PTSD and ESU students participated in The Washington Center's Inside Washington seminar. We were also proud to host the Interdisciplinary Association of Philosophy and Religious Studies Conference.

Student engagement remained strong, with 17 Black Student Union students attending the Black Solidarity Conference at Yale, increased Co Op placements, and a campus literacy event featuring author Marc Colagiovanni. Students also supported local communities by delivering 19 bags of winter clothing. In January, ESU honored recipients of the Boddie Scholarship, MLK Awards, and the Julianna and Wayne Bolt Art Contest, and we hosted the 8th Annual Dr. Barbara G. Collins Social Work Professional Development Day. Black History Month featured keynote speaker Koran Watson.

Athletics continued their success during the Fall and into the Winter Season. ESU is placed third overall in the Dixon Trophy standings through the sport seasons, with especially strong performances from our women's teams. Five Warriors earned All American honors in track & field and wrestling, and student athletes earned 24 All PSAC. Men's Basketball finished 21–9 record with two All PSAC honorees and a new member of the 1,000-point club, while Women's Basketball celebrated three All PSAC selections and another career 1,000-point milestone. Men's Wrestling qualified a national competitor, and Women's Wrestling continued its national rise, qualifying five athletes for the NCAA Championships, including Tiffani Baublitz, who achieved the best national finish in program history. Women's Swimming set 10 program records alongside multiple All PSAC finishes and a conference title. Women's

Track & Field added two All Americans. Spring sports are off to a strong start, including Women's Lacrosse opening the season 10–0 after its win yesterday against also nationally ranked West Chester. Baseball securing multiple ranked wins, and early season recognition in Softball, Women's Tennis, and STUNT. ESU also welcomed new head coaches Tayler Jamison (Women's Soccer) and John Forman (Women's Volleyball).

As discussed earlier today, ESU completed its Middle States Reaccreditation Site Visit, and I thank all trustees and campus members for their support. The campus is now preparing for several spring events: the Madelon Powers Gallery's Echoes exhibition, the ESU Theatre production of Into the Woods beginning March 26, the Philosophy and Religious Studies Conference, and ongoing collaboration with PDE following its nearly \$1 million grant announcement supporting accelerated Special Education certification pathways.

Additional upcoming events starting this Saturday, March 28th, include: the Accepted Student Celebration where we have more than 700 registered admitted students and nearly 2000 in total potentially new members to the Warrior family, the Annual Scholarship Dinner (April 9th), Athletics Senior & End of Year Awards Program (April 27), the Employee Recognition Ceremony (April 28), Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement (May 8–9), with commencement speaker Dr. Christopher Hunt for Doctoral and Graduate and Dr. Zack McDowell for Undergraduate Commencement. The Annual Economic Summit at Kalahari will be held on May 15.

Finally, I want to address the opening of the new University Center. While the project has experienced delays, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has issued a Certificate of Occupancy for all areas except the theatre. A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for Phase 1 will be sought from the Borough on April 7, with a full CO to follow after Phase 2 is completed this summer.

That concludes my report. Thank you.

6. Chair's Report:

Chair Ross indicated the student presentation during the Strategic Initiatives Committee Meeting was one of the best we have had, which shows how well our students are learning and growing here at ESU. From faculty, staff, to administrators, everyone cares about ESU and it shows in their commitment and dedication. Chair Ross also thanked everyone on the Trustee board for their dedication and support during the MSCHE visit.

7. Secretary's Report:

No Report.

8. Committee Reports

A. University Affairs Committee:

Trustee Ross reported the committee was introduced to four new key members of administration who have already been an asset to ESU and confident they will continue to help to move ESU forward and provide a great place for our faculty, staff, and students.

Chief Landoli presented a campus safety and security briefing and ensured all they do meets the mission of the department and the university. Some of the items discussed were their campus safety priorities, their high visibility areas and proactive policing, emergency preparedness, residence hall safety, community responsibilities, and office safety and wellness support and training. He also discussed their areas of commitment moving forward including security efforts for the new University Center.

President Long briefed the committee on his testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee at the Budget Hearing on March 3rd. The information provided was very informative and presented a great landscape of our current progress but also shared the important need for additional funding to continue to help with enrollment, deferred maintenance, and retention.

Rob Smith, Margaret Ball, and Omar Mayyasi provided an update on the Comprehensive Planning Process to date. The CPP is a multi-year PASSHE framework that integrates strategic, academic, enrollment, and financial planning into one coordinated process. It requires universities to align goals, budgets, and academic offerings with Board priorities and measurable outcomes. CPP aims to ensure financial sustainability, accountability, and student success by linking resources to key metrics such as enrollment, retention, graduation rates, and fiscal health. It also serves as both a planning and accountability tool, guiding decision-making and supporting system-wide performance tracking and funding. ESU uses CPP on a recurring cycle to align with the Strategic Plan and PASSHE priorities, and to provide the data and narrative justification needed for executive oversight and resource distribution.

Dennis Shores, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management updated the committee on campus facility planning to include required approvals needed for the Certificate of Occupancy and a timeline for the opening of the new University Center which is going to be the focal point of the university. Updates were also provided on the Hospitality Center, Soccer Stadium, and future construction.

Timothy Hahn, director of admissions, updated the committee on the upcoming Admitted Students Celebration taking place this Saturday, March 28th. It is going to be a great day celebrating our incoming Warriors. The committee also received updates on new staff, recruitment territories, Spring admission events, and summer events.

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. This concludes my report.

B. Finance Committee:

Trustee Grayuski reported that Richard Santor, Director of ESU's Foundation, noted that fundraising has been challenging this year due to staff vacancies and economic uncertainty, though activity remains strong as the Foundation approaches fiscal year-end. Scholarships continue to be a top priority, with 10 of the Foundation's goal of 25 new scholarships already secured and several more in progress. Progress also continues on the Track & Field Renovation Campaign, which has reached about 90% of its \$1.2 million goal, and the Soccer Stadium Campaign, which has reached approximately 95% of its \$5.5 million goal. Naming opportunities for the Center for Hospitality initiative were reviewed earlier today. **Trustee O'Brien made a motion to approve naming opportunities for the Center for Hospitality; Trustee Nixon seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The Foundation also highlighted several past and upcoming events that support donor recognition and community engagement in alignment with FY 26 goals, and the report concluded with an update on staffing.

Gregory Bleakley, Director of Budget & Special Accounting, reviewed the Local Fee Proposal for Fiscal Year 2026. Increases were requested as follows: Residence Halls: 5%; Meal Plans: 4.1%; Health Center: 7.7%; Student Success Fee: 6%; Technology Fee: 10.3%; University Center Fee: 32.3%; Transportation Fee: 8.3%; E-Card Program: 14.3%. All other fees will remain flat with the exception of the Instructional Support Fee and Nursing fee which increases at the same rate as Tuition & Tuition Technology Fee combined. The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed fees, and all questions and concerns were answered satisfactorily. **Trustee Patterson made a motion to approve local fees for 2026-2027; Trustee O'Brien seconded; no abstentions. The motion carried.**

The Cash Disbursements Report for the period November 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026, was reviewed. All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. **Trustee Patterson made a motion to approve the Cash Disbursements Report for the period November 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026; Trustee O'Brien seconded; no abstentions, The motion carried.**

The Procurement Activity > \$23,200 Report for the period November 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026, was reviewed.

Dennis Shores, Vice President of Facilities provide a report on the "Active Projects Status Re-port" list since the last COT meeting. Currently, there are 37 active projects, 22 projects completed, 6 projects on hold, and 1 cancelled. Dennis also reviewed the "Notice to Proceed Report" which contains 5 contracts over \$25,000.

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. This concludes my report.

C. Strategic Initiatives Committee:

Trustee Patterson reported that Michael Sachs and Meagan Mielczarek updated the committee on the preliminary results of the Middle States Team Visit. The preliminary review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) found that Middle States Commission on Higher Education determined that East Stroudsburg University meets all seven accreditation standards. Strengths noted included an engaged campus community, transparency and professionalism, strong institutional resources, progress in student success initiatives, and the construction of the new University Center without external debt. The review also recognized improvements in transfer processes and assessment efforts. MSCHE identified opportunities to strengthen assessment practices, align strategic planning with resource allocation, enhance institutional effectiveness tracking, and improve communication, transparency, shared governance, and data-informed decision-making. Recommendations focused on strengthening student learning assessment, formalizing planning and reporting processes, evaluating governance structures, and ensuring consistent use of data across the institution. All feedback remains preliminary pending the final team report and commission review, with a final MSCHE decision expected in late April.

Dr. John Chang, professor of Psychology, and Dr. Tony Drago, professor and chair of Psychology, along with students Natasha Merchant and Brooke O'Connor, presented research at the psychology department's 54th Biannual Research Forum. The project explored the use of artificial intelligence to develop and refine practice exams for the Psychopharmacology Examination for Psychologists (PEP), required for prescribing authority. Using multiple AI-driven revisions, the team improved question quality, cognitive complexity, and exam validity. Results showed that AI can effectively generate clinically relevant exam items that closely mirror the rigor and structure of the actual PEP exam, creating a scalable tool to support postdoctoral psychopharmacology students in exam preparation.

All questions and concerns were satisfactorily addressed. This concludes my report.

9. Old Business:

None

10. New Business:

- A. Trustee Ross noted that the Graduate and Undergraduate commencement ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, and Saturday, May 9, 2026, respectively. Please consider being present at these significant events celebrating our newest Warrior graduates. RSVP to the President's Office.
- B. The next meeting of the East Stroudsburg University Council of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2026.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Ross at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Shemansky
Council Secretary

Recording Secretary: Marcy L. Cetnar