

Report of the Committee on Strategic Initiatives for November 30, 2023

The Committee on Strategic Initiatives met on November 30, 2023 and all committee members were present. The committee approved the minutes from the September 28, 2023 meeting. Dr. Sharon Paynter, Acting Chief Research and Engagement Officer, facilitated a panel discussion focused on ECU's commitment to student success through the lens of three faculty members from the School of Dental Medicine, the College of Health and Human Performance, and the College of Fine Arts and Communications, and their students. The relationships between faculty and students were powerful and it was exciting to see how those relationships impact student retention, employability and the entire Pirate Experience. It was really interesting to hear the students talk about their experiences in different learning settings, such as the living learning communities, traditional classrooms, and research settings. We are fortunate to have faculty that show true care and commitment to helping students achieve at the highest levels.

Mr. Chairman, our committee had no action items. That concludes my report.



**Athletics and Advancement
November 30, 2023
Committee Report**

First, congratulations to Coach Shwartz and the Men's basketball team for the big win last night!

The Athletics and Advancement Committee had a full meeting yesterday. We started with a University Advancement update.

Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, Christopher Dyba, provided the committee with an advancement update, including a review of operational metrics and fundraising update. Mr. Dyba reported that the Pursue Gold Campaign total is \$513.7M as of Thursday, this campaign concludes on December 31st. Total percentages by Foundation are as follows: 47% ECU Foundation, 31% Athletics, 22% ECU Health Foundation and .3\$ Alumni Association. 572 new scholarships were created during Pursue Gold. The post-campaign efforts will be aligned with the Chancellor's strategic plan and focus on student scholarships to ensure student success.

VC Dyba provided an update on the Alumni Association's Oral History project. Alumni has partnered with the vendor 'Publishing Concepts' with the intent is to capture and preserve alumni stories while furthermore updating personal contact information. Initial e-mails went out on November 13th. During the first 4 days, over 1,300 alumni responses were recorded. The hope is that the personal stories collected can provide insight into alumni experience and future philanthropic development. These stories could also be added to Joyner Library's oral history archives. According to Publishing Concepts, this would be the first time any institution has done this. A commemorative book with a digital option would be available. Participation estimates based on university size are 7,000 alumni respondents. Out of the respondents, they hope to collect over 5,000 stories and expect 3% will make a gift. The Oral History project will run through May 2024.

Director of Athletics Jon Gilbert provided the board with an athletics update. Regarding, ECU Athletics fundraising, to date, the Pirates Unite Campaign is at \$23.5M. There have been 82 gifts over \$25,000, 44 six-figure gifts, and 7 at \$1M or more. Men's basketball season ticket sales fell slightly short of the 2,000 goal selling 1,844. Compared to last year, the revenue increased by \$112,000. They believe this is due to the increase in ticket price for the new courtside luxury seating. Football ticket sales surpassed budget by \$22,000.

Mr. Gilbert reminded the committee that Army is joining the AAC next fall just in football. Opponents for the 2024 football season should be announced soon. The women's volleyball team had a great season and is currently playing in the NIVC post-season tournament and will host matches in Minges this weekend. Soccer also had a good season and finished 4th in the AAC.

The committee then heard from Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, Alex Keddie, who presented on recent athletic changes. More changes have been made in the past 2 years compared to the last 20 years and even more are expected to come. The average number of transfer players on football rosters in 2019 was 6.4%. In 2023, that average jumped to 20.5%. Currently, ECU's football roster is 25% transfers. Some elements that caused this jump include the COVID waiver that produced many 5th- and 6th-year eligibility players and the uniform one-time transfer exception that was adopted in 2021. This has affected both football and basketball. The NIL policy went into effect the same year. A permanent legislation is still in process, and we are still operating under an interim policy. Regarding NIL, there are no public financial statistics available, however, some monies are believed to be inflated by coaches. Having NIL opportunities would help attract transfer athletes to ECU. Ms. Keddie briefly presented on the transfer portal, sharing that each sport has a portal "window". The football window opens this Monday, December 4th. As of yesterday, 399 football athletes were already in the portal. This is attributed to coaches' separations or graduate student transfers which allow early portal entry.

Mr. Chairman, I'll have one item for closed session. That concludes my report.



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Highlights

The Budget, Finance, and Infrastructure Committee met on November 30, 2023.

Minutes were approved from the September 28, 2023 meeting.

Ms. Coleman provided the highlights on the operational metrics data and provide information regarding 1st quarter results of the fiscal year compared to budget and prior year actuals.

Ms. Coleman shared the tuition and fee guidelines for fiscal year 2024-2025 and shared information on the campus process as well as provided comparative System and peer data. Ms. Coleman presented increases for several program specific graduate and professional programs. Additionally, she presented several dental fee adjustments. Lastly, Ms. Coleman presented Housing and Dining rate increases. I'll have a motion for this item at the end of this report. \

Ms. Coleman presented a request for approval to lease the West End Office Building. With the expiration of an existing lease and the ability to reduce space needs, the University will save about \$300,000 with this change. This item was approved as part of the consent agenda this morning.

Mr. Bagnell presented renderings of the new Medical Education Building, provided a budget update and project timeline.

Mr. Bagnell presented a request for advance planning approval for Tyler, White, and Clement rooftop unit replacements. This item was also included in the consent agenda.

Mr. Chairman, I do have one motion:

I move the board approve the 2024-2025 Tuition and Fee Proposal as presented in board materials.

Report of the Audit, Risk Management, Compliance, and Ethics Committee for November 30, 2023

Operational Metrics Review

The committee reviewed the operational metrics related to Internal Audit and Compliance. For fiscal year 2024, all metrics are in the green for the year to date through October. The committee was reminded that the metrics reflect a sample of the proactive efforts at the University, which are aimed at ensuring a strong culture of compliance. These metrics reflect only a small portion of the daily ongoing compliance and audit activities.

Action Items

The committee had one action item. We approved three proposed changes to the annual audit plan, as presented by Chief Audit Officer Wayne Poole. This does not require action by the full Board.

Informational Items

Enterprise Risk Management – Ms. Stephanie Coleman

Vice Chancellor Coleman shared the matrix of top risks and briefed us on the recent activities of the ERM Committee. She also provided information on an emerging risk that is being monitored, related to Artificial Intelligence and its potential impacts on academic integrity, student outcomes, research, and data privacy and security.

University Policy Process Update – Mr. Wayne Poole

Mr. Poole updated the committee on the previous recommendations to streamline the University's policy development process, make it more efficient, and bring it in line with the UNC Code. The new process and the software that will be used to manage it are being piloted beginning December 1. The regulation outlining the revised process will be posted for comment by University students and employees from December 1 through January 31. The process is expected to be fully live soon after the open comment period ends.

External Audit Update – Mr. Wayne Poole

Mr. Poole briefed us on the status of the University's required external audits for fiscal year 2023.

- The University's annual financial statement audit performed by the State Auditor is complete. The State Auditor issued a clean report with no findings.
- The annual financial audits of the University's affiliated entities are partially complete.
 - The audits of ECU Foundation and the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation have been published with no findings.
 - The audits of the Pirate Club and Alumni Association will be published soon. At this point the University is not aware of any concerns or findings related to these two entities.

Recent Internal Audits – Mr. Wayne Poole

Mr. Poole briefed the committee on one recent internal audit engagement, related to the School of Dental Medicine patient revenue cycle.

We reviewed other audit topics in closed session.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.

Report of the University Affairs Committee for November 30, 2023

The University Affairs Committee met in regular session with committee members Fussell, Roberts, Furr, Limon, Smith and Workman in attendance.

The Committee approved the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting and was encouraged to reach out to Provost Coger with any questions about the updated operational metrics.

Provost Coger asked the Board to consider the candidates for degrees for conferral at the annual Winter Commencement on Friday, December 15, 2023 and the committee enthusiastically approved.

Provost Coger also asked the Board to approve the removal of an interim designation on the Conferral of Honorary Academic Titles Policy recently approved by the Board at their August meeting, to which the committee had no objection.

The informational topic for the committee was a session highlighting how evaluative processes at ECU are used to ensure the University's relevance, effectiveness and successes in being a national model. Examples included a general overview of faculty evaluative processes, a panel discussion of a recent assessment of Student Affairs' student leadership programs and testimonies from students who participated in them, and examples of the way feedback shapes research at ECU.

Acting CREO Dr. Sharon Paynter and her guest Dr. Zac Domire discussed industry partnerships and the ways in which research can be evaluated on how impactful it is; Vice Chancellor Frye introduced a panel of Student Affairs experts who described a recent assessment effort as well as students who were able to share their experience in leadership programs at ECU; and, Provost Coger gave the committee an overview of the many ways in which faculty at ECU are evaluated.

Lastly, two items were approved in the closed session of the committee yesterday afternoon and are on the consent agenda for the board this morning. The first was the conferral of tenure for Dr. Zijjing Sun, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics. The second was approving the College of Allied Health Sciences' Temporary Variable Supplement payments presented in board materials.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my report.