

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

**February 21, 2024
9:00 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 February 21, 2024, at 9:00 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. Annual Election of Chair

A motion was made by Regent Tye to nominate Mike Eaves as board chair for another 1-year term. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

III. Information Items

A. University Reports

1. Dr. Bryan Makinen, Construction Update

Dr. Bryan Makinen, Associate Vice President for Facilities and Public Safety gave an update on completed, current, and upcoming general and state-funded projects across campus. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Mr. Barry Poynter, Financial Update

Mr. Barry Poynter, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented a financial update as of December 31, 2023, for fiscal year 2023-24. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

3. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Academic Affairs Update

Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost, and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs offered an update that included how the success of students is measured, snapshots of passage rates, data from student opinion of instruction, DFW rates, and college and program highlights. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

4. 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 Spring 2024 enrollment numbers, Fall 2024 recruitment efforts, the challenges caused by the delay of the new FAFSA form and process, and Spring 2024 retention percentages. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 10:11 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.]

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

Chair Eaves shared that Regent Marion, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Governance and Evaluation will address the board self-evaluation process later in the meeting.

B. 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.

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.

2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin delivered the following report:

EKU Launches Feasibility Study for the College of Osteopathic Medicine

It was announced on January 23, 2024, to all faculty and staff that ECU is exploring the possibility of offering a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. As the School of Opportunity, ECU's commitment to students and the Commonwealth is to continuously analyze the market and innovate to meet the needs of communities.

The first step is to determine if there is a sustainable need for this program and ECU's capacity to deliver an exceptional Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. To do so, a request for proposal (RFP) has been issued to identify an agency that can complete a feasibility study and make a recommendation.

The RFP Review Committee consists of the following ECU staff and faculty:

- Colleen Chaney
- Daniel Czech
- Bridgette Holleran
- Dana Howell
- Dustin Wygant
- Erin Stevenson
- Bethany Miller

The goal is to complete the analysis by the end of summer 2024. Learn more at go.ecu.edu/DO.

Requests for Proposals

ECU is currently working on a variety of projects through the procurement process. The following projects are in the RFP process.

- Information Technology RFP
- Hotel and Conference Center RFP

- Campus Master Plan RFP
- College of Osteopathic Medicine Feasibility Study RFP

President's Cabinet Departures

I recently announced to campus the departures of two President's Cabinet members, Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration/Treasurer Barry Poynter and Vice President of Student Life Dr. Dannie Moore will be leaving ECU to pursue endeavors at Berea College and Sam Houston State (respectively). Both will serve until June 30, 2024. It has been an honor to work with both. The intensity with which they were recruited is a reflection of the strong talent we have at ECU. They both will be missed.

2024 Legislative Session

I would first like to thank everyone who took the time to support us during our Colonels at the Capitol Day. We continue to lead from the front in higher education advocacy by bringing our board, administration and key faculty, staff and students to Frankfort for this event.

The legislative session is at the half-way point and all eyes have been on the state budget. Governor Beshear released his proposed budget, which was followed by the release of the House Budget, which passed last Thursday after a 4-hour long floor debate. In addition to general fund support for ECU, the House budget also includes:

- Asset Preservation - \$25.9M annually
- Model Lab Phase II - \$59.1M
- Fire/tornado insurance (\$3,125,500 annually)
- \$2.8M per year for inflationary cost support on top of our general fund appropriation.

The Senate Budget is likely to be released in the coming weeks. We are working very hard to secure additional funding for an Aviation classroom building, which is estimated at \$25 million. The state budget goes through multiple steps and most agree it won't be finalized until an agreement is reached during the Conference Committee in late March.

Multiple bills that could impact higher education have been introduced. ECU is tracking more than 125 bills, dealing with a variety of subjects: guns on campus, post-tenure review, DEI prohibitions, employee benefits, KEES funding, campus free speech, etc. While many higher education bills have been introduced, very few have been heard in committee or had committee votes. We expect action to pick up in the coming weeks.

HB 407 (which would allow ECU to offer an Osteopathic Medical program) was introduced on January 30th and is being sponsored by House Speaker Pro Tem David Meade. We have almost 30 co-sponsors and passed out of the House Education Committee 17-0 and passed 91-0 on the floor

of the House of Representatives. The legislation will now be heard for discussion tomorrow in the Senate Education Committee at 11:00 a.m. If you want to tune in and hear my testimony just visit the legislative live feed from KET. We continue to meet with legislators to discuss the need for the program (market demand for primary care physicians especially in rural and other underserved areas of Kentucky), to explain why the program is a natural fit for ECU and to secure legislative support.

Finally, while she is not here today because she is in Frankfort, I want to give a big thank you to Amy Scarborough for her tireless work to move our legislative agenda forward during the session, but as she will tell you it is the work done between the sessions that build the relationships and credibility needed to advance ECU when there are so many other opportunities and needs in the state.

Enrollment Update

The Governor announced on January 11, 2024, that Kentucky holds the top spot in the U.S. for higher education enrollment growth compared to 2022-23. The early snapshot of our current enrollment trends is promising for another year of strong growth.

- Spring 2024 headcount enrollment is currently 4.6% greater than last year, with most growth occurring in full-time undergraduate students at nearly 4%
- Overall credit-hour enrollment is up 5.1%
- New transfer enrollment is up 10% compared to Spring 2023
- ECU Online enrollment is up 12.5% over last year
- Current projections for Fall 2024 indicate continued overall enrollment growth

Giving Day

On April 17th we will have one of the most exciting days of the year when we embark on our 6th annual Giving Day event. The goal this year is to have 2,324 donors to commemorate the historical academic year that we have had with record enrollment growth, retention and new and innovative programs that create an undeniable momentum toward the best days ahead for ECU. If you want to create a challenge, be an ambassador, or get involved in some other way for ECU Giving Day contact our team at giving@ecu.edu.

Spring 2024 Commencement

It was announced during the Fall semester that the Spring 2024 commencement will be held at Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, KY, due to construction occurring within Alumni Coliseum. Ceremonies are planned for Friday, May 10, 2024, at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. The commencement committee is hard at work ensuring we can roll out the maroon carpet and give our graduates an exceptional experience on this well-deserved day of celebration. There will be clear instructions provided soon that outline where the faculty check-in location will be, among

other details. Check go.eku.edu/Spring24 for the latest information.

President's Excellence Awards

The time has come again this year to celebrate our outstanding faculty and staff. Nominations are now being accepted for deserving faculty and staff for the [2024 President's Excellence Award](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, March 1, 2024. We will host the 3rd annual President's Excellence Awards on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, on the main stage of the Center for the Arts. We will recognize both EKU milestone employees who have worked 25 years or more and President's Awards recipients.

EKU in the News

December In the News

- Apology Expert - Dr. Beth Polin
 - <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2023-12-20/eku-professor-part-of-team-researching-how-breaking-gender-roles-can-lead-to-more-effective-apologies>
- Fire and Explosion Expert - Professor Thomas Sing
 - <https://undark.org/2023/12/18/fire-deaths-science/>
- EKU, Mt. Folly Enterprises partner for \$5 million Agriculture Project
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-mt-folly-enterprises-partner-for-5-million-agriculture-project/article_7ecbaf50-95da-11ee-87bb-53fa11e4cb93.html
- Workplace Safety/KEMI
 - <https://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/eku-earns-kemi-destiny-award-for-workplace-safety-for-fifth-consecutive-year>
- Meteor Shower Expert - Dr. Mark Pitts
 - <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2023-12-14/theres-still-time-to-view-the-geminid-meteor-shower-in-kentucky>
- Best College Campuses in 2024
 - <https://www.universitymagazine.ca/best-college-campuses-in-kentucky-2024/>
- Fall 23 Graduate Feature - Tara Boneta
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/failure-is-not-an-option-tara-boneta-rises-to-the-top-of-the-eku-college/article_0b8c8da4-9461-11ee-964f-bfdf5bfb4fba.html
- Mental Health Expert - Dr. Melinda Moore
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/12/06/how-gloomy-weather-affects-our-mental-health/>
- Outdoor Public Safety Certificates
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/kentucky/new-eku-programs-aim-to-fill-much-needed-safety-roles/>
- Fall Graduation Honorary Doctorate - Dr. Aaron Thompson

- https://www.richmondregister.com/community/cpe-president-dr-aaron-thompson-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-eku/article_421ba482-92a8-11ee-a3c3-476627403e03.html
- https://www.state-journal.com/education/cpe-president-dr-aaron-thompson-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-eku/article_0ac5bb18-918f-11ee-844e-6fd91786dfff.html
- Fall 23 Graduate Feature - Bradley Lackey
 - https://www.thenewsenprise.com/features/neighbors/lackey-inspires-classmates-with-call-to-embrace-opportunities/article_12c8b9aa-fb22-537c-8c38-243fda8365b5.html
- Fall 23 Graduate Feature - Diane Gentry
 - <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2023/12/03/eku-graduate>
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/never-give-up-diane-gentry-earns-her-eku-degree-after-taking-a-17-year-pause/article_21572d46-92b4-11ee-b1e7-db2330397924.html
- Fall 23 Graduate Feature - Mac Maawac
 - https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/lexington/news/2023/12/01/eku-graduation-police-officer?cid=id-app15_m-share_s-web_cmp-app_launch_august2020_c-producer_posts_po-organic#
- Fall 23 Commencement
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eku-holds-2023-fall-commencement/>

January In the News

- Preparing Children for a New Sibling - Dr. Dan Florell
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/preparing-children-for-a-new-sibling/article_05a-ecbec-bafa-11ee-a0db-3f117e006960.html
- EKU Student to Become Richmond Police Officer
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2024/01/26/eku-student-become-richmond-police-officer-following-internship/>
- Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2024/01/25/eastern-kentucky-university-launch-study-potential-college-osteopathic-medicine/>
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/video/2024/01/24/watch-eku-considering-opening-public-college-osteopathic-medicine/>
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/ap/business/eku-launches-feasibility-study-for-a-college-of-osteopathic-medicine/article_841740f0-dc95-5192-84fa-dae3a05ca636.html
 - <https://apnews.com/press-release/globenewswire-mobile/kentucky-colleges-and>

[universities-c8_5d8d1d017f19cffc932be71b325cc8](#)

- EKU Earns KEMI Destiny Award for Workplace Safety for Fifth Consecutive Year
 - <https://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/eku-earns-kemi-destiny-award-for-workplace-safety-for-fifth-consecutive-year>
- Honors Student Earns National Award for Opioid Research
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-honors-student-earns-national-award/article_157846b4-b09a-11ee-a264-932b0235d737.html
- FAFSA Expert - Jessica Bailey
 - <https://youtu.be/8zqnOeqs0n4?si=b-p3ZxcsrOMsEWwT>
- Aviation Expert - Sean Howard
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/video/2024/01/08/watch-eku-aviation-reacts-alaska-airlines-mid-air-window-blowout/>
- 150 Years of Teaching on the Campus Beautiful
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/170076/2024/01/eku-celebrating-150-years-of-teaching-on-the-campus-beautiful/>
- EKU Ranked Among Best Bang for the Buck Colleges by Washington Monthly
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-ranked-among-best-bang-for-the-buck-colleges-by-washington-monthly/article_f1acebc0-abf0-11ee-81a8-7ffdf2a381a.html
- EKU Student Volunteers at Local Food Pantry
 - <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2024/01/02/new-years-resolution-volunteer-food-pantry#>
- Greg Stotelmyer Named Kentucky Sportscaster Of The Year
 - <https://www.google.com/url?sa=j&url=https%3A%2F%2Fnationalsportsmedia.org%2Fnews%2F59-voted-firsttime-winners-of-nsma-state-awards-five-elected-with-12-or-more-wins&uct=169884>

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

Chair Eaves thanked Dr. Zeigler for her report. He indicated that he had met with her previously and that he had asked her to begin addressing the board twice a year following graduation, to talk about the successes and failures in between.

He indicated the university is approaching the end of the budget term, so much of the next board meeting will be discussing the proposed university budget for a closer analysis so the board will have a clear understanding of the budget they will be asked to approve.

Chair Eaves mentioned that several board members have asked about the President's contract extension request which has been submitted by the President however the consensus is

that his contract should run on an academic year rather than the calendar year, which will be brought for and discussed at the May board meeting.

IV. Action Items

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Approval of Board of Regents Amended Bylaws

University Counsel, Dana Fohl addressed the board regarding a review and revision of the board bylaws which had been requested by the Chair when he began his term. His charge was to ensure that the bylaws accurately reflect the operations and actions of the board. In doing so, they cross-referenced statutes, took a look at what the university's sister institutions were doing, and presented to the board the revised bylaws for approval.

A motion was made by Regent Long to adopt the bylaws with the amendment to strike the revised calendar language and continue setting the upcoming year's board meeting dates at the last board meeting of every year. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Approval of Model Laboratory School Tuition and Fees for 2024-25

Barry Poynter addressed the board seeking approval of Model Laboratory School Tuition and Fees for 2024-25, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the Model Laboratory School Tuition and Fees for 2024-25. The motion was seconded by Regent Tye. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Approval of Endowed Match Request

Mary Beth Neiser addressed the board seeking approval of the Endowed Match requests, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the Endowed Match Requests. The motion was seconded by Regent Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approval of Land Lease with the Department of Criminal Justice Training

Counselor Fohl addressed the board seeking approval of a second amendment to the Land Lease with the Department of Criminal Justice to include a roundabout to direct the flow of traffic, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

A motion was made by Regent Long to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Discussion and/or Action Related to Board Self-Evaluation

Regent Marion, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Governance and Evaluation addressed the board regarding the results of their self-evaluation, which included the tool used to conduct the survey, the key areas of focus, and the aggregated results, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

V. Executive Session

No Executive Session was required.

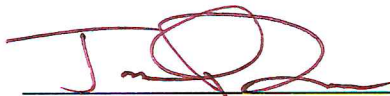
VI. New Business

President McFaddin addressed the board seeking approval of an honorary doctorate for the esteemed author, and native-born Kentuckian, Kim Michele Richardson who would be recognized at the spring commencement ceremony.

A motion was made by Regent Marion to approve the honorary doctorate for Kim Michele Richardson. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VII. Adjournment

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 Orange. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.



Jeremiah Duerson, Board Secretary

5/15/2024
Date