

Faculty Regent Report to Faculty Senate

September 13, 2021

Dear Senators,

Thank you for starting or renewing your service to the university and your departments for this 2021-22 academic year. Since our last meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Board of Regents has had two meetings. Furthermore, the Council on Faculty Statewide Leadership (COFSL) has met in conjunction with the faculty regents of the various public institutions in Kentucky to nominate three faculty members to the Governor for consideration as the appointee to fill the faculty seat on the Board of the Council on Post-Secondary Education. With respect to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents, the meeting is scheduled for September 23. Details on the upcoming meeting and the two previous meetings are provided below. Furthermore, since our last meeting Regent Nancy Collins, Student Regent Eyouel Mekonnen, and Staff Regent Philip Gump all completed their terms of service.

September 23 Meeting: The meeting is currently planned to begin at 10 a.m. in Powell 219. The meeting is a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting and will likely include university reports of interest. Typical reports of interest for this quarter's meeting include an enrollment and retention update and a financial update relative to the previously approved university budget. There is a possibility that the meeting will be held remotely, and if so, it will be livestreamed. If the meeting occurs in person, social distancing and mask wearing will be compulsory for all attendees. Seating will be arranged for attendees to maintain distancing. All Board meetings are open to the public. As more details become available with respect to the agenda, an email will be sent to the faculty at-large.

July 26 Meeting: The Board of Regents met briefly (~20 minutes) on July 26 for the primary purpose of administering the oath of office to a newly appointed regent (Ashley Ward) and to recently reappointed regent (Laura Babbage). Pursuant to KRS 164.330, the Board had to meet within thirty days of an appointment of any new members. The meeting occurred via Zoom. The agenda is viewable [here](#) and the archived livestream [viewing link is available here](#).

- Ashley Ward of Lexington is an attorney at Stites & Harbison, PLLC. He replaced Nancy Collins, whose term expired. Mr. Ward's term expires June 30, 2027.
- Laura Babbage of Lexington is the market director of mission at CHI Saint Joseph Health. She shall serve for a second-term, with the term expiring June 30, 2027.

June 17 Meeting: The Board of Regents met on June 17 at 9 a.m. on the stage of the ECU Center for the Arts. The meeting was in-person so there was no livestream or livestream archive. The agenda from the meeting is [linked here](#). The agenda book includes the 2021-22 University Budget document beginning on page 192. A thorough summary of the items presented to the Board by university leadership was detailed in a June 11th email to the university community by President McFaddin. A thorough summary of the items and the Board actions is viewable in a June 17th *Eastern Progress* story by Zachery Combest ([linked here](#)). Meeting highlights included:

- Staff Regent, Jeremiah Duerson, being administered the oath of office for when he started service on July 1.

- An investment in our faculty and staff, with the \$1,000 re-occurring increase in base salary for full-time faculty and staff. (\$1.7M budget investment)
- Providing more on-campus engagement via the Eastern Experience Fee (\$75 per student) through modification of the formerly known Campus Recreation Fee.
- Implementing a \$125 fee for Student Health for providing greater preventive and treatment care of our student's health and well-being in a holistic manner inclusive of mental and physical health.
- Implementing a 2% increase in undergraduate tuition.
- Awarding new funds to continue to support the Board's Innovation Fund support of open educational resources (OERs). The Board Chair presented very positive words for the work of Kelly Smith and those involved in OERs as OERs represent a significant savings in EKU's aid funds by providing a direct savings to the institutionally supported BookSmart program.
- Awarding funds to create a new "One Stop Shop" using the Board's Innovation Fund to setup locations in Powell and Whitlock to support students with everything from registration questions to financial aid, billing, holds, etc.

COFSL & CPE: The nominations process for the Commonwealth's Faculty Representative to the CPE Board was very positive for EKU. We had three nominees (tied for the most of any university) and Dr. Kellie Ellis of Communication Sciences & Disorders, was selected by COFSL members and affirmed by the faculty regents to be on the short-list of three nominees for the Governor's consideration to be appointed to the CPE Board.

For Tuesday, September 14th, in lieu of meeting in person for the CPE's Trusteeship Symposium, regents and trustees from Kentucky's higher education boards will attend the CPE's Governing Boards in Equity Student Success Academy virtually on Zoom from 1-5 p.m. The agenda is linked [here](#).

Again, thank you and thank you to your leadership. The last couple years serving as faculty members in the U.S. and Kentucky have presented extraordinary obstacles to being effective teachers, yet you all persevere, improve, and also give back by serving as senators. I'm particularly grateful to the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Provost for our routine Q&A on problem solving in an effort to enable faculty to better engage in their duties with improved efficiency, support, purpose, and appreciation. Furthermore, I am grateful to the Chair (and the Senate Executive Committee) for their ongoing and upcoming work related to carrying out the faculty evaluation of the President. Your service along with that of the University President and many others is appreciated for moving the university forward.

Lastly, please know you may feel free to communicate with me as I will continue to welcome your advice or suggestions. You may reach me by email (jason.marion@eku.edu) or phone (513-317-9508, 859-622-6343).

Respectfully submitted,



Jason W. Marion