

Faculty Senate Agenda
December 4, 2023
3:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ATTENDANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 6, 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: David McFaddin

PROVOST'S REPORT: Sara Zeigler

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Camden Ritchie – SGA Update (*tentative*)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Elections
 - **Executive Committee (1 vacancy)**
Replace: John Brent (*on spring sabbatical*)
Continuing Members: V. Grabeel, L. Jones, R. Lauk, S. McGuffin, G. Spira, Chair Kay, Vice Chair Blair, Regent Marion, and Provost Zeigler
 - **Faculty Welfare Committee (1 vacancy)**
Replace: Carolin Walz
Continuing Members: L. Jones, M. Manning, K. Moore, C. Streetman and HR Exec. Dir. J. Dixon
 - **Rights & Responsibilities Committee (2 vacancies)**
Replace: John Brent (*on spring sabbatical*) and Carolin Walz
Continuing Members: J. Fry, C. Ginn, S. Rico-Godoy and AAUP Rep. N. McKenney
- Other (*if any*)

REPORTS & QUESTIONS:

Executive Committee: Senator Kay
Faculty Regent: Senator Marion
COSFL: Senator Feltus

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Academic Quality Committee: Senators Hasan & Stevenson, Co-Chairs
Budget Committee: Senator Lauk, Chair
Elections/University Nominations Committee: Senator Spira, Chair
Information Technology Committee: Senator Fry, Chair
Rights & Responsibilities Committee: Senator Brent, Chair
Rules Committee: Senator Bishop-Ross, Chair
Welfare Committee: Senators Manning & Streetman, Co-Chairs

ADJOURNMENT

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 6, 2023

3:30 p.m.

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met on Monday, November 6, 2023 via Zoom. Chair Kay called the third meeting of the academic year to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

The following members were absent: M. Emanuel*, C. Perry*, J. Plutt

** Indicates prior notification of absence*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Lauk moved to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes as written, seconded by Senator Stevenson. **Motion carried.** (YES = 48 votes NO = 0 votes ABSTAIN = 0 votes) (See also: [Individual Votes](#))

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Kay announced the recent loss of Senator Carolin Walz and asked for a moment of silence in honor of her memory.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: David McFaddin

EKU Highlights in the News - October 2023

EKU received notable coverage this month in local, state, and national media outlets touting our EKU success. (See: [Article links](#) on pp. 1-3) If anyone knows a faculty member who can serve as a subject matter expert for Communications and Brand Management (CBM), please contact Sarah Baker at sarah.baker@eku.edu.

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 could provide advantages in fundraising and resource sharing.

Thanksgiving Dinner

In the spirit of Thanksgiving and recognizing your important role in making EKU such a special place, the President's Office and EKU Dining Services invite all faculty and staff to bring their family at no charge to enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner at Case Dining Hall from 5-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Dinner will include traditional Thanksgiving dishes with a variety of other options.

City of Richmond Christmas Parade

The Alumni Coliseum Lot will close early on December 1, 2023. All vehicles must be moved no later than 3:30 p.m. that day in preparation for the annual City of Richmond Christmas Parade. Please contact ECU Parking if you have any questions.

Winter Advantage Schedule (Please visit <https://hr.ecu.edu/advantage-winter-schedule> for FAQs.)

The ECU Winter Advantage Schedule begins the week of December 4, 2023, and will conclude on January 12, 2024. The core University hours during this period will be set at 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with a 30-minute lunch period; all University campuses will be closed each Friday during the period. As always, supervisors will have the flexibility to alter employees' schedules for work demands and office coverage as needed.

Winter Break

The University closes December 18, 2023 through January 1, 2024 for the holiday season.

Calendar of Events

- November 4 - Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication
- November 15 - Board of Regents Meeting
- November 21 - Thanksgiving Dinner
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 1 - City of Richmond Christmas Parade
- December 2- Graduation/Commencement

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

Provost Zeigler shared the proposal for the new academic calendar and supporting documents and asked for faculty feedback. There is one change that has to be made to the Fall 2029 draft calendar. The Richmond Christmas parade has apparently been scheduled for the first Friday in December for the past 40 years, so the date for commencement will need to be changed. Any additional feedback should be shared with Provost Zeigler within the next couple of weeks.

(See: [calendar proposal](#), [revised term length timeline](#), [classtime adjustment comparison](#), [draft calendars](#))

Senator Price questioned if the courses moving from 8 weeks to 7 weeks would qualify for redevelopment payments for faculty. Provost Zeigler responded that a course development work group is currently working on recommendations on how to handle redevelopments and provide support for both on ground and online courses.

The next Provost reception will be on November 14th from 5pm to 7pm in the Atrium of the Business College building. That will be followed by the concert band and Wind Ensemble Concert at 7:30pm in the Center for the Arts. Please attend one or both, as schedules permit.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Student Government Association Update. Camden Ritchie shared the following updates from SGA and the Student Senate.

- RSO appropriations were recently awarded. We gave away \$33,173 to 21 different registered student organizations.
- Kyra Mills was just appointed as our Director of Inclusive Excellence and Engaging Issues. She will handle things such as diversity, inclusion, sustainability, and mental health. The main thing she is currently working on is our Mental Health Week which will be held in the spring

- SGA's Safety Walk is scheduled for tonight at 6pm. Faculty are welcome to participate.
- There are still some college senators who have not met with their deans. If you don't hear from them by the end of the semester, please contact Camden.Ritchie@eku.edu.
- SGA requested that CAA vote on the suspension of the MA program in History instead of having it listed as a notification only item on the agenda. The proposal was voted down 7 to 6.

Policy Updates. Lauren Keeler shared links for the following administrative regulations that are available for review on the Policies website.

1. Administrative Regulation 6.2.2 ADR – [Contract Review, Approval, and Execution](#)
2. Administrative Regulation 11.2.5 ADR – [Social Media Communications](#)

Lauren Keeler and Lynnette Noblitt provided a brief update on the [Academic Regulation 4.7.4 ACR – Faculty Grievances](#) which is available for review and comment on the Policies website until Friday. The previous regulation that was reviewed by Faculty Senate had a lot of administrative oversight, and this new revision attempts to focus more on faculty involvement in the roles of the faculty group and liaison, as well as a jurisdictional committee. That responsibility is currently held by Associate Provost Jennifer Wies, but now that jurisdictional determination would be in the hands of a committee.

Senator Lauk asked if the faculty advocate position was removed in the new regulation version. Professor Noblitt stated that when there was a faculty advocate on staff there was not a lot of interest shown in using her services. So, it was thought that the money could be better spent on faculty lines, and the position was eliminated. Then, a faculty member was appointed to serve as a sort of mediator, but she felt that the role was misunderstood and again, the services were underutilized.

AAUP Representative Nancy McKenney stated that the original senate proposal called for a mediator and a mandatory mediation process prior to a grievance being filed and asked if that was considered by the drafting team. Ms. Keeler responded that the drafting team started with the 2021 Faculty Senate draft, so it was discussed. However, that involved a budgetary consideration, and the resources for that are not available at this time.

Senator Newhart asked why Faculty Senate no longer gets to vote on policies. In response, Lauren Keeler stated that Faculty Senate has not voted to approve any policies since probably 2019. Policies and regulations are sent to Faculty Senate as notification that the documents are available for review and comment on the Policies website. The idea is that Faculty Senate can meet, discuss, and express concerns at that time. The policy or regulation then proceeds through the vetting process. Since this is an academic regulation, it is approved by the Provost Council, the Provost, and then the President.

Professor Noblitt announced that the Grievance Policy Drafting Team will be meeting tomorrow and again later this week, so the committee is continuing to work on this. If anyone has additional comments, please email Lynnette.Noblitt@eku.edu or Lauren.Keeler@eku.edu.

NEW BUSINESS:

[Report from the Council on Academic Affairs.](#) Associate Provost Jennifer Wies presented one new program (BFA in Documentary Film Production) for action. Senator Cogdill moved approval, seconded by Senator Stevenson. **Motion carried.** (YES = 41 votes NO = 1 vote ABSTAIN = 6 votes) (See also: [Individual Votes](#))

Items 2-12 were presented for notification only.

GENERAL & STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

REPORT FROM SENATE CHAIR: Senator Kay

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on October 23, 2023. The committee discussed some questions regarding the process for the program closure of the MA in History and the decision to use BloomBoard. In addition, the committee is working with the Rules Committee to develop a faculty section to add to the new Employee Handbook.

The next “Problem Solvers” meeting with the Provost is scheduled for November 16th.

Vice Chair Blair discussed the recent work of the Welfare Committee at the fall forum sponsored by the AAUP on October 5th.

Vice Chair Blair and I are still serving on the 8KBY28 working group, which is drafting some initial plans for increasing the number of online students enrolled at ECU to 8000 by 2028. We held a couple of focus group discussions and gathered a lot of useful insights from faculty. If you have any input to share, please contact us.

We had a successful Lunch and Learn event on October 30th. The President answered questions and led a productive discussion.

We continue to receive a lot of comments via the anonymous virtual suggestion box on the Faculty Senate website, and we are forwarding the suggestions to relevant individuals or committees. We also share the comments with Provost Zeigler and Regent Marion as part of the Problem Solvers meetings. Here are some recent topics:

- Scholarships for underrepresented groups
- Tuition increases
- Compensation
- Therapy dogs
- First-day drops
- Support for students just prior to spring semester
- IDC
- 8KBY28
- Thanksgiving break
- Student commencement speakers
- Building temperature
- Travel reimbursement

We have received several comments related to building maintenance, temperatures, etc. Those have been forwarded to Associate Vice President Makinen, who addressed them immediately. Please note that every building should have a building supervisor or coordinator, so any concerns about the status of a building should first be reported to the building coordinator so they can submit a work order to Facilities Management.

Provost Zeigler and the Office of Human Resources helped me to acquire a data set that contains information on faculty turnover. The data will be analyzed by a couple of faculty members with statistical expertise from different colleges: Dr. Kerem Ozan Kalkan from the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences; and Dr. Samuel Kakraba from the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. A summary of the data will be presented at the next Board of Regents meeting.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REGENT: Senator Marion

The Board of Regents had a special meeting on October 16, 2023 due to the recent appointment of Regent Michael Garland. The Board of Regents will be having their fourth quarterly meeting of the year on Wednesday, November 15th at 9am in the Powell Building.

Regarding the October 16th meeting of the Board, the [agenda](#) was focused on newly appointed Regent Michael Garland taking Kentucky's oath of office, and then the statutory required election of the Vice Chair, Board Secretary, and Treasurer following a change in the Board membership. The officers of the Board were re-elected.

Council on Post-Secondary Education Updates:

The CPE is hosting their 2023 Higher EDquity Symposium at Eastern Kentucky University on November 13 and 14. To learn more, view the link [here](#).

The first session of the 2023 Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Webinar: All members of Kentucky's postsecondary education governing boards are invited to attend and participate in the annual "Trusteeship" conferences held by CPE. For this year, CPE decided to do the conference virtually over a period of weeks. The first webinar was with the Lumina Foundation's President and CEO, Jaime Merisotis. In the webinar, Merisotis discussed trends in higher education and how board members may think appropriately and look/think beyond their university for ensuring institutional relevance and responsiveness to issues impacting our local, national and global citizenries. A replay of this one-hour webinar is available from the CPE.

Closing:

In addition to the regular teaching, service, scholarship, and outreach duties, this last month has been one with many university and community events. One included the commemoration of the [new El Centro space](#) in the library and recently this weekend, [the new Veterans Memorial was dedicated](#) in the Carloftis Garden. If your circumstances permit, or if you have students who you think would benefit from knowing, please feel free to share and visit.

REPORT FROM COSFL: Senator Feltus

COSFL met on October 29th, and two main issues were discussed: 1) shared governance and 2) Senate Joint Resolution 98. In order to get a better idea of how shared governance looks like around the state, the representatives from each of the different universities and colleges talked about their experiences at their own institutions.

The other issue discussed was [Senate Joint Resolution 98](#). The resolution requires CPE to conduct a study on the impact and feasibility of a potential 4-year public university in southeastern Kentucky. The study will consider current and projected population conditions and trends for the comprehensive 4-year university assuming academic programs from the technical and community college system. The report from CPE is due in December. While the report is not yet finalized, some information is available:

- They have gotten input from stakeholders across Kentucky, and the basic thing that they have found is that there are areas for improvement in post-secondary education.
- Constructing a new 4-year university in southeastern Kentucky is not practical, so it probably will not happen.

- Acquiring an existing private university to transform to a public university would be too costly, and therefore there should be some restructuring of the technical college system based on that.
- What is needed is strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the transfers from the technical colleges to the 4-year universities and playing on those strengths.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Quality Committee. Senator Stevenson reported that the committee met on October 16th. In future the meetings will be scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 9am on Zoom. Charges from last year were reviewed, and the items remaining for this year is to look at evaluating satisfaction with Bartleby and to look at enrollment trends on campus. As the LMS system is changing and Bartleby is a part of that, the issue was put on hold until after the LMS is decided later this month.

Our current focus is on gathering data on setting priority registration potentially for student parents. Robyn Moreland, Director for the Center for Student Parents, has gathered some data for us that we will review at our next meeting on Monday, November 20th.

Budget Committee. Senator Lauk announced that the Budget Committee will have a joint meeting with the Executive Committee for a budget overview with Barry Poynter and his staff on Monday, November 27th.

Elections & University Nominations Committee. Senator Spira stated that the committee met on Monday, October 16th to review the current charges and to begin work on revisions to our internal procedures. Our second charge was about notifying all faculty about available university committee vacancies. We investigated and learned that the Slate team is developing an automated process to send out to faculty once a year on university committee opportunities.

Information Technology Committee. Senator Fry reported that the committee met on November 2nd and reviewed the charges for the year.

Several colleagues have shared with us that the quarantine functionality in our email system is not as effective as it should be. At our next meeting, we plan to draft a Google form to send out to Faculty Senate in the spring to learn about the senators' experiences with the quarantine tool.

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee. Senator Brent shared that the committee is primarily focused on reviewing the Policy on Policies 1.1.1. To recap, our committee is:

- Reviewing any policy changes that have been made since Policy 1.1.1 was changed in June, 2021.
- Checking with benchmark institutions to look at the role of their Faculty Senate in regards to the decision-making process within those universities.
 - The committee is currently reviewing about 15 different share governance documents to find 5 to 8 themes to help develop a new idea of shared governance. One of the big tasks is to not only identify these themes, but to figure out how to translate these themes into actual avenues and practices moving forward to move the rhetoric of shared governance into the actual practice of shared governance.
- Taking stock of all policies and procedures at ECU and going through them one at a time to identify which of the ones that have been revised since June 2021 should come through Faculty Senate for purview, oversight, and voting.
 - The reason for doing this is that the rationale that was given for the recent change to Policy 1.1.1 was that faculty were being asked to weigh in on things that were not faculty related.

We hope to have a brief summary to present to Senate in the early spring so we can identify next steps for the academic campus moving forward.

Chair Kay noted that in talking with President McFaddin about this he seemed willing to consider updating the Policy on Policies and Regulations.

Rules Committee. Senator Bishop-Ross reported that the committee last met on October 30th. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th.

Chair Kay reached out to ask the Rules Committee to work with the Executive Committee to create a faculty addendum to add to the new Employee Handbook.

An email was distributed to all standing committee chairs asking that they review their internal procedures and submit any changes to Senator Bishop-Ross by January 30th.

Faculty Welfare Committee. Senator Manning stated that the committee met last month and reviewed their charges. They also started generating a question database on Jaggaer and they may do a focus group or a survey at some point. If there are any questions about Jaggaer, please forward those to one of the committee members.

In addition, the committee reviewed some of the comments submitted anonymously to the Senate's suggestion box. As a result, we have scheduled a meeting next week with our partners through HR about the insurance and medications that are not currently covered by our insurance.

ADJOURNMENT:

Senator Lauk moved to adjourn, seconded by Senator Buck, at approximately 5:30pm.

Timestamp	Email Address	Do you approve of the minutes for the October 2, 2023 meeting of the Faculty Senate?
11/6/2023 15:37:50	luke.dodd@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:50	vonja.grabeel@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:51	maria.bane@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:51	katie.moore@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:52	chad.cogdill@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:52	thomas.couvillon@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:53	sarah.feltus@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:53	jennifer.merrick@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:54	james.blair@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:54	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:54	amy.braccia@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:55	david.coffey@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:55	erin.stevenson@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:55	james.kirby.easterling@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:55	jason.fry@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:55	marie.manning@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:56	alison.buck@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:56	lisa.jones@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:56	karim.abdelhay@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:56	sarah.hazeldermyer@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:58	fatima.hasan@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:58	matthew.howell@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:59	raymond.lauk@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:59	james.keller@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:37:59	laura.rowe@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:00	melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:00	abby.brooks@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:00	vigs.chandra@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:00	peter.edwards@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:02	laura.newhart@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:02	nedim.slijepcevic@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:02	john.brent@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:03	jerry.palmer@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:03	brian.clark@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:04	jilliane.mccardle@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:05	adam.lawson@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:06	erin.eliasen@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:07	sheri.mcguiffin@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:07	beth.killian@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:08	cassandra.ginn@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:09	jessica.price@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:10	curtis.streetman@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:17	laura.edwards@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:18	sara.ricogodoy@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:20	geela.spira@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:41	john.settimi@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:44	steve.szabo@eku.edu	Yes
11/6/2023 15:38:50	david.stumbo@eku.edu	Yes

Timestamp	Email Address	Do you approve of the new program from CAA: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Documentary Film Production (The Institute for Creative and Collaborative Arts, CLAS
11/6/2023 16:34:00	james.blair@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:01	chad.cogdill@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:01	lisa.jones@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:02	vigs.chandra@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:02	jilliane.mccardle@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:02	abby.brooks@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:02	vonja.grabeel@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:03	kim.parsons@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:03	erin.eliasen@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:04	james.keller@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:04	laura.edwards@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:04	katie.moore@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:06	david.coffey@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:06	james.kirby.easterling@eku.edu	Do Not Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:06	melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:06	raymond.lauk@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:07	erin.stevenson@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:07	thomas.couvillon@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:08	marie.manning@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:08	jessica.price@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:09	jennifer.merrick@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:10	fatima.hasan@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:10	sarah.feltus@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:11	nedim.slijepcevic@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:14	brian.clark@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:15	sheri.mcguffin@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:15	todd.hartch@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:16	karim.abdelhay@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:16	jerry.palmer@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:16	jason.fry@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:16	john.settimi@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:16	geela.spira@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:16	matthew.howell@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:17	peter.edwards@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:18	laura.rowe@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:19	david.fifer@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:19	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:21	maria.bane@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:21	cassandra.ginn@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:26	laura.newhart@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:27	david.stumbo@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:29	adam.lawson@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:32	sara.ricogodoy@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:36	luke.dodd@eku.edu	Approve

11/6/2023 16:34:41 alison.buck@eku.edu	Abstain
11/6/2023 16:34:45 steve.szabo@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:34:49 sarah.hazelmeyer@eku.edu	Approve
11/6/2023 16:37:35 jana.mayer@eku.edu	Approve



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: December 4, 2023
RE: Faculty Senate December Report

December is upon us—the season of giving, the season of reflection, the season of celebration. As we send our Fall graduates into the world and the remainder of our student body off for a restful winter break, I know that we, too, could all take this opportunity to catch up and recharge. I hope each of you takes this time to spend with friends and family.

EKU Highlights in the News-November 2023

The following highlights received coverage in local, state, and national media outlets touting our EKU success. If you are a faculty member or know one who can serve as a subject matter expert for Communications and Brand Management (CBM), please contact Sarah Baker at sarah.baker@eku.edu.

In the news:

- 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 Graduate Feature - Diane Gentry
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/11/30/eku-student-graduating-after-17-year-pause/>
- Suicide Expert - Dr. Melinda Moore
 - <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2023/11/30/deaths-by-suicide-reach-highest-number-ever-recorded-ideation-likely-higher-expert-says/>
- Dr. Jill Campbell - Teachers Who Made a Difference Award Recipient
 - <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2023/11/30/teachers-making-a-difference-honored-#>
- Fall 23 Commencement:
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-to-honor-graduates-at-fall-commencement-ceremonies-dec-2/article_23619eac-8d2b-11ee-a8f2-cff442f50aa3.html
- Gen 1 Conference
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-celebrates-national-first-generation-college-students-day/article_c3d9c2b6-8956-11ee-8105-0bf22025efe7.html
- Cafe Burrier Feature
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/local/eku-students-get-hands-on-restaurant-experience-at-cafe-burrier/>
- Food and Nutrition Expert - Chef Sang
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/local/eku-food-and-nutrition-expert-speaks-on-thanksgiving-cooking-safety/>
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eku-culinary-chef-shares-holiday-food-safety-tips/>
- Nursing Program Feature
 - <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2023/11/20/eku-nursing-program>
- Child Psychology Expert - Dr. Dan Florell
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/flying-with-kids-for-thanksgiving/article_ddfbcc58-8572-11ee-9b2c-a7a139099535.html

Eastern Kentucky University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educational Institution

- Best for Vets Ranking
 - [https://www.lanereport.com/169207/2023/11/eku-holds-kentuckys-highest-rank-in-military-times-best-for-vets-colleges/#:~:text=Eastern%20Kentucky%20University%20\(EKU\)%20ranks,members%20and%20veterans%20in%20Appalachia](https://www.lanereport.com/169207/2023/11/eku-holds-kentuckys-highest-rank-in-military-times-best-for-vets-colleges/#:~:text=Eastern%20Kentucky%20University%20(EKU)%20ranks,members%20and%20veterans%20in%20Appalachia)
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-ranks-highest-in-kentucky-in-military-times-best-for-vets-colleges/article_888d029a-8573-11ee-ac37-6bfcf11e08fd.html
- Child & Family Studies/Child Care Expert - Dr. Rebecca Crawford
 - <https://www.parents.com/save-the-children-helping-to-address-child-care-shortage-8386544>
- ECU Campus Recreation Feature
 - <https://campusrecmag.com/becoming-more-inclusive-rec/>
- Public Political Polling Expert - Dr. Matthew Howell
 - <https://www.inkl.com/news/eku-government-professor-discusses-public-political-polling>
- Veterans Memorial Dedication
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-unveils-new-veterans-memorial-site-at-carloftis-garden/article_7c332172-7b24-11ee-8a90-bf3a2ecc1b51.html
 - <https://news.yahoo.com/eku-unveils-veterans-memorial-carloftis-035900042.html>
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/11/05/eku-unveils-new-veteran-memorial/>
 - <https://garrardcentralrecord.com/news-briefs/2023/11/4/eku-commemorates-new-veterans-memorial-during-ribbon-cutting-ceremony>
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eku-leaders-cut-ribbon-on-new-veteran-memorial/>
- Nursing Feature - NCLEX Pass Rate
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eastern-kentucky-university-school-of-nursing-achieves-100-pass-rate-in-recent-aasn-cohort/article_94aa5304-7a4f-11ee-87ab-d7db5e4a0983.html
- Hannah Gabbard Homeland Security
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/homeland-security-major-lands-d-c-internship/article_8c0a9630-78f3-11ee-8f6f-ef1f3b14d0e0.html

Graduation Success

Fall 2023 Graduation was a great success. Thanks to your hard work as faculty, we recognized 1,313 graduates: 134 certificates, 46 associate degrees, 866 bachelor's degrees, 246 master's degrees, 3 post-master's certificates and 18 doctoral degrees. This year's graduates range in age from 19 to 66. They came from 15 countries, 42 states and 102 Kentucky counties. Of this class, 43% are the first in their families to attain a higher education degree. In addition, we proudly honored ECU alumnus Dr. Aaron Thompson for his distinguished service to humanity with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

2024 Legislative Session

The 60-day 2024 legislative session begins on January 2 and will end on April 15. In addition to the state budget, we expect bills regarding higher education related to affordability and student success.

CPE has released the following documents on Senate Joint Resolution 98:

- [SJR 98 Study Recommendations](#)
- [SJR 98 Executive Summary](#)
- [Slides - SJR 98 Study - Nov 2023](#)

Also, I'd like to thank Dr. Lynnette Noblitt and Dr. Steve Barracca for their hard work on the Colonels at the Capitol Internship Program. During the 2023 legislative session, we had seven interns working with legislators. The program was so successful, we asked Dr. Noblitt and Dr. Barracca to try to expand the program. In 2024, we will have 13 interns, assigned to Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate.

If you plan to visit Frankfort with students during the legislative session and need assistance with setting up meetings or logistics, feel free to call Amy Scarborough at 859-353-2104 or email amy.scarborough@eku.edu.

Winter Advantage Schedule

Reminder once again that the ECU Winter Advantage Schedule begins the week of December 4, 2023, and will conclude on January 12, 2024. The core University hours during this period will be set at 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, with a 30-minute lunch period; all University campuses will be closed each Friday during the period. As always, supervisors will have the flexibility to alter employees' schedules for work demands and office coverage as needed.

Calendar of Events

December 4, 2023-Winter Session Begins

December 18, 2023-Campus Closes

January 2, 2024-Campus Opens

January 15, 2024-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day-Offices Closed

January 16, 2024-Spring Session Begins

As we bid farewell to the 2023 calendar year, I hope you each know how much your leadership in this past year has impacted ECU. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin

President

Executive Committee Report
December 4, 2023
Lisa W. Kay, Faculty Senate Chair

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on November 20, 2023. Following the pre-meeting with the President, the approval of the October minutes, and the Provost's report, the committee discussed targeted scholarships for underrepresented groups with University Counsel Dana Fohl. The committee approved the tentative guest for the December Faculty Senate meeting, and liaisons provided updates on committee work.

Regent Marion, Vice Chair Blair, and I had a "Problem Solvers" meeting with the Provost on November 16th. Some topics included online sections, class/lab fees, the travel approval process, first-day drops, the catalog, banking for student organizations, curriculum processes, and issues from the Faculty Senate Virtual Suggestion Box.

I am scheduled to meet with the President on December 14th.

Vice Chair Blair and I are still serving on the 8Kby28 working group, which is drafting some initial plans for increasing the number of online students enrolled at ECU to 8000 by 2028. I emailed faculty to encourage them to fill out the survey regarding ECU Online and 8Kby28. We have not seen a summary of those results yet.

The drafting team tasked with updating the Faculty Grievances Regulation has completed its work after addressing the feedback that was received during the comment period.

Vice Chair Blair and I continue to read all of the comments received via the anonymous virtual suggestion box on the Faculty Senate website, and we forward suggestions to relevant individuals or committees as appropriate. We also share the comments with Provost Zeigler and Regent Marion as part of our Problem Solvers meetings. Here are some topics of recent comments:

- Tuition waivers
- Use of AI tools for grading
- 8Kby28
- Course evaluations

You may recall that course evaluations open at the 78% mark of the relevant term and close at the 94% of the term in order to avoid being open during finals week of the full semester, per a recommendation from the Faculty Senate a few years back.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Vice Chair Blair (james.blair@ecu.edu) or me (lisa.kay@ecu.edu).

Faculty Regent Report to Faculty Senate

December 4, 2023

Dear Senators,

For my report to Faculty Senate, I strive to summarize the most recent meeting of the Board of Regents on Wednesday, November 15. In addition to this update, the *Eastern Progress* summarized the meeting in their article [linked here](#). The Board's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21.

The Board followed their published meeting agenda posted online on the Board's agenda page ([linked here](#)).

First on the agenda were reports. Summaries of those reports pertaining the university's independent audit, finances, academic affairs, enrollment, and legislative matters are provided below the information pertaining to the matters on the Board's action agenda.

From the Board's action agenda, the Board took up the following:

- The Board approved **Personnel Actions** ([linked here](#)).
- The Board approved the **Sabbatical Program Recommendations** ([linked here](#))
 - There was some discussion regarding the benefit of sabbaticals to the university and the process for evaluating sabbatical application. The Provost and I both spoke towards the benefit of these programs, and included within that discussion was how many sabbaticals have limited or even no cost to the university. Programs including prestigious fellowships from AAAS, ACE, NEA, and Fulbright depend upon sabbaticals. The Provost agreed to put forward a report of prior sabbatical participants, outcomes, university costs, and information on how persons may apply.
- The Board approved the **Model Lab School Policy Updates** ([linked here](#)).
- The Board approved **Staff Emeritus status for Tim Matthews** ([linked here](#)).
- **The Report from the Council on Academic Affairs** ([linked here](#)) was ultimately approved but with some revision.
 - The new program (BFA in Documentary Film Production) was not included in the recommendation from CAA to the Board.
 - The **Program Closures** (Honors Certificate, Applied Creative Thinking Certificate, and MA in History) were approved by the Board. A motion to refer the MA in History closure to the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) to vote on the matter was seconded and discussed. The motion to refer to CAA failed. Ultimately, the Board was convinced by the Provost's description of current and recent enrollment in the program, career opportunities, changes in legislation reducing the employment-related benefits of the MA History degree for Kentucky educators, and the fact that CAA voted (7-6) not to move the closure item from an informational item on their agenda to their action (voting) agenda.

- **Board Action on New Programs, Closures/Suspensions:** A motion was made and approved by the Board charging the President and the university's administrative team to bring to the Board a revised (or new) policy or regulation for approving new programs and for program closures/suspensions. The new or revised policy/regulation would require additional stakeholder engagement and would harmonize the academic [program review](#) and [CAA procedures](#).
- The Board approved the **Honorary Degree for Dr. Aaron Thompson** ([linked here](#)), which was presented at the commencement ceremony this last weekend.
- The Board approved the **Resolution Recognizing Juan Castro's service to EKU and Kentucky**.
- The Board accepted its **Annual Evaluation and Assessment of the President** ([linked here](#)) as provided by the *ad hoc* Committee on Governance and Evaluation.
 - The annual assessment document provided an assessment of strengths and opportunities for the President as informed by the results of the [survey](#) of stakeholders prescribed by Board [procedures approved](#) for the second-year annual review.
 - The procedures and [university policy](#) indicate that next year (year 3), all faculty eligible to participate in the Faculty Regent election processes will be invited to participate in a questionnaire and process that provides feedback to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee then will use that information to develop and transmit a summary report to the President and Board of Regents.

Reports:

Audit Report: The first item on the agenda was a presentation and Q&A with the external/independent auditor (Crowe LLP). There were no concerns identified in the report. Based upon feedback received, I inquired about the increase in bond-related liabilities (\$44 million year-over-year). The President confirmed these were related to the ongoing improvements in university housing. A review of the financial update included in the Board Agenda shows that housing is currently generating around \$23 million per year and is operating entirely as a self-sufficient portion of the university from housing revenues. Maintaining a robust on-campus student population in university housing will remain essential for time going forward. Chair Eaves asked if the auditor could confidently state that the audit was a 'clean audit', to which the auditor replied yes, it was a clean audit. The **audit report** ([linked here](#)) was approved as part of the action agenda at the meeting.

Financial Update: Vice President Poynter presented the Financial Update ([linked here](#)). The Budget office forecasted an approximate increase of \$10M in tuition and fee revenue across the whole fiscal year from enrollment growth and a modest increase in tuition revenue. Comparing the end-of-month data from September 2023 versus 2022, \$80.02 M in tuition and fee revenue was received versus \$74.95M, respectively, putting the university on track towards meeting the budget target, having increased fall semester revenue by \$5.08M year-over-year. As of the end-of-September 2023, the university also increased expenses in most areas, with scholarships and fellowships being the area where costs increased the most year-over-year.

Overall, in comparing year-over-year revenues and expenses, for all areas, including auxiliaries, the university is in a comparable if not slightly better position than the prior year. Given current state-support levels, the university budget is still very heavily driven by tuition and fee revenue. The revenues from ECU Housing increased as more beds were utilized, and demand has remained strong.

Academic Affairs Update: Dr. Zeigler, Vice President & Provost, provided an Academic Affairs Update ([linked here](#)). The Provost commended faculty and academic staff for having strong four-week progress report submissions as evidence shows the timing of that feedback contributes appreciably to our retention and enrollment efforts. The Provost also provided positive remarks about the Major Expo involvement by colleges, departments, faculty, and staff that enabled over 600 exploratory students in first-year courses an opportunity to discover possible majors. The value of students having a major and a degree plan early in their college career was highlighted to the Board as another important tool for supporting students to get to graduation. Some highlighted activities were presented regarding the College of Business's career fairs and community engagement activities, as well as the numerous ways the NOEL Studio and STEM Center are supporting students and doing so peer-to-peer. The Provost presented a Student Profile on Rosalie Richburg from Mathematics, and then shared a summary of the Thank-a-Professor recognitions by ECU students to our faculty.

Student Success (Enrollment) Update: Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Vice President for Student Success and Enrollment Management, provided an enrollment update ([linked here](#)). The university's total enrollment was reported as approximately 15,000 students. The total number of freshmen was 2,794, presenting a 1.6% increase year-over-year. ECU Online enrollment is up 9.8%, total underrepresented minority (URM) enrollment is up 8.4%. The report also stated that Hispanic/Latino enrollment increased 17.3%. The *Eastern Progress* recently covered the topic in an article, "[Latinx retention at ECU Experiences increase](#)". Overall, ECU's Freshmen Retention rate was emphasized as vitally important to the university, which experienced 79.6% retention from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. Dr. Wasson also presented year-over-year predicted changes in enrollment for Spring 2023, showing 9.1% increases overall, 5.1% in full-time undergraduates, and 21% in ECU Online. For Fall 2024, ECU has a new freshmen goal of 3,100, and currently applications and admits are up 1% and 2%, respectively. Based upon previous presentations that approximately 50% of the freshmen population has been described as "First Gen", I asked about that population of students and how they are performing this term. Dr. Wasson reported that there was nothing alarming noted through the 4th week progress reports with this freshmen class, which as of the time of the Board meeting, was suggestive that our collective efforts as a university are working well in performing our noble mission as a school of opportunity.

Legislative Affairs Update: Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community, and Corporate Relations Officer, presented a [Legislative Preview](#) pertaining to Kentucky's 2024 Legislative Session to start on January 2. In brief, there are 16 alumni in the legislature. Nine legislators have sponsored ECU students as interns. ECU's Legislator Day was summarized where several Board members joined ECU's Faculty and Staff to spotlight programs with hands-on activities

and live demos related to Fire Science, Nursing, Aviation, among others. ECU plans to request additional funds for Alumni Coliseum, Model Lab School, and instructional space for aviation at the airport. ECU plans to join other universities and CPE in requesting additional funds to continue “asset preservation” for addressing aging infrastructure and needed upgrades in existing facilities. ECU is asking for updates to our operating budget to account for the rising costs experienced since 2020, funds to address the substantial increase in Kentucky’s increased fire/tornado insurance premiums for public assets, funding for vocational rehabilitation and related programs funded by ECU on behalf of that state program, and a per pupil appropriation for the Model Lab School.

Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA Reports: The reports of the three governance organizations were provided in-person. The reports are [linked here](#).

Closing: Overall, the Board meeting was more dense than usual for December. The February meeting will be presumably a lighter agenda. The May meeting is the next meeting with a rather rich agenda, tentatively planned for May 15.

I appreciate your support this last semester and I appreciate the perspectives and wisdom I have received from several Senators throughout this term. I hope I have used that wisdom wisely and have enabled your perspectives to contribute towards improving the university now and going forward. Please know that you may reach me over the break or anytime by email (jason.marion@ecu.edu) or phone/text at 513-317-9508. Thank you again for your service and I hope you have a rewarding Holiday season.

Sincerely,
Jason