



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: September 8, 2025
RE: Faculty Senate September Report

Welcome back to the Campus Beautiful. There is always excitement in the air when the students return to campus. I am pleased to welcome over 50 new faculty members to EKU. I know everyone on the Faculty Senate is welcoming those new team members with open arms.

2025-2026 Campus Focus: Intentionality

This year's Faculty and Staff Convocation theme mirrored my focus for campus this year: *INTENTIONALITY*. I want us as a campus community to be intentional about everything from financial aid packaging and space utilization to academic programming and fundraising. In the competitive landscape of higher education, the declining number of graduating high school students, the stigma on the value of higher education, and reduction in financial support in higher education over the past 20 years, it is critical we examine what we do and why we are doing it—an exercise that fits to our vision of being “excellent in all that we choose to do.”

Facilities Update

We continue to move forward on substantial projects across campus:

- Model Laboratory School: Preliminary construction work is complete on Model Laboratory Schools, and we are entering the earthmoving phase of construction. For those located on South Campus, please be aware that you will have modest blasting as the teams are preparing the site.
- Elevators: Rowlett elevator is now replaced and functional. We are waiting on parts for the Campbell and Keen Johnson elevators and anticipate those being complete in the fall.
- North Kit Carson Drive Tree Lining: The Tree Care Committee including Dr. Dave Brown, Dr. Jennifer Koslow and others are assisting with the tree selection for tree lining for Kit Carson Drive. Once selected, these new canopy tree species will be planted.

Enrollment Update

This year, enrollment numbers remained steady with our overall student numbers increasing by approximately 300 students. Our online and non-traditional student numbers increased, while our overall freshman enrollment slightly decreased. This decrease in freshmen occurred despite our application numbers being high. This tells us that the stress of the 45 days of discussion regarding PELL funding greatly impacted students' decision making in the final decision days, leading many of them to delay enrollment or opt for community college.

Academic Workgroups

As part of academic intentionality, I am awaiting feedback from four working groups led by Provost Zeigler in coordination with Dean Baggett and Dean Cannon. Provost Zeigler will have information for Faculty Senate in December regarding the review of the following workgroups:

- Interdisciplinary Work With Artificial Intelligence (Lead: Dean Martin and Dr. Wiggins)
- Reassignment Time (Lead: Dean Cannon)
- Compensation Analysis for Part-Time and Overloads in all Modalities (Lead: Dean Baggett)
- Reassigned Time (Lead: Dean Cannon)

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Commencement

Fall Commencement returns to the Center for the Arts this year on Thursday, December 4, and Friday, December 5. The smaller venue not only makes a great commencement experience for graduates and families, it also enables us to be a good community partner and have our ceremonies cleared out in preparation for the City of Richmond Christmas Parade. The commencement committee reviewed feedback from faculty from the last Fall Commencement and will be adopting many of the faculty recommendations in this year's ceremony.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Commencement taking place in Alumni Coliseum on Friday, May 8, 2026. If you have any commencement questions, please contact your college's commencement coordinator or visit the [EKU Graduation](#) page.

Space Utilization and Campus Planning

I want to thank all the faculty who provided feedback, either in small group sessions or at Convocation, to the Master Planning process. Lord Aeck Sargent has consistently expressed how impressed they have been with the high level of engagement and positive discourse throughout this process. The final proposal will be presented at the November Board of Regents meeting and distributed to campus for implementation.

College of Osteopathic Medicine Update

Per Senate Bill 77, passed during the 2025 legislative session, ECU has submitted the initial documentation and justification for establishing the first public Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program in Kentucky. Once this initial step is approved by CPE later in this fall, Dr. Brad Hall will continue to lead this critical project through the necessary steps required by SB77 and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA). The next major milestones for this project will be securing the necessary escrow funds and facility planning associated with ECU's top priority capital project in the 2026 legislative session.

August ECU In the News:

- [Veterans Find Support and Success at ECU](#)
- ECU Students Expand Nursing Practice Overseas
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/183352/2025/08/global-rounds-eku-students-expand-nursing-practice-overseas/>
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4200142939829-global-rounds-eku-students-expand-nursing-practice-overseas>
- Foster Music Camp Celebrates 90 Years
 - https://www.cnhinews.com/kentucky/community/article_95a36088-7941-5b25-8593-476881c0c8b9.html
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/fostering-the-future-of-music-eku-s-foster-music-camp-celebrates-90-years/article_fe45927b-e51c-4e0b-a439-e7253f791d15.html
- [Say Hello to ECU's New Colonels](#)
- [Donor Feature: Little Vicki's Legacy and the Ferrante Family's Lasting Gift to ECU](#)
- ECU Sets Fundraising Record
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4177534047597-topping-12m-eku-sets-fundraising-record-for-2024-25>
 - https://www.kentuckytoday.com/news/eku-exceeds-fundraising-goal-at-12-million/article_4e9f5051-855a-4aea-b7e1-f97a6a2b83f1.html
 - https://www.cnhinews.com/kentucky/community/article_259449d0-a35f-5ba2-9d9d-0c97c47ae800.html
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/183075/2025/08/topping-12m-eku-sets-fundraising-record-for-2024-25/>
- [Anne M. Cizmar has been named associate dean of research administration](#)

- Out of State Tuition Rate
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-slashes-out-of-state-tuition-by-40/article_059035b0-e519-4d64-97a0-7991013d65a6.html
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/183009/2025/08/eku-cuts-out-of-state-tuition-by-40/>
 - <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2025-08-19/eastern-kentucky-university-announces-a-reduction-in-tuition-for-out-of-state-students>
 - https://www.kentuckytoday.com/news/eku-lowering-tuition-for-out-of-state-students/article_1dae0db3-e7b2-4438-a86e-0d4211d6d7d1.html
 - <https://www.wuky.org/wuky-news/2025-08-20/eku-cuts-tuition-costs-for-out-of-state-students>
- Move-in Day 2025
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/video/2025/08/14/eku-welcomes-2700-freshman-onto-campus-move-in-day/>
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/local/richmond/eastern-kentucky-university-welcomes-new-class-students-praise-affordable-tuition/>
 - <https://citizenportal.ai/articles/5565589/Richmond-City/Madison-County/Kentucky/Madison-County-Schools-Begin-Tomorrow-Amid-Traffic-Concerns-and-Comprehensive-Plan-Updates>
- Big E Welcome
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/big-e-welcome-new-students-get-ready-for-college-life/article_67f456da-26fb-4de8-ae45-8cb3fb0c5ed8.html
- [EKU addressing shortage of air traffic controllers](#)
- [New study reveals which jobs are most at risk from AI - Dr. Lisa Blue](#)
- [AI Expert: Dr. Lisa Blue](#)
- [EKU lays foundation for careers in construction management](#)

Upcoming Events

September 17: Board of Regents Meeting

September 25: Celebration of Philanthropy

October 6-7: Fall Break

October 25: Homecoming

November 12: Board of Regents Meeting

November 26-28: Thanksgiving

December 4-5: Commencement at the Center for the Arts

I hope everyone has a great start to the semester.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin

President