



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: October 13, 2025
RE: Faculty Senate October Report

Fall is upon us, mid-terms are behind us and Homecoming is right around the corner. This season is when our campus shows off its namesake as the Campus Beautiful with its vibrant fall colors. Around campus, we're working on our campus planning process and construction projects, as well as focusing on academic programs and enrollment initiatives.

Benefits and Open Enrollment

October is open enrollment for all faculty and staff. The window for this year's mandatory Online Open Enrollment is October 15 – October 29, 2025. This year we are proud of the work we have done to keep health care costs low for our faculty. We once again have minimized health plan rate increases for our employees for the upcoming plan year. This coming plan year, the University will pay approximately 73% of employee healthcare costs with employees continuing to be responsible for 27%. In addition, there are no changes to the current benefit plan.

We have also partnered with Keenan Pharmacy Solutions (replacing our partnership with the Know Your RX Coalition), which we anticipate will result in significant cost-savings for both benefits-eligible employees and the University relating to prescription medication costs. We expect this partnership to be a seamless transition and no impact to employee pharmacy access or cost.

For information regarding this year's benefit plan, visit the [2026 EKU Benefits Portal](#).

Student Enrollment Goal Met

As many of you know, October is the official mark of the enrollment data with Council for Post Secondary Education. We are happy to announce that we met our goal of 16,000 students. I want to recognize the amazing leadership of our enrollment management team, our dedicated faculty and our talented advisors who all play a pivotal role in helping us continue to reach these significant milestones. This work does not go unnoticed and I am grateful for the dedication of our entire ECU team.

Space Utilization and Campus Planning

As the final stage of our Campus Master Planning process, ECU is inviting community members to participate and provide feedback on the proposed Master Plan. This event will be held Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at the Perkins Building from 4pm-6pm. We encourage you to attend and invite your partners in the community to provide feedback.

Facilities Management/Capital Construction Updates

- **Ramsey Heat Plant Roof:** The Ramsey Heat Plant roof and infrastructure project is complete. This included adding critical redundancy capabilities.
- **Emergency Call Box:** The 67 emergency call box project is on track and will be fully installed by mid-December 2025
- **Kit Carson Steam Line:** The Kit Carson Steam Line Replacement project is nearing completion and will be operational this year to provide building heat from North Hall through the Begley Building. This 2-year project is slated for completion in March 2026.
- **Model Laboratory School:** Site development is continuing through February 2026. The design team, construction management firm, and ECU stakeholders continue to develop the building plans for a world-class instructional facility.

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- **Alumni Coliseum:** Work is progressing well with the ribbon cutting set for November 10, 2025. This phase of the project modernized the seating bowl for an enhanced customer service experience along with replacing the north side concrete stairs. The final project for this building will be a roof replacement in 2026 which will include addressing the four concrete corners.
- **Coates Building:** Exterior renovation continues to preserve and dry-in this historic building. In addition, upgrades will occur to Brock Auditorium.
- **University Drive:** Light pole replacement project will be completed by November 2025.
- **Perkins Building:** The Perkins Building patio, exterior stairs and site lighting replacement project is ongoing with completion set for December 2025.
- **Aviation Flight School:** We are currently in the process of making the final touches on the design of the aviation flight school with the intention of bidding this project in early 2026.
- **Airport Terminal Building:** The terminal building has been designed and will be out for bid in early 2026.

College of Osteopathic Medicine Update

We continue our discussions with policymakers regarding the proposed ECU College of Osteopathic Medicine in preparation for the 2026 legislative session. This week we will host a Healthcare Forum in Frankfort for legislators that will include a Healthcare Executive panel discussion to highlight the critical shortage of primary care across the Commonwealth. A few facts of interest:

- **94% of Kentucky counties face a primary care shortage**, with the Commonwealth ranking **40th** nationally for primary care workforce.
- 48 Kentucky counties have **no pediatricians**.
- 8 Kentucky counties have **no physicians** at all.
- **107 of 120 counties** are designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs).

We will continue our work to secure escrow funds, as well as funds for ECU's proposed Center for Health Innovation, ECU's top priority capital project in the 2026 legislative session. The new center will promote interdisciplinary learning, simulation, and collaboration—preparing graduates to serve where Kentucky needs them most.

Commencement

Fall Commencement returns to the Center for the Arts this year on Thursday, December 4, and Friday, December 5. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 4, 2025

- 1:00 pm: Master's and Doctoral Graduates from all Colleges
- 3:30 pm: College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science and the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
- 6:00 pm: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Friday, December 5, 2025

- 9:00 am: College of Business, the College of Health Sciences and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Please work with your Commencement Coordinators for your college with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Fall Commencement.

September ECU In the News:

- [EKU receives \\$500,000 gift from alumna Jeri Isbell to launch Global Scholars Program](#)
- [EKU dedicates 'Fanfare' at the Center for the Arts](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Expert - Dr. Melinda Moore](#)
- [These are the top colleges in KY this year, according to U.S. News and World Report](#)

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- [Kentucky Universities Harness AI for Personalized Learning and Innovation](#)
- [McFaddin delivers State of University address in Richmond](#)
- [‘Go Here, Go Anywhere’: Fire Engineering Takes ECU Grad Around the World and Back](#)
- ECU sparking be-your-own-boss entrepreneurship
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/183771/2025/09/eku-sparking-be-your-own-boss-entrepreneurship/>
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4239921048548-eku-sparking-be-your-own-boss-entrepreneurship>
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/be-your-own-boss-eku-sparks-entrepreneurship/article_651909ac-4d95-469c-b16e-675f152c936b.html
- [What impact is a tough job market having on ECU students?](#)
- [Igniting a Career: Fire and Arson Student Interns with National Park Service](#)
- [Dean Tom Martin KCV Award](#)
- Smith joins ECU as associate vice president for public affairs
 - https://www.murrayledger.com/news/smith-joins-eku-as-associate-vice-president-for-public-affairs/article_a170d80d-9b36-41ab-a493-068b0db296cb.html
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4215509319046-smith-joins-eku-as-associate-vice-president-for-public-affairs>
- [Larger E3 concert coming following Alumni Coliseum's opening](#)
- KCTCS/ECU Transfer Partnership
 - https://www.dailyindependent.com/news/eku-kctcs-partnership-reduces-time-cost-for-transfer-students/article_a73fcad9-92b2-4d1b-8b14-008c7bdbca22.html
 - <https://www.wuky.org/wuky-news/2025-09-03/kentucky-community-and-technical-college-system-and-eku-expand-partnership>
 - <https://www.lanereport.com/183471/2025/09/eku-and-kctcs-partnership-cuts-time-cost-for-transfer-students/>
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4212320728034-eku-kctcs-agree-on-transfer-plan>
<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4212734508688-eku-and-kctcs-partnership-reduces-time-and-cost-for-transfer-students>
- [Global Rounds: ECU Students Expand Nursing Practice Overseas](#)

Upcoming Events

October 21: [Faculty Lunch and Learn](#)

October 21: Community Master Planning Open House

October 24: [Homecoming Parade](#)

October 25: [Homecoming Festivities](#)

November 10: Alumni Coliseum Ribbon Cutting/Western Kentucky University Game

November 12: Board of Regents Meeting

November 26-28: Thanksgiving

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

Thanks again for your continued support and commitment to serving our students, our communities and the future of our great Commonwealth.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin
President

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