



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: November 3, 2025
RE: Faculty Senate November Report

I am happy to report it was yet another wonderful Homecoming celebrating with students, families, alumni and friends of the University. We had large crowds for events throughout the homecoming week. With Homecoming behind us, we are only five weeks from Commencement. As we celebrate the upcoming holiday of gratitude and thanks, I want you to know how much I appreciate the hard work and effort each of you puts towards your work and our students.

BookSmart

Last week EKU announced some significant modifications to our BookSmart program. Recent federal changes, initiated by Congress passing the budget reconciliation bill during the summer of 2025, created new limits concerning Pell eligibility based on a student receiving other non-Title IV grant aid. These changes, which go into effect on July 1, 2026, necessitated EKU making some changes to help manage Student Aid Indexes (SAI) to ensure no student loses access to their Pell funds. Beginning in Fall 2026, textbooks will now be provided at a negotiated discounted rate versus our current free textbook model. In addition, discussions with faculty led to review of the program. Savings seen through the change in the program will be reinvested in students through scholarships and waiver eligible student tuition. Faculty should still participate in the program to ensure textbooks are available for students through EKU BookSmart. All student questions should be directed to Big E Central. For more information visit [BookSmart webpage](#).

Scholarship Model Changes

Tomorrow we will be announcing a new scholarship model to our students creating a more competitive model with our peer sets. The new model will be effective for the 2026-2027 school year. If you have any questions or have students with questions, please have them contact Big E Central. Be on the lookout for a link to the new Experience Eastern scholarship page tomorrow for all the details and updates.

EASTERN EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP MODEL	TIER	GPA / ACT	AWARD
	Regents Award	GPA ≥ 3.8 ≥ 28 ACT or ≥ 1310 SAT	\$9,000
	President's Award	GPA 3.8-4.00	\$7,000
	One Eastern Award	GPA 3.4-3.79	\$5,000
	Excellence Award	GPA 3.00-3.39	\$3,000
	Promise Award	GPA 2.00-2.99	\$1,000



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Commencement Update: Additional Ceremony

Due to the high volume of graduates in certain ceremonies, we are adding an additional ceremony to ensure students can have enough tickets. The additional ceremony will be Friday, December 5, 2025, at 11:00am for the College of Business.

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
- **11:00 am: College of Business**

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

October ECU In the News:

ECU News Monitoring

- Words Matter: ECU Research Reveals the Best Way to Handle Negative Online Reviews
 - Targeted News Service (Print)
- [Eastern Kentucky University Recognized by Washington Monthly for Affordability](#)
- [AFSA and ECU Sign Mou](#)
- Pathways to Nursing at ECU
 - Targeted News Service (Print)
- [Scholarship Helps Students Soar to Aviation Careers](#)
- [ECU Professor Secures over \\$1 Million to Expand Student Research Opportunities](#)
- [Opening of new Model Laboratory School Pushed back to 2028](#)
- [Unstoppable Mom Finds Success as ECU Transfer Student](#)
- [ECU Hosts Homecoming This Weekend, Expect Increased Traffic](#)

Upcoming Events

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

November 12: Board of Regents Meeting

November 19: Pickleball with the Presidents

November 25: ECU Thanksgiving Meal at Case Dining Hall

November 26-28: Thanksgiving

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

I hope each of you enjoy time with friends and family during the Thanksgiving season.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin

President

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