



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: December 1, 2025
RE: Faculty Senate December Report

Early December in higher education often feels like we are at the 25th mile of a marathon. We can see the finish line, but we must push hard until the end. As students return from Thanksgiving Break, I know everyone is focused on helping them get through finals. We are so close to the finish line. Let's finish the semester strong!

Commencement

While there is so much to celebrate throughout the year, nothing is more exciting than commencement. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Center for the Arts. As a reminder, please work with your College Commencement Coordinators regarding any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Fall Commencement.

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 Health Sciences and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- 11:00 am: College of Business

Legislative Session Approaching

January brings the start of the annual general assembly session. This year is a budget session which adds an additional layer of complexity. VP Amy Scarborough and Jordan Smith are working on a variety of issues including but not limited to funding of the Center for Health Innovation and performance funding.

Amy asked me to remind everyone that the Capitol is undergoing a \$300 million renovation that will last for the next few years. This means the normal group events that have commenced annually in Frankfort will look very different—if they happen at all. Please do not schedule any events in Frankfort without working with Amy and Jordan as they will be able to best assist in making sure the experience is a quality one for you and our students.

White Hall Shrine

At the recent Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved the return of White Hall Historic Shrine back to the Commonwealth with the intention of having it go to the City of Richmond.

Over the past year, EKU's Outreach and Engagement Office, the home of operations at the White Hall Historic Shrine, assessed the long-term viability of the Historic Shrine as part of the EKU portfolio. During that assessment, the City of Richmond engaged EKU in a collaborative discussion on ways to increase tourism for the City of Richmond and the surrounding areas. The City of Richmond proposed the transfer of the White Hall State Historic Site property from EKU to the City of Richmond as a way to expand our partnership and enhance the community tourism experience.

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EKU will fulfill all scheduled events through December 31, 2025. The City of Richmond will work with EKU on any academic projects and research on the property. This is an exciting partnership between the City of Richmond and EKU, reflecting the strengthening of the town-and-gown relationship between the entities.

November EKU In the News:

- EKU Introduces New Scholarship Model With Awards for Every Kentucky Freshman
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eastern-kentucky-university-introduces-new-scholarship-model/>
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4331854493557-eku-introduces-new-scholarship-model-with-awards-for-every-kentucky-freshman>
 - https://www.easternprogress.com/news/eku-unveils-new-scholarship-model/article_1053efeb-c792-4177-b5ce-052d415fe56a.html
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eastern-kentucky-university-introduces-new-scholarship-model/>
- [EKU BookSmart to Provide Textbook Discount and Streamlined Service](#)
- [Making Every Word Count With Dyslexia Research](#)
- First Gen, First in Cyber (Print)
- EKU Celebrates Completion of Alumni Coliseum Renovations
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/sports/fan-safety-concerns-construction-costs-forced-changes-to-alumni-coliseum-renovations/article_a1550995-dd01-45a0-97e9-f7276536d7a0.html
 - <https://www.wymt.com/2025/11/10/eku-unveils-renovated-baptist-health-arena/>
 - <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2025-11-10/eku-officials-cut-the-ribbon-on-baptist-health-arena-at-alumni-coliseum-after-renovations>
 - https://www.pmg-ky2.com/cknj/sports/eku-celebrates-arena-renovations/article_e00866f5-1bcb-5583-8d0d-e6783ee4a240.html
- [Eastern Kentucky University and Lockheed Martin: More Than a Decade of Community Investment and Partnership](#)
- EKU Public Health Leads Evaluation of Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Program
 - <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4348251331921-eku-public-health-leads-evaluation-of-kentucky-lung-cancer-screening-program>
 - https://www.kentuckynewera.com/news/state/article_353c771c-310b-5022-8e06-c8bc8bc32fa4.html
 - https://www.madisoncourier.com/carroll_news_democrat/news/eku-evaluates-kentucky-s-lung-cancer-screening-program/article_5df97cf3-53a0-5c41-a8fa-62cf2d766823.html
- [Northern lights expert](#)
- [Aviation expert](#)
- [EKU Mother-Daughter Duo Share Their Transfer Experience During National Transfer Student Week](#)

Upcoming Events

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

December 17: Board of Regents Executive Committee Meeting

As we finish out the semester, I want to express how much I appreciate each of our senators for giving of your time and talents to make our institution a wonderful place for learning and growing for our students.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin
President

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