

The Faculty Welfare Committee is planning to meet early this semester with the President and Provost (per our committee charge) to discuss key faculty welfare priorities.

The committee has been reviewing faculty workload trends and is collecting data that indicate a significant shift over the past five years: overall workforce numbers at ECU have declined while student enrollment has increased. This includes a decrease in full-time faculty and hourly administrative staff, alongside a substantial increase in part-time faculty and additional administrative responsibilities related to legislation, accreditation, and compliance. Taken together, these trends point to rising workloads and fewer personnel performing more work. A formal report on these findings is in progress and is expected to be shared by the March Senate meeting.

Representation from the committee will be participating in a Caring University PLC workgroup to pilot strategies aimed at recognizing faculty achievements and strengthening community and morale.

Finally, the committee is exploring the possibility of reviving the Keene-Johnson Faculty Lounge as a hub for faculty engagement. We are soliciting interest among senators in supporting a regular Faculty Coffee Hour to encourage networking, connection, and use of this underutilized space.