



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: President David T. McFaddin

DATE: May 4, 2026

RE: Faculty Senate May Report

We are at the home stretch with only a week left in the Spring semester. This academic year was an immense success with so many wins for our faculty and students. We're incredibly proud to have been named No. 1 in the nation for Military Friendly® Schools, as well as risen to the 3rd largest public university in Kentucky for total student enrollment. Additional wins, among many others, include investment in research, philanthropic gifts to Manufacturing Engineering and Construction Management, and the passage of legislative bills that advance many of our strategic initiatives. Our success is a reflection of a team effort between the faculty and administration and I want to thank each of the Faculty Senate Members for their service and commitment to our wonderful institution.

Passing of the Gavel

Not only is this month the conclusion of our academic calendar year, it is also the transition of our Faculty Senate Chair. I would like to thank Dr. John Brent for his outstanding service to the university as the outgoing chair and welcome Dr. Matthew Howell as the incoming chair. I have had the privilege of working with a number of faculty senate chairs over the years and I continue to rely on their relationships, expertise and experiences to help inform and guide our work each and every day. I am grateful to all of those members of the faculty senate who have served and those who will serve in the days and years ahead.

Giving Day

We had a wonderfully successful giving day on April 22. This year's goal was 2,134 donors representing the number of students who graduated from EKU last spring—and we exceeded that goal. I want to thank our Alumni and Development teams that worked tirelessly to put together a great day. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the faculty that gave, reached out on social media, and those that started and participated in challenges. Giving Day is EKU at its best—working to find ways to make education more affordable for our students. We are proud to share that we broke our single-day giving record with more than \$1.1 million in funds raised.

Budget

The Board of Regents Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 6th to review the final budget proposal for the upcoming FY27 academic year. What will be discussed at that meeting will be a recap of what was shared with those who joined me at the Faculty Lunch and Learn last week.

This is the second and final meeting of the finance committee prior to the budget being taken to the full board at their regular meeting on May 13th. With diligent work from our Public Affairs team at the end of the session, we were able to restore all but approximately \$1 million dollars in state support. Our enrollment management efforts have also continued to result in positive growth for the upcoming academic year which has adjusted our enrollment assumptions to a flat prediction for next year's budget planning. Strategic investments in the proposed budget include the following:

- 2% across the board pay raise for the sixth consecutive year and fully funded rank changes for faculty **≈\$3 million**
- Year 2 of 4 funding for Excellence in Research **\$500K**
- Year 2 of 3 restoration of funding for deferred maintenance **≈\$1.5 million**
- School of Aviation capital asset acquisition (airplanes) **\$1 million**
- Increase budgeted contingency/reserve funding **\$1 million**

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Construction and Space Utilization Update

As you know we are in the process of a few significant construction projects on campus. I am pleased to report:

- Model Laboratory School: The first phase of ground work is complete on the site. Over the next few months, significant progress will be made in the construction of the shell of the building. We are still on schedule for a Fall 2028 opening.
- Coates Building-Brock Auditorium renovation is coming to a close on schedule and will be open in a few weeks in time to host a variety of events including Foster Music Camp. Work will continue on the exterior of Coates through the summer.
- Recently completed projects:
 - Emergency Call Box replacement
 - Noel Studio HVAC replacement
 - Telford Hall replacement of two elevators
 - Keen Johnson elevator replacement
 - Combs Building air handlers
 - Ashland Building cooling tower
 - Stratton Building chiller replacement
- Perkins Building plaza concrete and lighting replacement
- Upcoming summer work includes:
 - Alumni Coliseum roof replacement and bowl lighting replacement
 - Clay Hall roof replacement
 - Telford Hall mechanical room roof replacement
 - Powell Plaza concrete stairs and lighting replacement
 - Ravine lighting replacement
 - Beckham Hall concrete and sight lighting replacement
 - Whalin Building engineering program room renovations
 - Whitlock 1st floor renovation in preparation to house Student Accessibility
 - Combs Building chiller and electrical switchgear
 - Perkins Building cooling tower replacement
 - Elevator Replacements
 - Perkins Building elevator replacements
 - Foster Building elevator replacement
 - Crabbe Library elevator replacements
 - Science Building chiller replacement
 - South Hall mechanical upgrades and domestic hot water system replacement
- Future projects scheduled:
 - Keen Johnson 2nd and 3rd floor HVAC replacement (starting December 2026)
 - Dizney Building elevator replacement
 - Moberly Building elevator replacement
 - Gibson Building elevator replacement
- Whitlock Building-The moves in Whitlock are expected to be complete by the end of summer. We will send an update once all moves are complete.

Commencement

I am looking forward to seeing everyone later this week for Commencement. Many of our ceremonies are sold out which reflects the pride and excitement for our graduating students. Please reference the Commencement website with any last minute questions for both faculty and staff.

Thursday, May 7, 2026

- 6:00 p.m.: Master's and Doctoral Graduates from all Colleges

Friday, May 8, 2026

- 9:00 a.m.: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences and the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
- 1:00 p.m.: College of Health Sciences and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- 5:00 p.m.: College of Business and the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science

April in the News

- Dr. Jon Draud: Expanding Opportunity Through Education
- More Than Words: ECU Shapes Sign Language Interpreters
- Jessica Gutzwiller Honored with ECU's Young Alumni Award
- Jeri Isbell Named ECU's 2025 Philanthropist of the Year
- ECU Engineering getting \$800K investment following Toyota grant, state match
- Riedel MediorNet powers ECU broadcast workflow upgrade
- Whitnee Coy Honored with ECU's Young Alumni Award
- Transforming Campus Media: How Eastern Kentucky University Launched a Cutting-Edge ST 2110 Network with Riedel and Bridge Digital at NAB 2026
- ECU celebrates National Library Week with Big Kid Story Time, donations
- Lieutenant General Ken and Mary Ellen Keen: Paying It Forward at ECU
- David Silver Honored with ECU's Distinguished Service Award
- ECU and Kentucky Rural Education Association Announces First Rural Teacher of the Year
- ECU Mock Trial Team Wins Consecutive Tournaments, Qualifies for Nationals
- The Life, Legacy and Love Behind the Collins Pigman Endowed Scholarship
- ECU Students Win National Marketing Competition
- ECU President David McFaddin Recognized with Portrait by Childhood Friend Seth Ferguson
- ECU Kiddie Day at the Farm
- ECU Choirs Take the Stage at Carnegie Hall
- Dr. Geri Polvino: Beyond Winning
- ECU's Seventh Annual Giving Day Set for April 22
- \$2 Million Investment from Gray Construction Strengthens ECU Construction Management Program
- Michael Nygren Honored with ECU's Distinguished Service Award
- ECU Trombone Society Invited to National Workshop
- One-time spending plan paves way for ECU medical school and more KY education projects
- ECU Emergency Medical Care Receives Equipment Donation from Alum, Physician and CEO Dr. Andrew Napier
- Kenton Buckner Honored with ECU's Distinguished Service Award
- ECU Introduces New Scholarship Model With Awards for Every Kentucky Freshman
- ECU Plans for Center for Health Innovation, Bridging Gaps in Kentucky's Healthcare Needs
- ECU Graduates Drive Literacy Success in Kentucky Classrooms
- ECU No.1 for Military Friendly® Schools
- ECU Becomes Kentucky's Third-Largest Public University

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Upcoming Events

May 7-8-Commencement at Alumni Coliseum

May 13-Board of Regents Meeting

May 25-Memorial Day

One Eastern,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. McFaddin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. David T. McFaddin
President

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