

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

March 3, 2025

3:30 p.m.

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met in person on Monday, March 3, 2025, in Powell 219. Chair Kay called the sixth meeting of the academic year to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Humphrey moved to approve the February 3, 2025, minutes as written, seconded by Senator Bishop-Ross. **Motion carried.** (*YES = 45 votes NO = 0 votes ABSTAIN = 0*) (*See also: Individual Votes*)

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: David McFaddin

Faculty Senate Report

March 2025

With the snow melting and the temperatures slowly rising, we aren't far from spring and all the excitement that comes with the season. With only a few more weeks until the legislative session comes to an end, we are continuing to advocate diligently on our plan for the EKU College of Medicine program. I continue to feel optimistic about the proposal and will continue to keep you informed as things develop in that space. I hope everyone takes some time during Spring Break to recharge as we continue to work towards graduation.

Enrollment and Retention

Enrollment management has had another banner year. We were pleased with the recent CPE report showing EKU having the largest full-time student enrollment of any regional institution in the Commonwealth with 14,463 students (a 5.1% increase). Traditional students are up 2.8% and online students are up 10.5% to 4,448. As we refine our strategy with 8K by 28, I anticipate continuing this progress next year of increased overall enrollments. In addition, our freshman retention rate is up 2.6% which is higher than our benchmark year. This is due to the hard work of our faculty and student support staff.

As we forecast 2025, we are down in applications for traditional and online applications. We attribute much of that to school closings for winter weather and flooding in our target markets. We are, however, pleased with the number of confirmations which is up from last year.

Federal Executive Orders Impacting Higher Education

Over the past several weeks, there have been a significant number of executive orders and Dear Colleague letters issued from the White House and federal agencies. Our leadership team is reviewing each order and assessing the potential impact on faculty, staff, and students. We are engaged with internal departments and statewide partners to navigate these changes. I encourage all faculty to work with your chairs, deans, and/or Provost if you have any concerns.

Colonels at the Capitol

This year ECU approached Colonels at the Capitol in a different way. Instead of our traditional large group meeting with General Assembly members giving updates in a group setting, we matched ECU representatives with their home district legislators for targeted in-office meetings. This format allowed members of the faculty, staff, and Board of Regents to discuss key issues facing ECU. The personalized format resulted in successful co-sponsorship and support from legislators on strategic pieces of legislation. I want to thank Amy Scarborough for her continued hard work in Frankfort this session.

Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents met in late February and reviewed items including but not limited to reviewing campus construction, budget updates, and an enrollment update. Some highlights from the meeting included an exciting enrollment update reflecting that in the recent CPE report, ECU is now the largest regional university in Kentucky in full time enrollments. In addition, I appreciated the Board's approval of a resolution supporting the ECU College of Osteopathic Medicine. This is another step closer to our work to transform our campus.

President's Excellence Awards

A final reminder that the President's Excellence Awards nominations are open for faculty to nominate colleagues in the areas of leadership, engagement and hospitality, community and belonging, innovation, student support, and the emerging leader award. Each winner will receive \$3,000 and finalists \$1,000. Nominations can be submitted through the [President's Excellence Awards website](#) no later than Friday, March 7, 2025.

February ECU in the News

In the News:

- ECU Nursing Students Inspired By Care, Driven to Serve
 - Richmond Register:
https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-nursing-students-inspired-by-care-driven-to-serve/article_59944ccc-ee8-11ef-ad9e-f3954777c3c9.html
- Osteopathic medicine would add to ECU excellence in healthcare education
 - The Lane Report:
<https://www.lanereport.com/179285/2025/02/osteopathic-medicine-would-add-to-eku-excellence-in-healthcare-education/>
 - Richmond Register:
https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-exhibits-excellence-in-healthcare-education/article_24b5ff44-ed49-11ef-a378-c7d5e833b640.html
- CPE recognizes six campuses for higher education leadership
 - The Lane Report:
<https://www.lanereport.com/179269/2025/02/cpe-recognizes-six-campuses-for-higher-education-leadership/>
- Good Question: Why is ECU named what it is, when it's in central Kentucky?
 - WKYT:
<https://www.wkyt.com/2025/02/14/good-question-why-is-eku-named-what-it-is-when-its-central-kentucky/>

- KY schools could get anti-choking devices under new bill. Experts warn against them - David Fifer • LHL:
<https://www.kentucky.com/news/politics-government/article299838634.html>
- Ky. Senator files measure to establish ECU's College of Osteopathic Medicine
 - Richmond Register:
https://www.richmondregister.com/news/ky-senator-files-measure-to-establish-ekus-college-of-osteopathic-medicine/article_a410fb2a-e96d-11ef-99cb-5b1f5c361a02.html
 - Kentucky Senate Republicans:
<https://kysenaterepublicans.com/press-releases/2025/2/11/senator-brandon-storm-files-measure-to-establish-ekus-college-of-osteopathic-medicine>
- Humana & CPE Press Conference:
 - Msn:
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/other/150k-donated-to-eastern-kentucky-university-s-nursing-program/ar-AA1z0KqU>
 - WKYT:
<https://www.wkyt.com/2025/02/13/150k-donated-eastern-kentucky-university-s-nursing-program/>
 - WYMT:
<https://www.wymt.com/2025/02/13/150k-donated-eastern-kentucky-university-s-nursing-program/>
 - WEKU:
<https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2025-02-13/eastern-kentucky-university-gets-donation-to-bolster-college-of-nursing>
 - Modern Healthcare:
<https://www.modernhealthcare.com/providers/humana-eastern-kentucky-university-partnership>
 - Richmond Register:
https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-nursing-program-receives-150-000-boost-to-combat-nurse-shortage/article_b479a006-eaf4-11ef-9b6d-97b5370fb0b1.html
- DO Op-Ed
 - Herald Leader: <https://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article300122499.html>
- ECU pushing towards Osteopathic Medicine
 - Richmond Register:
https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-pushing-towards-osteopathic-medicine/article_bcf9ab7c-e572-11ef-b975-8347fe5ff819.html
- Filling the Gap: ECU graduate helps address healthcare shortage
 - The Berea Citizen:
<https://thebereacitizen.com/articles/1296/view/filling-the-gap-eku-graduate-helps-address-healthcare-shortage>
- Tariff expert - Dr. Tahsin Huq
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/kentucky/how-kentucky-made-products-could-be-impacted-by-potential-tariffs/>

Eastern Kentucky University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and Educational Institution

- EKU professor explains 'parade of planets'

- WEKU:

<https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2025-02-03/eku-professor-explains-parade-of-planets>

Upcoming Events

March 17-21-EKU Spring Break

March 26, 2025-Faculty Lunch and Learn

April 23, 2025-Giving Day

April 23, 2025-2025 President's Excellence Awards

May 15-16, 2025-Commencement

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: Provost Sara Zeigler

DATE: March 3, 2025

RE: Faculty Senate March Report

Department Chair Workshop

The Office of the Provost convened Chairs from across departments in the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning for a two-day workshop facilitated by Academic Impressions. The interactive sessions focused on examining key issues facing EKU, leadership skills needed across Chairs, and priority areas for leading and supporting faculty.

College of Business Distinguished Speaker

Please let your faculty and students know about the **College of Business Distinguished Speaker** for 2025. Mr. Matthew Barzun, former U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St James's (United Kingdom) will be on campus to speak **Tuesday April 15, 2025, 12:30, in the Whitlock Building.**

Ambassador Barzun is going to discuss the *Business of Diplomacy* – how we enrich our understanding of an interconnected world; build trust and foster mutual understanding; and navigate complex relationships in and out of formal structures.

Please encourage your students and faculty to attend.

2025 Provost's Faculty Internship Program - Call for Applications

Established in 2022 by Provost Sara Zeigler, the Provost's Faculty Internship Program is designed to develop leadership skills at the university level among ECU faculty. With the goal of building exceptional leadership by supporting individual faculty development, faculty will participate in a range of mentoring and learning opportunities, collaborate with colleagues in the Office of the Provost and other academic and administrative offices across campus, and assume leadership roles on critical campus strategic initiatives and projects, designed in conjunction with individual interests and long-range career goals.

Learn more and apply for the 2025 cohort at

<https://www.ecu.edu/in/guides/provosts-faculty-internship-program/>.

Applications due: April 5, 2025

2025 Faculty Writer's Retreat

The 2025 ECU Faculty Writer's Retreat will take place on May 21, 22, and 23 in Perkins. We provide you with a private space in the – away from the distractions of your office – to focus only on your writing. For three days, the ECU Faculty Writer's Retreat will provide private space to focus on your writing project, grant application, or the finishing touches of your latest draft. In return, you agree to write – and leave the grading, email, meetings, and social media at home, or in your office. Arriving at the retreat with very specific writing tasks, whether conceptualizing and drafting a new manuscript or completing final revisions to a long-standing work, will allow you to maximize this opportunity.

All instructional faculty are welcome to apply – preference will be given to faculty preparing for a major review and to new faculty establishing a writing program.

Learn more and apply for the 2025 cohort at

<https://success.ecu.edu/register/2025WritersRetreat>.

Applications due: April 18, 2025

University Presentation (UP) Showcase - Call for Presentations

ECU Scholars Showcase celebrates the culture of scholarship, research and creative endeavors and will take place April 7-18, 2025. The schedule includes a diverse series of events highlighting the scholarly and creative achievements of students and faculty across Eastern Kentucky University. Students are encouraged to apply to present as part of the University Presentation (UP) Showcase & Scholars Fair. This is a great opportunity for students to present their research or creative endeavor they have developed over the past year. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 2:00-4:30 pm in the Keene Johnson building. Learn more and submit presentations at https://encompass.ecu.edu/cgi/ir_submit.cgi?context=swps.

Applications due: March 18, 2025

Competency-based Education (CBE)

The first three competency-based education (CBE) courses in the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences launched this month and five more courses are in development to be released this year. CBE courses allow paraeducators at local schools to use existing knowledge from working in schools to move through the teacher preparation program more quickly. School leaders applaud this effort to improve the teacher pipeline while maintaining the rigor in education programs that is Eastern's hallmark.

Model Lab School Building

CEAHS faculty and staff leaders met with Model Lab School architects in December to design space for faculty and students in the new Model Lab School. The College will have dedicated classroom and office space in the building to make it even easier for future teachers, counselors, and speech pathologists to learn from Model teachers.

Sara L. Zeigler, Provost
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of Government

GUEST SPEAKERS

Amy Scarborough: Legislation Updates and Performance Based Funding

Amy Scarborough, who is the Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations Officer, reported on bills that could impact ECU. Currently there are 216 bills in review. As of March 3, 2025, there were two weeks left in the legislative session.

Osteopathic School

Kentucky is one of the few states that has a prohibition on professional doctoral degrees. Removal of this prohibition is the first step in creating an Osteopathic School at ECU. If the prohibition is removed, approval of doctoral programs must go before the board, CPE, and accrediting agencies that apply to the program for it to be established. The other hurdle the university must get through is the \$50 million escrow required for accreditation. The escrow funding may not be spent until the first cohort of students graduates and could be funded by the state in a future legislative session or by donors.

House Bill 424

This is an employment contract bill that has passed the house. It requires productivity and performance requirements. Everyone is required to go through assessment every four years. This is something already in place here at ECU.

DEI Bill: House Bill 4

This was heard by the House Post-secondary Education Committee on March 4, 2025. The changes have not been announced. Watch out for updates.

Performance Based Funding

Kentucky's Performance Funding is a volume-based model and includes weights (premiums) only given to UK and U of L. All universities invest resources to help students succeed academically. Since Performance Funding is an undergraduate degree production model, it should prioritize rewarding successful university efforts that support undergraduate students working toward a college degree and meaningful employment in Kentucky after graduation. While the General Assembly filed several bills related to Performance Funding, none have passed.

CPE House Bill 711

Limits CPE's ability to deny new academic programs based on diversity measurements. House vote will occur in the near future.

Have your voice heard! Contact local legislators regarding issues you are concerned about using a personal email or call 1-800-372-7181.

Student Government Association Update: February 2025

Members of the Board,

As students have returned to campus for the spring semester, I am very pleased to share that the Student Government Association is back and ready to finish out the academic year strong. Since my last report to this body, much work has been done to ensure the continued effectiveness of student governance not just during the remainder of my administration, but into the foreseeable future.

As a recap from my prior reports, the primary goal of my administration for this academic year is to serve as a guiding example for the effective, efficient, and impactful actions of future administrations. Even if we may not see the fruits of our labors during our time, I take solace in knowing that our efforts are serving not just the students of today, but tomorrow as well.

During the winter holiday, myself and other members of my executive team have been working on a comprehensive plan for the long term stability and growth of the Association. A number of ideas have been proposed, and I anticipate that discussions will be continuous throughout the spring semester. It is my hope that as these ideas are formulated and solidified, they will be in a state ready to be presented to this body within the next year.

In addition, the Registered Student Organization Funding Advisory Board met to review the allocation recommendations of the Student Senate. All were approved, and the purchasing process has since commenced smoothly.

We are also keeping track of numerous proposed measures currently being discussed in the state legislature. It has been a goal of my administration to ensure that the interests of the student body are not just represented on campus, but also in the halls of the state capitol through consistent civic engagement of our members. I would be remiss if I did

not commend Ms. Scarborough and her team for their tireless work advocating on behalf of Eastern and the students of our campus, as well as answering questions that we have had these past few months. Most notably, thanks to these efforts the Student Senate has passed a resolution of support for House Bill 56, the proposal for approval of Eastern's School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Finally, the annual Rally for Higher Education has been scheduled to take place on March 27. As vice chair of the Kentucky Board of Student Body Presidents, I am proud to have organized this event and look forward to joining with student leaders from across the commonwealth to show our gratitude to the elected officials who have supported postsecondary education throughout this legislative session.

Respectively submitted,



William Lampert
Student Body President | Student Regent

NEW BUSINESS:

Academic Quality Committee

A seat on the Academic Quality Committee needed to be filled: Senator Dieckmann self-nominated and was confirmed by the rest of Senate.

Faculty Concerns

Promotion and Tenure Guidelines: Currently ECU is going through SACSCOC Review which prompted the call for minor changes. Those include looking at terminal degrees as well as adjusting vague language in the departments' P&T documents. If you have questions regarding this, please contact Chair Kay.

Parking Passes for Guest Speakers

Departments that rely heavily on guest speakers and have concerns about parking passes please contact Chair Kay.

2025-2026 Meeting Format

Hybrid meetings are now an option for senate. It was decided to test the new hybrid room during the April Senate meeting. During the Senate meeting, a vote will take place regarding the next academic year's format.

Senator Settini made a motion to have the first and last senate meetings in person and the rest hybrid. This was seconded by Senator Cogdill.

Senator Howell voted to table the decision pending a test during the April Senate Meeting. This was seconded by Senator Cogdill. The motion to table passed.

Senator Howell made a subsidiary motion to change the meeting format for the April 7th meeting to hybrid to test the delivery method. This was seconded by Senator Settimi. The motion to change format passed. The subsidiary motion passed (40-1).

REPORT FROM SENATE CHAIR: Lisa Kay

**Executive Committee Report
March 3, 2025
Lisa W. Kay, Faculty Senate Chair**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on February 17, 2025. Following the pre-meeting with the President, the committee approved the January minutes and received the Provost's report. The Executive Committee discussed the faculty handbook, the meeting format for 2025-2026, the internal procedures, the structure and effectiveness of Faculty Senate meetings, and the function of Faculty Senate. The committee approved the tentative guests for the March Faculty Senate meeting, and liaisons for the standing committees provided committee reports.

Provost Zeigler, Regent Marion, Vice Chair Brent, and I continue to have regular "Problem Solvers" meetings. We last met on February 24th. Discussion topics included dual credit courses, program marketing, and recent items from the virtual suggestion box.

I met with President McFaddin on February 11th, and our next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd. I gave my last report to the Board of Regents on February 19th.

Remember that the Faculty Lunch and Learn session has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 26th, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Case Dining Regents Room. Guests can sign in at either desk, get their food, and come upstairs. There is a drink machine in the Regents Room. Here is the registration link: https://success.eku.edu/register/lunchlearn_spring_25_march.

We would like for you to provide feedback on the draft of the faculty handbook/resource by **Monday, March 10th**: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-DK0Cv0jExw0X73BYS_wMo9ywdvhMNxNPLxGDjqUSej359A/viewform?usp=header. In particular, please note any links that are broken or incorrect. You should have received a copy of the draft in an email from me on February 24th.

Gus Benson and Lisa Royalty offered a session on human subject's research on February 18th via a collaboration with Faculty Senate, the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning (FCT&L), and the Office of Grants and Research Compliance. Carrie Foster led a session on scholarships on February 25th through a collaboration with Faculty Senate, FCT&L, and the Development Office.

We are working with FCT&L to host a session on campus communication from 11:15 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. on April 2nd. Panelists for the communication session are Yoshie Nakai, Paula Jones, Loni Yost, Ginny Whitehouse, Steve Greenwell, and Sarah Baker.

All full-time faculty should have received an email at 8:00 a.m. on 2/27 with a link to a survey welcoming faculty input as part of the Board's Annual Evaluation of the President. The message comes from "Institutional Effectiveness and Research" and is marked as an EXTERNAL email. If you do not see it under Focused in your inbox, please check under Other. You may reach out to Meagan Murray (meagan.murray@eku.edu) if you have difficulty locating the email. You should receive reminders from Institutional Effectiveness and Research at 8:00 a.m. on March 6th and March 11th. The survey will close on **Friday, March 14th**. Please respond and encourage your colleagues to respond to this anonymous survey.

Here are some recent policy and regulation updates:

- Editorial Revision to Academic Regulation 4.8.1, Evaluation of Academic Administrators, based upon the Board's action at the February 19, 2025 meeting (<https://www.eku.edu/in/policies/annual-evaluation-of-academic-administrators/>);
- Addition of Policy 1.5.5, Annual Evaluation of the President, based upon the Board's action at the February 19, 2025 meeting (<https://www.eku.edu/in/policies/annual-evaluation-of-president/>);
- Addition of Policy 3.1.2, Naming Policy, based upon the Board's action at the February 19, 2025 meeting (<https://www.eku.edu/in/policies/naming-policy-3-1-2/>).

Vice Chair Brent and I continue to read all the comments received via the virtual suggestion box, and we forward them as appropriate. We share all comments with Provost Zeigler and Regent Marion. The Faculty Senate Virtual Suggestion Box can be found at https://success.eku.edu/register/faculty_feedback. Please continue to use a private or incognito window to ensure anonymity. We are looking into the possibility of using a different format when we get the webpage updated; we will keep you posted on our progress.

Here are some topics of recent comments:

- Credit for prior learning and priority registration
- Meeting structure and function of Faculty Senate
- Administrative mandates and processes to review/update promotion and tenure guidelines
- Midterm grade reminders
- Spring calendar
- Proposed DO school
- Inclement weather plan
- Commencement schedule
- Parking passes for guest speakers

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me (lisa.kay@eku.edu) or Vice Chair Brent (john.brent@eku.edu). If you do not want to put your comments in an email, you may also call or text me at 859-302-2548.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY REGENT: Jason Marion

Dear Senators,

Please accept my regrets for not being able to attend in person. I've provided greater detail in this report to make-up for my absence in case there would have been pressing questions about the information presented. If there are questions, please know you can email me at jason.marion@eku.edu or call/text me at 513-317-9508 and I'll do my best to respond timely.

Since our last Senate meeting, the Board of Regents met by Zoom on Wednesday, February 19 for their first quarterly meeting of 2025. The next quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14**. The location and time for the next meeting has not yet been announced.

Potential Upcoming Board Committee Meetings: Prior to the May meeting, it is likely there will be an Executive Committee meeting and a Finance & Administration Committee meeting for developing the May meeting's agenda and for participating in the 2025-26 budget development process, respectively. Board meetings that occur for Kentucky's universities and the KCTCS system in May and June are typically the most consequential due to their occurrence coinciding with the approval of their annual budgets, responding to legislative actions, setting tuition, and housing rates, and receiving preliminary reports on expected fall enrollment rates. Meeting announcements for the Board, including agendas and past agendas, and committee meeting announcements, can be viewed at <https://www.eku.edu/in/committees/board-of-regents/>.

Re-Cap of February 19 Board Meeting:

View the Meeting: The Wednesday, February 19 meeting occurred during a winter storm warning. Like the university, the Board moved to a virtual format for the day. Accordingly, the Board meeting was livestreamed, and the recording of the meeting remains stream able on EKU's E-Presence YouTube channel. The meeting recording (~155 minutes) is [available here](#).

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda from 2/19 remains available on the Board's webpage or can be directly accessed by [clicking here](#).

Revenues vs. Expenses - Budget: A video presentation of the Budget Update presented by VP Brian Mullins to the Board can be [viewed here](#).

- The big picture was that the university's revenues are outpacing expenses so far this year, whereby as of December 31, 2024, the university had a net position of +\$7,270,457. At this time in the previous year, December 2023, the university had a net position of -\$1,160,763.
- Entering the Spring 2025 semester, Spring tuition revenues are outperforming budget projections by \$1.95 million (or 3%).

- Some concern was noted by Vice Chair Long that ECU's 'budgeted' Instructional Costs for the year are \$81.8M, and at the halfway point (December 31), 55% of the budgeted costs were spent (\$45.3M). Some of this was described as possibly being due to greater expenses during the fall term than spring term, attributable to higher enrollments in the fall. As enrollment-based revenue is up, enrollment-based expenses are also up.
- While personnel expenses are included in instruction costs, so is the BookSmart program. The contributions to instructional costs (personnel vs. non-personnel) were not delineated in the budget update report.
- BookSmart: While not discussed during the Board meeting, but a contributor to the increase in instructional costs could be greater utilization of the BookSmart program.
- As discussed by the President with Faculty Senate Exec (two Senate Exec meetings ago), there are some efficiencies that may be able to be realized there. It my understanding that now, a new model is in place that provides B&N College revenue from ECU for only courses that use bookstore resources.
- When BookSmart was first adopted for undergraduates only, the cost was \$5.9M, which was funded by COVID-related HERF (higher education emergency relief) funds from the U.S. Department of Education. The use of Booksmart at that time, especially for upperclassmen, generated substantial public support for ECU, and also contributed to interest in ECU by prospective students and their parents.
- The cost of BookSmart now is approximately \$10M per year, which is reflected as part of the instructional cost, and is also available to graduate students now.
- Savings Opportunities: There are opportunities for faculty to utilize OERs, consider other alternatives, etc., which could result in significant cash savings to the university, and it is my hope the Board and the university leadership examine how to preserve the great benefits of Booksmart for all students while optimizing the use of instructional dollars. While not appropriate for all courses, encouraging faculty to consider alternative resources that do not compromise educational quality, could yield significant savings to the university.
- Overall, the program has been very helpful for a lot of ECU students, and many of the key benefits of the program for students needing access to high-quality affordable resources could be maintained while also finding cost efficiencies.

Student Success, Engagement & Enrollment Updates: VP Tanlee Wasson presented updates which can be [viewed here](#) as part of the meeting video. The final Fall 2024 enrollment and retention data for undergraduate and graduate students were presented.

Enrollment: ECU has eclipsed WKU as the largest regional comprehensive university in Kentucky with 14,565 students versus 14,337 students, respectively. ECU has slightly more undergraduates and slightly more graduates than WKU. NKU leads by a significant margin with respect to graduate enrollment among the regional comprehensives in Kentucky; however, NKU's undergraduate enrollment lags WKU and ECU significantly.

Enrollment remains strong for Spring 2025 with year-over-year spring headcount enrollment up 5.1%, undergraduate enrollment up 5.2%, and graduate enrollment remaining stable.

VP Wasson confirmed that the FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollments are also up in these areas (which accounts for credit hour production and is a useful measure for projecting revenue).

The majority of ECU students are traditional (10,015) vs. online (4,448).

Traditional enrollment is up 2.8% (up about 280 students)

Online enrollment is up 10.5% (up about 467 students)

Retention:

ECU set a new fall-to-spring retention record for freshmen.

- Among 2,890 freshmen in Fall2024, 2,337 (80.9%) returned for Spring 2025
- The rate was 78.3% for Fall 2023, with Fall 2022 being the prior benchmark (80.3%)

Construction Update: Dr. Bryan Makinen provided the update, [viewable here](#) in video format.

Burnham Hall will re-open for students in Fall 2025 (305 residence hall beds) The Burnham Hall renovation (\$14.5M) was part of a \$55M housing bond to renovate Keene and to do minor work on Sullivan and Palmer Halls.

Clay Hall is under renovation from the sprinkler head break, with mostly insurance claim funds, and the university is also refreshing the space too, which will also re-open in Fall 2025. The money not from insurance claim money for doing the refresh will be from asset preservation funds provided to ECU as part of the current state budget.

Alumni Coliseum remain under renovation and substantial renovations have already been apparent during this basketball season. The renovation (once complete) will have been funded with \$31M from the prior state budget, and \$24M in asset preservation funds that were provided to ECU as part of the most recent state budget.

Alumni Coliseum will be offline after basketball season, re-open for Spring Commencements for ECU as well as Madison County Schools, and then close again for further renovations this summer.

Model Lab School Plans were provided by Dr. Makinen, who indicated that groundbreaking is estimated between May 2025 and July 2025. The new building is planned to be usable in August 2027. The project is being funded by \$149.1M in state appropriations with \$90M from the 2022 biennial budget, and \$59M from the current (2024-26) biennial budget.

Dr. John Williamson provided a more-detailed presentation on the \$149.1M **Model Lab School project** with greater details on the project, including the building footprint, some design schematics, etc. Dr. Williamson's video presentation with visuals is [viewable here](#) in video format.

The ECU **Flight School** building is in the design phase. It is being funded by a \$25M state appropriation in the recent state budget. The timeline for completion is TBD. The building will be at the Central Kentucky Regional Airport for instructional use.

The Central Kentucky Regional Airport **Terminal Building** is on the same design schedule as the flight school. The Terminal Building is a \$4.5M project, inclusive of \$3.5M in federal funding and \$1M in ECU funding as part of a match needed for the federal funds.

Development Update: VP Mary Beth Neiser provided the university development and alumni engagement update. Last year was a record year for annual giving in dollars (\$2.41M), and as of December 31, giving was at \$1.26M, suggesting fundraising is on track for meeting or exceeding last year's value. Last year had 9,351 donors, and this year, the total donors are 5,597 as of December 31. For the annual giving day, planned for April 23, the university and foundation have a goal of 2,425 donors.

Notable Board Actions: The Board took action on several items, but three areas are likely of greatest interest to faculty. The Board approved the following:

- Naming Policy
- Resolution in support of state legislative actions enabling ECU to offer DO degrees
- Approval of the Presidential Evaluation Policy

Naming Policy: In brief, structures, rooms, property, spaces, etc., that are under the administrative authority of ECU, can only be named with approval of the Board. The policy gives the President and their administration the latitude to develop regulations for how the university decides upon naming spaces or developing agreements for naming spaces which align with the vision, mission, and values of the university. Upon spaces being proposed by the administration for naming, the Board will ensure the naming decision is compatible with the vision, mission, and values of the university. (The policy is [linked here](#)).

Resolution related to DO Program: The Board passed a resolution in favor of legislative action related to ECU being authorized to offer and award doctorate degrees in osteopathic medicine. Kentucky is unique to other states in specifying prohibitions via state law that Kentucky's comprehensive universities cannot do certain activities which may result in competition with research institutions [KRS 164.295(6)]. Like NKU's exemption for their existing Chase Law School, House Bill 56 and Senate Bill 119, would exempt ECU from one of the banned areas, by being able to offer a degree related to medicine. By passing this resolution, the Board made a public pronouncement of its full and unanimous support for House Bill 56 ([linked here](#)) and Senate Bill 119 ([linked here](#)). While passage by the legislature (and presumably with the Governor's support thereafter), the resolution does not commit ECU to a DO program, but if approved, it would give ECU the option to offer such programs. The language states "Eastern Kentucky University may offer doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees required for professional practice and licensure in medicine." Removing this hurdle, would then afford the university the opportunity to begin putting financial plans and partnerships into real

agreements which would require state financial support before moving forward and/or agreements with entities wanting to work with EKU to fill their healthcare position vacancies.

Presidential Evaluation Policy: The Board approved the policy which codifies our Board's Presidential evaluation practices into policy. The newly approved policy is viewable on the EKU [Policy Website](#) or by [clicking here](#).

For background, like nearly all institutions of higher education, and among all in Kentucky, the responsible entity for evaluating the university's chief executive officer is the university's governing board (the Board of Regents). During the last several years, due to changes in [KRS 164.321\(11\)](#) in 2017, and updates to the [Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation](#), there was a need for the university to spell out a formal policy rather than use Board standing rules for clarifying how the Board of Regents evaluates the CEO/President. Probably most importantly, the university needed to codify our practices for improving alignment with the guidance published by SACSCOC in their resource manual, while also documenting the Board's desires to use Kentucky-applicable [standard features of effective Presidential Assessment](#) as recommended by the Association of Governing Boards.

In the current [SACSCOC resource manual](#), Standard 4.2.c. indicates institutions need a policy for how they review their President/Chief Executive Officer, and whatever policy a university uses is supposed to be differentiated from the review of academic administrators/officers covered by a different standard (SACSCOC Standard 5.4.) Prior to Board action at this recent meeting, our EKU policy had these two joined, and had no policy specific to the university's CEO/President. While such may have been a standard practice in higher education at a point in time, Standard 5.4, now states that the academic administrator standard "does not apply to the chief executive as the employment and evaluation of the CEO are addressed in Standard 4.2.c."

For these reasons, the Board approved the policy which codified our practice. The new policy retains elements of the academic administrator review, by affording faculty the opportunity to provide input into the Board's annual evaluation of the President at least once every three years. Since my time on the Board, at least once every three years, through a report from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee based upon a survey of the faculty, the Board has received such a report, and the Board took it under consideration in its evaluation of the President. During my time on the Board, the Board has also afforded Staff Council and SGA a similar opportunity even though not specified by rule, regulation, or policy, and now the newly approved policy codifies their opportunity to participate.

While the Board's annual evaluations of the President have input from all the Board members, including the constituent regents (faculty, staff, and student), the last Presidential evaluation by the Board which gave the opportunity for the executive committee of the constituent organizations to develop a report informed by their constituents' participation in a survey was in the 2021-2022 academic year. Since we are in the third academic year since that time (2024-2025), the Board has extended this opportunity to the constituent organizations (Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA) to submit a report to the Board, which can be based upon input from their constituents. The policy states that the Board shall consider the reports provided by the constituent organizations in performing its annual evaluation of the President this summer.

Regarding this policy, I am particularly grateful for the assistance of Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Lisa Kay, Vice Chair Dr. John Brent, Staff Council Chair Dr. Caelin Scott, and Staff Regent Jeremiah Duerson for their contributions for enabling Faculty Senate and Staff Council to operationalize this policy during this academic year. There are many others who have given considerably over the last seven years to shaping this practice into policy including Board Counsel Dana Fohl, Associate Provost Dr. Jennifer Wies, and former Staff Regent Dr. Bryan Makinen from when I first joined the Board six years ago. The processes afforded in the policy would not be possible without the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, especially Meagan Murray with support from Dr. Bethany Miller.

Closing: Thank you for your service on Faculty Senate and your support during my tenure on the Board of Regents. Your input has helped me do my work better and your information sharing to your colleagues has also been valued for garnering feedback and wisdom.

• **As a reminder, please encourage your faculty colleagues to:**

(1) vote in the Faculty Regent election before March 6 at 4:30 p.m., and to

(2) participate in the Presidential review survey which will enable Faculty Senate Exec to provide input to Board with a strong response rate as part of the Board's evaluation of the President. The survey closes on Friday, March 14.

As we approach several upcoming Board Committee meetings, if you observe any issues or topics that you see in the purview of those committees once their agendas are released, please feel free to reach out. Thank you for your service to the university, our faculty, and the citizenry who benefits from our work directly and indirectly.

Sincerely,
Jason

STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Quality Committee: Senators Buck and Sands, Co-Chairs:

Currently reviewing program closures as well as programs that have been identified for monitoring. Evaluations of the programs are due April 26, 2025.

The committee is reviewing the pilot program of priority registration for student parents. The metrics that are considered are if students registered during the priority window and if students performed successful.

Budget Committee: Senator Lauk, Chair:

The committee met with Vice President Mullins on February 17, 2025. One of the goals is to put together a long-range budget committee that consists of faculty and staff. The goal is to meet the month of March to create a 3–5-year plan. This is an advisory committee and will not vote on the subject.

The committee is looking to update the software used by the committee from Excel to a better option.

The cost of implementing the DO School will be \$300 million dollars over the course of 3-5 years. This cost will need to come from the state legislator. Assumption of revenue of the DO school by fiscal year.

- 2030 fiscal year \$1 million dollar deficit
- 2031 fiscal year \$5 million dollar profit
- 2032 fiscal year \$12 million dollar profit

The projected profit continues to increase through each fiscal year.

Elections/University Nominations Committee: Senators MacDonald & Sizemore, Co-Chairs:
The committee elected to change their name to Elections and Nominations Committee, forgoing the University title. The faculty regent election is ongoing. Voting ended March 6, 2025.

Information Technology Committee: Senator Fry, Chair:
No update other than updating internal procedures on the web.

Rights & Responsibilities Committee: Senators Ginn & Slijepcevic, Co-Chairs:
The committee is reviewing ways to advocate for faculty with grievances. The ombudsman position was dismantled in 2020 due in part to low reports of grievances. This position was replaced with Lisa Bosley, who took the role of Faculty Grievance Liaison. Rights and Responsibilities is currently reviewing other universities in similar situations to ours and how they handle this issue.

Rules Committee: Senator Rowe, Chair:
Senator Zyzak reported on behalf of the Rules Committee. They are continuing to work on the Internal Procedures document as well as the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Faculty Welfare: Senators Hensley & Jansky, Co-Chairs:
Faculty Welfare is looking at departments that require faculty to maintain certifications and credentials. The goal is to potentially offset some of the cost faculty have to pay in order to stay up to date with their training.

ADJOURNMENT:

Senator Settimi moved to adjourn, seconded by Senator Hensley, at approximately 5pm.

INDIVIDUAL VOTES

Approval of February 3, 2025 Minutes

3/3/2025 15:38:34	jason.fry@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:36	anne.dacci@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:36	bob.houston@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:37	cy.mott@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:37	julie.hensley@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:37	jason.miller2@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:38	linda.sizemore@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:38	mike.austin@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:39	meg.gravil@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:39	timothy.jansky@eku.edu	Yes
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3/3/2025 15:38:39	chad.cogdill@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:39	bernardo.scarambone@eku.edu	Yes
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3/3/2025 15:38:40	stefanie.binion@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:40	raglena.salmans@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:40	david.stumbo@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	julia.graham@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	kristen.campbell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	fontaine.sands@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	steve.szabo@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:41	adria.sutherland@eku.edu	Yes

3/3/2025 15:38:42	pat.calie@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:44	melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:44	sergio.sgro@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:48	casey.humphrey@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:48	james.kirby.easterling@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:48	todd.hartch@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:48	annette.delage@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:48	melissa.wyatt@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:50	aaron.macdonald@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:51	erik.liddell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:52	cassandra.ginn@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:53	jerry.palmer@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:53	lisa.bosley@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:38:55	alison.buck@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:39:07	niki.hill@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:39:07	matthew.howell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:39:39	kenneth.foltz@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:43:22	jaime.priode@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:46:01	sheri.mcguffin@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:53:37	vigs.chandra@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 15:55:46	john.settimi@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 20:44:44	lili.zyzak@eku.edu	Yes

Attendance for March 3, 2024

3/3/2025 15:34:25	jason.fry@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:35:22	james.kirby.easterling@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:35:34	gerald.nachtwey@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:35:59	chad.cogdill@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:35:59	linda.hunter@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:04	cassandra.ginn@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:07	timothy.jansky@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:07	laura.edwards@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:10	bernardo.scarambone@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:12	raglena.salmans@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:13	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:13	niki.hill@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:13	adria.sutherland@eku.edu	Present

3/3/2025 15:36:13	annette.delage@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:14	pat.calie@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:15	david.stumbo@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:17	nedim.slijepcevic@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:17	cy.mott@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:18	stefanie.binion@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:18	jason.miller2@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:19	erik.liddell@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:19	kristen.campbell@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:19	anne.dacci@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:19	alison.buck@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:20	mike.austin@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:20	fontaine.sands@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:21	bob.houston@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:21	julie.hensley@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:22	sergio.sgro@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:23	casey.humphrey@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:24	jerry.palmer@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:25	meg.gravil@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:26	matthew.howell@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:27	melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:29	todd.hartch@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:30	aaron.macdonald@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:42	lisa.bosley@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:48	melissa.wyatt@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:53	steve.szabo@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:53	mercy.cannon@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:36:59	john.brent@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:37:04	linda.sizemore@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:38:15	julia.graham@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:38:22	kenneth.foltz@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:41:23	jaime.priode@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:45:45	sheri.mcguiffin@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 15:55:18	john.settimi@eku.edu	Present
3/3/2025 20:45:03	lili.zyzak@eku.edu	Present

2025-2026 Format Vote

3/3/2025 16:23:27	jason.fry@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:11	timothy.jansky@eku.edu	Yes

3/3/2025 16:24:12	niki.hill@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:14	casey.humphrey@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:15	meg.gravil@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:16	sheri.mcguffin@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:16	kristen.campbell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:16	chad.cogdill@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:17	adria.sutherland@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:17	cy.mott@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:17	linda.hunter@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:18	pat.calie@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:18	cassandra.ginn@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:19	anne.dacci@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:19	bob.houston@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:19	julie.hensley@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:20	jerry.palmer@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:20	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:21	linda.sizemore@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:21	stefanie.binion@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:22	david.stumbo@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:23	laura.edwards@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:24	sergio.sgro@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:25	matthew.howell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:28	raglena.salmans@eku.edu	No
3/3/2025 16:24:28	melissa.wyatt@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:28	julia.graham@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:29	jason.miller2@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:29	james.kirby.easterling@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:30	todd.hartch@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:31	annette.delage@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:34	bernardo.scarambone@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:36	alison.buck@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:37	aaron.macdonald@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:38	vigs.chandra@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:39	john.settimi@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:40	gerald.nachtwey@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:40	erik.liddell@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:41	melissa.dieckmann@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:48	fontaine.sands@eku.edu	Yes

3/3/2025 16:24:48	lisa.bosley@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:24:54	nedim.slijepcevic@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:25:05	jaime.priode@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:25:48	kenneth.foltz@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:25:56	mike.austin@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 20:44:15	lili.zyzak@eku.edu	Yes

Vote to make the April Faculty Senate Meeting Hybrid

3/3/2025 16:26:57	jason.fry@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:27:16	nedim.slijepcevic@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:27:18	rachel.bishop-ross@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:27:18	sheri.mcguiffin@eku.edu	Yes
3/3/2025 16:27:18	erik.liddell@eku.edu	Yes
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3/3/2025 20:43:54	lili.zyzak@eku.edu	Yes