

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 3, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met for a hybrid meeting Monday, November 3, 2025, in Science Building room 2221. Chair Brent called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

ABSENT: Senators Kazadi, Dacci, Killian, Turner, Proide, Plutt, Bane, Salmans, Szabo, and Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Stevenson moved to approve the October 13, 2025, minutes as written, seconded by SenatorLauk. Motion carried. (YES = 44 votes NO = 0 votes ABSTAIN = 0 vote)

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: DavidMcFaddin

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 ECU 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 ECU 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 ECU BookSmart. All

student questions should be directed to Big E Central. For more information visit Book Smart webpage.

Scholarship Model Changes

Tomorrow we will be announcing a new scholarship model to our students creating a more competitive model without 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.

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
- Eastern Kentucky University Recognized by Washington Monthly for Affordability
- AFSA and ECU Sign MOU
- Pathways to Nursing at ECU

- 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

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: Provost Sara Zeigler

DATE: November 3, 2025

RE: Faculty Senate Academic Affairs November Report

Colleagues,

I am pleased to present my report for the November 3, 2025, meeting of the Faculty Senate.

- Policy Updates:
 - As you know, the drafting teams for policies and regulations devote considerable time to crafting documents that serve the needs of the institution. I am grateful to Chair Brent for his collaboration in ensuring Senate representation on drafting teams and to the Provost's Cabinet for identifying college representatives and conducting independent reviews of documents.
 - Newly completed:
 - 11.2.7: Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace
 - 4.1.3: Academic Integrity
 - 4.1.4: Course Syllabi
 - 4.6.7: Post-Tenure Review
 - 1.5.7: Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality
 - Undergoing public comment:
 - 4.6.17: Dismissal of Faculty
 - Details on all policies and regulations appear at: <https://www.eku.edu/in/university-policies/>.
- Sponsored Programs and Research Administration:
 - EKU's new research initiative has started strong under the leadership of Dean Ryan Baggett and Associate Dean Anne Cizmar. Here are some highlights based on scorecard metrics.
 - 24 sponsored program proposals submitted.
 - 10 of those were research proposals.
 - Approximately \$6M requested in those 24 proposals.
 - 16 – Federal, 5 – State, 3 – Private
 - \$1,047,506 in sponsored funding in Q1 FY 2026
 - \$494,449 of that funding is research based.
- Human Subject Protocol Reviews (Institutional Review Board) in Q1 FY 2026
 - Additional information appears at the following link: <https://www.eku.edu/research/>.
- Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning:
 - As always, the FCT&L has multiple activities to support new and continuing faculty.
 - Active-Learning in Action - Program Pilot Launch
 - Two-day program
 - Day I: Foundations of Active Learning
 - Day II: Apply Active-Learning to Course Activities
 - Supports faculty with the resources and tools to design active-learning and support student engagement.
- New Faculty Seminar

- Building on the annual New Faculty Symposium, New Faculty Seminar (NFS) is a yearlong program designed to support new, full-time faculty throughout their first year.
- NFS provides timely content and follow-up resources in areas of priority.
 - Topics:
 - 5 Paths to Leadership (Faculty Leadership Development)
 - Student Support & Resources
 - Establishing a Record of High-Quality Teaching - Teaching Award Panel
 - Partner with a Librarian
 - Soft Skills for Faculty
 - Advising & Retention - An Overview of Resources & Approaches
 - Faculty Leadership Roundtable - Advice from Faculty Leaders
- Faculty Scholars Community Session - Mentoring and Being Mentored
 - Designed for tenure-track faculty in their 2nd year at ECU.
 - Provides support and community for success.
 - Second session (October) led by Rusty Carpenter and Gill Hunter - focused on mentoring and being mentored.
 - Explored approaches for mentoring students and colleagues, especially at pivotal transition points in education and professional lives.
 - Guided faculty through role-play, scenario-based learning opportunities to shape effective mentor relationships and approaches.
- College of Education and Applied Human Sciences:
 - 2025 Frank Murray Leadership Award for Continuous Improvement.
 - Awarded to the top educator preparation programs in the country.
 - Complete Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation cycle with zero stipulations or areas for improvement
 - 10 future teachers are conducting a portion of their student teaching in Dublin, Ireland this year.
 - Faculty Representative on the Council on Postsecondary Education
 - Kellie Ellis (Chair, Department of Clinical Therapeutic Programs)
 - 2nd term reappointment by Governorship
- College of Health Sciences:
 - Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education funding
 - \$109,931.86
 - Purchase equipment essential for healthcare workforce training

- Benefits multiple departments.
 - Exercise and Sport Science
 - Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
 - Medical Lab Sciences
 - Center for Retention, Progression, and Graduation
 - Jon & Shellie McChesney Scholarship now endowed.
- College of Business:
- 2nd Annual College-wide Career Fair
 - September 30th, 2025
 - 42 employers and 308 student participants
 - EKU students were overwhelmingly better prepared, dressed for success, engaging, and asked better questions, than other Kentucky schools and recruiting events, per surveys from employers at the event
- Honors Program:
- Portz Scholar Award
 - Allison (Ally) Walters
 - Recent graduate
 - Pursuing MFA in Bluegrass Writer's Institute
 - Awarded annually by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC)
 - Top four undergraduate honors research or creative projects in the nation
 - Only the third time that a student from EKU has ever won this signal national award.
 - Project mentorship by Dr. Susan Kroeg of the EKU English Department
- College of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics:
 - Mathematics & Statistics
 - Internship at Nagoya University in Japan (Summer 2026)
 - MaHalie Hamilton
 - "Neutron Optics Parity and Time Reversal Experiment." (NOPTREX)
 - Investigates the matter/antimatter asymmetry of the universe.
 - Six smaller projects:
 - Neutron Polarizer Development,
 - Neutron/photon spin interferometry
 - Neutron spin flipper development
 - Neutron spin transport coils
 - Gamma/neutron detection

- Systematic error analysis.
- Engineering & Technology
 - Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) reaffirmed its accreditation of the following programs:
 - B.S. Engineering Technology Management
 - A.A.S. Technology
- Computer Science and Information Technology
 - The Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) reaffirmed its accreditation of the following program:
 - B.S. Cyber Systems Technology
- Libraries:
 - America250 grant
 - \$10,000 grant to ECU Libraries
 - Awarded by the Kentucky Historical Society
 - Expansion of the Say My Name Project through Madison County
 - Student assistants review and scan selected documents from Madison County
 - Engage the general public to help transcribe them to document more information about enslaved people in Madison County.

REPORT FROM FACULTY REGENT: Lynnette Noblitt

November 2025 Faculty Regent Report for ECU Faculty Senate

The ECU Board of Regents will meet on November 12, 2025. The full agenda has not yet been made available, but I have spoken with President McFadden and University Counsel, Dana Fohl, about upcoming actions for the Board. I will attempt to preview material I understand we will be asked to act upon at the November meeting.

The Board will review changes to the ECU Undergraduate Scholarship Model, including the BookSmart Program. As you recently learned, ECU will make changes to the BookSmart Program next year that are necessitated by both budgetary concerns and changes to federal law. I hope to update the Senate on how this will impact course materials at the December meeting.

The Board will receive an update on the budget from Brian Mullins. I understand that we continue to trail our projected revenue by \$1.5 million, but our current expenses also trail

by approximately \$3.0 million, so there is still no budget shortfall projected on the horizon. In related news, the ECU Board of Regents Audit Committee will meet on November 11, 2025, at 3pm to discuss a variety of matters, including updates on the university audit charter.

The Board will also review several policy updates, largely necessitated by previous legislative action. The Board will review and vote upon policies on Antisemitism (Policy 1.6.4), Dismissal of Faculty (Policy 4.6.16), Annual Review of Tenured Faculty (Policy 4.6.17), and Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality (Policy 1.5.7).

The university proposes to transfer ownership of White Hall State Historic Site back to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Board will review and vote on this proposal.

In other news, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kellie Ellis has been reappointed as the Faculty Representative to the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. Dr. Ellis served in this position for the past four years. I want to thank the other individuals at ECU who applied for the position. I was proud that ECU had more applications than any other institution and it was a very competitive pool.

I will be hosting an event for faculty to speak with ECU Board of Regents Chair Mike Eaves and myself on Thursday, November 20 5-7pm. Details will follow soon on ECU Today. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

If you have any thoughts on the material listed above, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Additionally, I always am happy to answer any questions or hear concerns that you may have.

Prof. Lynnette Noblitt

ECU Faculty Regent

FACULTY QUESTIONS:

- None to report

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- Student Government Association Leadership

- No update
- Colleen Chaney, Chief of Staff and Chief Communications Officer
 - To provide an update on the [campus plan](#)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Policy Updates
 - A motion was made by Senator Stumbo, seconded by Senator Lauk, to require that all policy changes be accompanied by a version showing all edits.
 - Motion carried. (YES = 49votes, NO= 0 votes, ABSTAIN= vote)
 - New Policies
 - Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality Policy 1.5.7
 - Annual Evaluation of President, 1.5.5
 - Naming Policy, 3.1.2
 - Student Location, 5.1.4
 - Contract Review, Approval, and Execution, 6.2.2
 - Space Utilization, 7.1.2
 - Recently Revised
 - Delegation of Authority Policy 1.5.5
 - Discrimination and Harassment, 1.4.1
 - Teleworking and Remote Work, 8.3.8
 - Employee Tuition Waiver Program 8.2.6
 - Outside Activities, 8.3.11
 - Academic Curriculum, 1.5.4
 - Faculty Grievances, 4.7.4
 - Campaigning & Political Activity of Employees, 8.3.10
 - Social Media Communications, 11.2.5
 - Open for Comments:
 - 4.6.17POL Annual Review of Tenured Faculty
 - 4.1.3ACR Academic Integrity
 - 4.1.4 ACR Course Syllabi
 - 4.6.7ACR Post Tenure Review
 - In Development
 - Annual Review of Tenured Faculty, 4.6.17ACR (Revisions)
 - Post-Tenure Review, 4.6.7ACR (Revisions)
 - Dismissal of Faculty, 4.6.16POL (Revisions)

- Eval of Non-Tenured Tenure-Track Faculty, 4.6.5ACR (Revisions)
 - Tenure and Promotion, 4.6.4POL (Revisions)
 - Eval of Adjunct Faculty, 4.6.14ACR (Revisions)
 - Eval of FT Faculty Not Eligible for Tenure, 4.6.6ACR (Revisions)
 - Eval of Library Faculty, 4.6.18ACR (Revisions)
 - Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace (New Regulation)
 - Academic Integrity, 4.1.3ACR (Revisions)
 - Course Syllabi 4.1.4ACR (Revisions)
 - Registered Student Organization Banking, 6.1.1 (Revision)
 - Student Organizations, 5.1.2 (Revision)
 - Course by Special Arrangement 4.3.13ACR (Revisions)
 - Quals for Faculty Teaching Credit-Bearing Courses 4.6.1ACR (Rev)
- Program Closures
 - English & History Teaching, BA (Undergraduate), CLASS
 - Game Design, Certificate (Undergraduate), STEM
 - Senate took a vote on proposed changes:(YES =16 votes NO =23 votes ABSTAIN =7 votes)
 - Senate did **NOT** approve program closures.
- Essential Education/General Education
 - Senate took a vote on proposed changes:(YES =38 votes NO =5 votes ABSTAIN =4 votes)
 - Senate approved changes to General Education
- 4-Day Instructional Week
 - Updates
 - A survey sent to department Dean's demonstrated an overall approval of the 4-Day instructional week.
- Lunch and Learn
 - What: How external pressures are forecasted to shape university operations
 - When: November 4th, 12:00pm
 - Where: Case Dining Regents Room
 - Registration Link:
https://success.eku.edu/register/lunch_learn_nov2025

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update to the Faculty Senate Bylaws
 - New policies need to be added to the by-laws to set standards and rules for hybrid meeting environments.
- AAUP Faculty Representative Criteria
 - The vote to approve changes will be pushed to the next meeting.
- Faculty Senate Composition
 - Update and next steps
 - Chair Brent and the Secretary are working with departments that either have too much representation or not enough. These changes may not be in effect until next fiscal year.
- Faculty/Staff Meeting Liaisons
 - Chair Brent is regularly communicating with Staff Counsel on their initiatives and how they compare to those of Faculty Senate.
 - A representative of Staff Counsel will also be attending Executive Committee meetings.
- Planetarium Updates
 - The vote on whether to demolish or renovate the planetarium has been moved to the next board meeting in February.

REPORTS & QUESTIONS:

- None to report

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- Executive Committee: Senator Brent
 - Updates provided in minutes above.
- Academic Quality: Co-Chairs, Senators Campbell & Yoder
 - Meeting will take place the following week. No updates to report.
- Budget: Chair, SenatorLauk& Vice Chair, Senator Liddell
 - Committee will meet on the 22nd to review net revenue by programs. They are currently working with Emily Watters who is the Budget Director on this initiative.
- Elections and University Nominations: Co-Chairs, Senators MacDonald & Sizemore
 - No updates: they are meeting for the first-time next week.
- Information Technology: Chair, Senator Ginn
 - The committee is currently revising a survey regarding single sign on

- Faculty Rights & Responsibilities: Chair, TBD
 - They are currently working to add Faculty
- Rules: Co-Chairs, Senators Bishop-Ross & Stevenson
 - See section regarding policy and bylaw updates.
- Faculty Welfare: Co-Chairs, Nachtwey & Bane
 - They are currently reviewing the Blue Mine clinic decision and how that will affect faculty members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Senator Ross-Bishop made a motion to extend the meeting to 6pm and was seconded by senator day. Motion carried. (YES =36votes NO =8votes ABSTAIN =1vote).

Senator Settimi moved to adjourn, seconded by Senator Gomez, at approximately 5:47 pm.

