

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 1, 2025

3:30 p.m.

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met for a hybrid meeting Monday, December 1, 2025, in Science Building room 2221. Chair Brent called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

ABSENT: Senators Matheyambath, Fifer, Turner, Proide, Plutt, Bane, Emmanuel, Hammond, Szabo, Smith, Proide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Senator Lauk moved to approve the November 3, 2025, minutes as written. Due to access issues the motion did not get a second. Senator Day made a motion to table the vote for approval of November minutes. This was seconded by Senator Settimi. (28 yay, 8 nay, 2 abstain) **Motion carried.** A new vote will take place in February.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT: David McFaddin

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, ECU'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 ECU portfolio. During that assessment, the City of Richmond engaged ECU 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 ECU to the City of Richmond as a way to expand our partnership and enhance the community tourism experience.

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

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

November ECU In the News:

ECU Introduces New Scholarship Model With Awards for Every Kentucky Freshman

- o <https://www.wtvq.com/eastern-kentucky-university-introduces-new-scholarship-model/>
- o <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4331854493557-eku-introduces-new-scholarship-model-with-awards-for-every-kentucky-freshman>
- o https://www.easternprogress.com/news/eku-unveils-new-scholarship-model/article_1053efeb-c792-4177-b5ce-052d415fe56a.html

- o <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
 - o https://www.richmondregister.com/sports/fan-safety-concerns-construction-costs-forced-changes-to-alumni-coliseum-renovations/article_a1550995-dd01-45a0-97e9-f7276536d7a0.html
 - o <https://www.wymt.com/2025/11/10/eku-unveils-renovated-baptist-health-arena/>
 - o <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2025-11-10/eku-officials-cut-the-ribbon-on-baptist-health-arena-at-alumni-coliseum-after-renovations>
 - o 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
 - o <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4348251331921-eku-public-health-leads-evaluation-of-kentucky-lung-cancer-screening-program>
 - o https://www.kentuckynewera.com/news/state/article_353c771c-310b-5022-8e06-c8bc8bc32fa4.html
 - o 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

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST: Sara Zeigler

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents

FROM: Provost Sara Zeigler

DATE: December 1, 2025

RE: Faculty Senate Academic Affairs November Report

Colleagues,

I am pleased to present my report for the December 1, 2025 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

4-Day Instructional Week (Renamed Block Schedule)

- Feedback from deans, associate deans, and chairs positive
- Working with Registrar on logistics for labs, clinicals, field work, etc. which will occur 5 days per week
- Preparing further communication to students
- Colleges will receive updated schedule build instructions this week

Sponsored Programs and Research Administration:

The University Funded Scholarship, an initiative that was strengthened through ECU's increased research investment in FY26, received 24 faculty research proposals. This is an increase of 300% compared to the number of proposals that were received last fiscal year.

- 16 proposals were submitted under the "Major Award" category (\$15K Maximum)
- 8 proposals were submitted under the "Mini Award" category (\$3K Maximum)
- The University Research Committee met on 19 and 21 November to finalize the funding recommendations
- The period of performance for the FY26 UFS awards will be 5 January 2026 to 4 January 2027

College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science:

Construction Management

- Eight (8) students passed their Certified Associate Constructor (CAC) Level 1 exam
- First Construction Management class, in the history of the program, to achieve a 100% passing rate on the CAC exam

College of Education and Applied Human Sciences:

National Association of School University Partnerships Annual Meeting (February 2026)

- CEAHS and Model Lab faculty
- Four collaborative presentations accepted
 - Nine CEAHS and Model Lab faculty and leaders attending

- o Represent ECU and share about innovative partnerships

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences:

- “Common Read” pilot
 - o Maus by Art Spiegelman
 - o CLASS GSD sections in Fall 2025
 - o Class projects and book discussions
 - o students attended the following:
 - Talk by Alice Goldstein, a Holocaust survivor living in Lexington
 - workshop on antisemitism by UK faculty
- American Sign Language and Interpreter Education
 - o Moved to CLASS in June 2025
 - o Affirmed as compliant by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education Accreditation Standards during the biennial report process
- Master of Social Work program
 - o Newly accredited
 - o Record growth with over 140 current students
 - Increase from 90 students in Fall 2024

College of Business:

- 8th Annual ECU College of Business/Salvation Army Holiday Season Canned Food Drive
- Goal: ~3,000 cans of food
- Collected and Delivered (2025): 5,450 cans of food
- Previous Record (2024): 3,650 cans
- Traditional Holiday Season Meal Boxes Provided: ~300 boxes
- Initiative spearheaded by Dr. Kirby Easterling
 - o Includes PGM, RMI, FBLA, 3 fraternities/sororities, and recent graduates

SACSCOC Updates:

Faculty credentialing:

- Development of multiple course-specific justification statements
 - o ECU Credentials Justification Form (updated)
 - Applying Academic Regulation 4.6.1ACR across diverse disciplines
 - Refining evidence for alternative qualifications
 - Tightening alignment between departmental course assignments and SACSCOC expectations

Reaffirmation preparation:

- Active drafting and revision of narratives
- Collection of evidence documents

Reminder: STAR reports are due February 1, 2026

- 2026 Compliance Certification
 - o All narratives and evidence documents
 - o Complete by May 1, 2026

Faculty Scholars Community Session on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning:

- Participants are 2nd year faculty on the tenure track
- 3rd session of the year led by Dr. Shirley O'Brien, focused on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL)
 - Active learning session where faculty asked questions of their pedagogy and envisioned ways to develop a SOTL research agenda
 - Dr. Rusty Carpenter connected SOTL to the 10 Essential Skills and the chance to present at May's Graduate Profile Institute/Pedagogicon

2025 Thank a Professor Recognition Ceremony:

- Thank-a-Professor Program is now in its fourth year.
- 761 students submitted:
 - o 1073 "thank yous" written
 - Compared to 107 during the pilot in 2022
- Notes to 496 faculty, including:
 - o Full-time
 - o Tenure-track
 - o Part-time
- Thank-you notes received from a broad range of the student population:
 - o First-semester freshmen
 - o Doctoral students
 - o Regional campus students
 - o Fully online students
- Why were students compelled to thank their faculty through the 2025 program?
 - o Students had the option to choose from several soft skills:
 - Caring
 - Expertise
 - Helpfulness
 - Kindness
 - Mentorship
- Top five programs thanked:
 - o BS in Psychology
 - o BSW in Social Work
 - o DOT in Occupational Therapy
 - o Associate in General Studies
 - o BS in Elementary Educ (P-5).
- Two inaugural awards were given this year:
 - o The Thank-a-Professor Excellence Award: Dr. Jade Robinson
 - o The Thank-a-Professor Excellence in Mentorship Award: Dr. Jonathan Gore
- For a full summary that includes photos, videos, access to the slideshows, and sample thank you notes, click [here](#)

2025-2026 Noel Faculty Awards Applications Open:

Faculty are encouraged to apply for the annual Noel Faculty Awards in areas that recognize teaching, scholarship, and leadership: o Faculty Innovation in Teaching Award

- o Transformative Teaching Award
- o Dr. Jerry Pogatshnik Graduate Faculty Award
- o Faculty Leadership Award
- o Faculty Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Award. Departments are encouraged to nominate candidates for awards
- o Faculty can learn more and apply at <https://www.eku.edu/in/fctl/>
- o Applications for all awards are due on February 5th

Dual Credit Faculty Symposium:

- Spring 2026 Dual Credit Faculty Symposium
 - o Scheduled for January 5-7, 2026
 - o Faculty teaching Dual Credit courses will be invited to attend
 - Will receive additional details about the agenda for each day

Honors:

National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) Annual Conference:

- San Diego, California November 6-9, 2025
- Twenty-four ECU students made research presentations
 - o largest student delegation
 - Included recent ECU Honors graduate (Ally Walters)
 - Won the Prestigious “Portz Scholar” award
- o One of four national honors thesis projects of the year
 - Current ECU Honors senior Kyle Miller
 - “Best Research Poster” award
 - Since 1990, more than 1200 ECU Honors students have presented at NCHC
 - o This has made ECU Honors the singular national leader over that time period

REPORT FROM FACULTY REGENT: Lynnette Noblitt

December 2025 Faculty Regent Report for ECU Faculty Senate

As we approach the end of the fall semester, I wanted to provide the faculty with an update on pertinent actions of the ECU Board of Regents.

Enrollment Status:

Fall enrollment this year is 16,046 students total. This is up 2.4% overall with the biggest growth in online and adult learning populations.

The first-time freshmen numbers are down slightly at 2,693 students. The reasons for this decrease may be confusion related to Pell Grants over the summer or simply demographics. As this is the student population that most commonly resides in dorms and thus support auxiliaries, this is an area of concern. Future recruitment initiatives targeting out of state students, including the new scholarship model the Board adopted last spring, will hopefully alleviate some of this shortfall moving forward.

New Scholarship & BookSmart Models:

Admissions has worked EAB Consulting to create a new scholarship model for all new students. This model has been developed using peer comparison and predictive modeling data. The new model also accounts for changes in the BookSmart Program. You can find details at

<https://www.eku.edu/scholarship-opportunities/>.

The BookSmart Program will be changing significantly next academic year and faculty will need to consider who to mitigate negative effects for their students. Due to changes in federal financial aid, the currently book scholarship model is no longer tenable. Instead, students will be offered to opt into a rental plan for \$26/credit hour enrolled. This is an all-or-nothing proposition. This means that if they have a course with low-cost books, they cannot avoid paying \$26/credit hour for that class and then enjoy the benefit of cost savings for more expensive course.

While the overall scholarship change should benefit particularly the neediest students, the changes to BookSmart will result in students paying for books. I encourage faculty to consider how they might assist students in saving money on textbooks and learning materials. Prior to the BookSmart Program, ECU faculty designed in-house materials, used older editions of textbooks, and creatively assisted students in saving money. We will need to return to these practices. Also, it will be imperative that we assign books to our courses by the deadlines so that students can intelligently decide whether to opt in for the \$26/credit hour program.

Financial Update:

Despite enrollment being slightly under goals, the financial position of the institution remains steady. While tuition and class fees are trailing expected numbers by \$1.3 million, scholarship expenses are \$2.4 million under budget.

The institution is on a trajectory to stay on budget and currently there is no reason to predict that we will have mid-year budget cuts.

Policy Changes:

The Board has been asked to approve a variety of new policies and policy revisions. Many of these are done in anticipation of our upcoming SACSCOC accreditation visit. Others are in response to recent legislation. At the November meeting, the Board approved by consent policies on Antisemitism, Dismissal of Faculty, Annual Review of Tenured Faculty, and Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality. These policies all went through the Policy 1.1.1 process and Senate reviewed them at the November 2025 meeting.

To accompany the revisions to Policy 4.6.17, Annual Review of Tenured Faculty, the Board also passed a Resolution re House Bill 424 Compliance. University Counsel Dana Fohl drafted this resolution. In pertinent part, the Resolution has the ECU Board of Regents adopt faculty productivity standards, including typical minimum class sizes (i.e., 25 students for lower division courses, 20 students for upper division courses, 12 students for master's level courses, and 8 students for doctoral level courses). Additionally, the university full-time faculty average credit hour production will be 300 total credit hours per semester. The current full-time faculty average credit hour production is 219 total credit hours. The Board also was not provided with

current typical course enrollments. I expressed concern that we were setting productivity metrics well above our current activity. Neither the Provost nor University Counsel were worried that failure to meet such metrics would have consequences since the legislation the Resolution sought to address only required that metrics be set, not met. The Board passed the Resolution by consent as well.

The Board also voted to make small changes to the Internal Audit Charter. These changes were recommended by our outside auditing firm to keep us in compliance with state and federal regulations.

Facilities/Campus Master Plan:

The Board voted to return ownership of White Hall State Historic Site to the Commonwealth of Kentucky which will in turn will transfer the property to the City of Richmond.

There were no actions on the Campus Master Plan at the November meeting. The Board will take up plans for the renovation/destruction of the Hummel Planetarium, as well as other buildings at the February meeting.

FACULTY:

- I. No concerns voiced.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- II. None (Moved to February)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Policy Updates

1. New Policies

- Antisemitism 1.6.4
- Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace 11.2.7
- Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality Policy 1.5.7
- Annual Evaluation of President, 1.5.5
- Naming Policy, 3.1.2

2. Recently Revised

- Academic Integrity 4.1.3
- Course Syllabi 4.1.4
- Dismissal of Faculty 4.6.16
- Annual Review of Tenured Faculty 4.6.17

- Class Meetings 4.1.13
- Cancellation or Delay of Classes 4.8.2
- Catalog and Academic Calendar 4.1.2
- Academic Credit 4.2.1
- Delegation of Authority Policy 1.5.5

3. For University Policy and Regulation Updates

- Visit: <https://www.EKU.edu/In/University-Policies>

2. Essential Education/General Education

i. [Informational Items](#)

ii. [Process/Procedure](#) versus GenEd Model

iii. Vote on Essential Education

1. Senator Howell made a motion to pass Essential Education. This was seconded by Senator Settimi and Liddell. (21 nay, 19 yay, 6 abstain) **Motion did not pass.**
2. Senator Yoder made a formal motion for a faculty member to be dedicated to general education discussions and decisions. **Senator Yoder withdrew his motion.**

3. 4-day instructional week (now referred to as block schedule)

1. See the Provost's report.

4. Spring Lunch and Learn

1. Please send topics to Chair Brent or Sabrina

5. Running Meetings

1. Keeping to Rules and the Agenda

- To maintain order during meetings only items on the agenda will be discussed. If there is a need for a discussion not included in the agenda, it can be added to the following meeting's agenda for discussion during the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- Formal discussions will only be had with the appropriate representation at the meeting to ensure accurate information.

2. Resource Guide for Senators

- Currently in the works is a resource guide for senators so that they are prepared to serve. This will ensure that senators know what their responsibilities are and how meetings are conducted.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Update to the Faculty Senate Bylaws, by Senator Bishop-Ross
 1. Updated Hybrid Meeting Procedures/Rules
 - Senator Dieckman made a motion to approve the updates and was seconded by Senator Day. (42 yay, 1 nay). **Motion carried.**
 2. Updated AAUP Faculty Representative Criteria
 - Senator Dieckman made a motion to approve the updates and was seconded by Senator Settimi (26 yay, 8 nay, 6 abstain). **Motion did not pass.**
 - During discussion of the motion, Senator Nachtwey expressed concerns about the proposed new criteria. He noted that the current criteria are designed to ensure the representative is not biased by the internal workings of ECU, allowing for a more objective perspective. He urged the Senate not to pass the motion.
 3. Policy work will continue starting in January 2026. Stay tuned for the suggested updates to come.
2. Faculty Senate Composition
 1. Rosters are currently being verified for AY 2026-2027
 2. Senators rolling off are asked to contact their departments to hold elections for the senator who will take their place.
3. Faculty/Staff Meeting Liaisons
 1. No update
4. Planetarium Updates
 1. No update
5. Collaborative Learning/Informational Sessions
 1. None brought forward to senate.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS:

1. None to report

STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. [Executive Committee](#): Senator Brent
2. Academic Quality: Co-Chairs, Senators Campbell & Yoder

- i. Charges:
 - Program Review Recommendations
 - Syllabus Template Review
 - Faculty Representation in AI Policy
 - Undergraduate Progress Reports
 - Faculty and Staff Composition
 - Enrollment and Student Outcomes Monitoring
 - General Education Curricular Changes
 - Book Smart Program Input
 - Health Care Provider Communication
 - Transparency, Timing, and Consideration in Program Review Decisions
3. Budget: Chair, Senator Lauk & Vice Chair, Senator Liddell
 - i. Net Revenue by program update:
 - Bethany Miller has a dashboard of work that has already been done towards this initiative and has shared it with the committee.
 - ii. Senator Liddell is working to have access to more detailed financial reports.
4. Elections and University Nominations: Co-Chairs, Senators MacDonald & Sizemore
 - i. The committee is working on a document that will be sent to each new faculty during New Faculty Orientation.
 - ii. There is an ongoing effort to fill in vacancies in senate.
5. Information Technology: Chair, Senator Ginn
 - i. A concern was raised before the committee regarding advising emails sent on behalf of faculty that did not originate from faculty members. The committee is advocating for a process in which faculty are notified of the content of any emails sent to students on their behalf.
6. Faculty Rights & Responsibilities: Chair, Senators Ginn & Nachtwey
 - i. The committee is working with the ongoing concern of the role of the Faculty Grievance Liaison.
 - The liaison role is neither an advocate nor a mediator, which has raised some concern. Upon further research, the committee found that NKU currently has a Faculty Advocate role. The Rights and Responsibilities Committee is seeking feedback before proposing the implementation of a similar role at ECU.

7. Rules: Co-Chairs, Senators Bishop-Ross & Stevenson
 - i. Chairs and Co-Chairs of committees were asked to review their section of internal procedures to ensure accuracy.
8. Faculty Welfare: Co-Chairs, Chair, Senator Jansky
 - i. The most recent Faculty Welfare Committee meeting focused on reviewing charges and narrowing priorities. The committee identified faculty compensation as its top priority and discussed analyzing faculty populations and administrative service. Employment contracts specify a 10% service requirement, and the committee aims to verify compliance.

ADJOURNMENT:

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