

Provost Report to Faculty Senate
November 4, 2019

Good afternoon everyone

I would like to provide the Senate with a few announcements before proceeding on to some less formal remarks:

First of all, as some of you already know, Dr. Sherry Robinson has submitted her request for retirement from ECU effective May 31, 2020. Sherry has served ECU for nearly a quarter of a century, and served in the Provost's Office for roughly the past 12. Her service to the University as well as to me, personally as Vice Provost, have been invaluable. I am deeply appreciative of her many extraordinary contributions to ECU and wish her all the best for a well-earned retirement.

Given the importance of the position I have asked that we begin an immediate search for her replacement. I'm happy to report that Dean Sara Zeigler has agreed to chair the search committee and Drs. Richard Crosby, Garret Yoder, Tanea Reed, Kellie Ellis and Ms. Melinda Compton have agreed to serve as committee members. My thanks to all of them for their willingness to serve in this important capacity. If you have suggestions for candidates, please pass them along to any of the members on the Committee.

Next:

ECU offers eight annual faculty awards through the Noel Faculty Awards program. Award recipients are announced and recognized during Scholars Week held each year in April. Applications for all awards are due on February 1. All faculty are encouraged to nominate and apply.

Annual faculty awards:

- High-Impact Practice Teaching Award (2 awards given each year)
- Faculty Innovation in Teaching Award (2 awards given each year)
- Faculty Leadership Award (1 award given each year; *nominations due November 22, 2019*)
- Inclusive Excellence Faculty Award (2 awards given each year)
- Faculty Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Award (1 award given each year)

Additional information and applications for the awards are available at <https://studio.eku.edu/noel-faculty-awards-program>. Questions can be directed to noelstudio@eku.edu.

A quick update on the CPE Program Review Process:

The initiative is still moving forward but the timeline has been extended considerably. Gray and Associates has modified their data request to make it somewhat less onerous. We have a conference call schedule for this Thursday afternoon and I hope to have some additional information as to how the program moves forward after the call.

Under the heading of *not* preaching to the choir:

The ECU basketball season begins this week. I know we all have different thoughts about athletics. But our student athletes do an amazing job of representing ECU and the support of the campus means a lot. Coach Hamilton has been a tireless supported of ECU, joining the President on several high school recruiting visits and speaking to the incoming class at New Student Convocation. The Women's team has a new coach this year and are excited about a fresh start. I know we all have busy schedules but it would be nice to see more faculty at these events. The first men's game is tomorrow night and the women have their first game on Wednesday.

I want to thank members of the Senate who attended the ECU Forward meeting last week.

While I continue to wish for a higher level of participation, I appreciate those who come to these gatherings with concerns and ideas as well as those who come just to listen. I continue to believe that these informal meetings are one of the best ways of improving communication across campus and they have been incredibly helpful to me personally. This past meeting focused on campus safety, continued discussion on the length of the academic terms, and the possibility of pushing the deadline for grade reporting back one additional day. Finally, we continue to have discussions on ways to improve faculty morale. While the likelihood of receiving a massive pay raise is remote, I believe there are things we can do collectively and individually to improve our working environment.

So with that as a lead in, I'd like to spend a few minutes to call your attention to an article published in the "Chronicle" last week entitled, "[4 Ways to Have More Fun as a Faculty Member.](#)"

[Article discussion]

Although this isn't the entire solution and it is not meant as a panacea, it is well-documented that having more control over our own personal lives promotes a sense of satisfaction. And while things seem daunting at times, on any given day I'd rather be working at ECU with all of you than anywhere else.

Thanks for all you continue to do for our University and our students.

I'd be happy to answer any questions