



Faculty Senate Report, Oct. 2021

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: President Dr. David T. McFaddin

DATE: Oct. 4, 2021

As we had planned and hoped, ECU has been able to return in person to a University that is recognizable as a true college experience with in-person classes and events. This is only possible thanks to your hard work and dedication to our students, and your willingness to go above and beyond to ensure we have a safe, transformational, and real college experience.

Homecoming

This past weekend, one of the signature collegiate experiences, Homecoming, was held in person on campus for the first time since 2019, making it my first real Homecoming since becoming president. Having events in person, providing our students with a more traditional in-person college experience has been a focus of the President's Cabinet. I hope you were able to take part in some of our signature events like the parade, the 5K run, tailgating, talent shows and so much more. Who can deny how great it feels to wrap up a successful homecoming with victory by our Colonels. It felt tremendous to see so many of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni on campus once again.

Homecoming also brings the opportunity to recognize the achievements of many of our alumni, faculty and staff. If you haven't had a chance to visit the Divine 9 Plaza in the Carloftis Garden, I encourage you to do so. The dedication we hosted for Divine 9 was highly moving and the installation is an impressive new addition to campus. We also recognized the work of Coach Rick Erdmann with the naming of the Erdmann Sports Complex as well as announced an endowment fund for the late Dr. Bruce MacLauren. In addition, I also announced the renaming of the Chautauqua Lecture Series to the Dr. Bruce MacLaren Chautauqua Lecture Series.

Strategic Plan

The Board of Regents met late last month and finalized the second phase of the strategic plan process that included finalizing our mission, vision, and goals for ECU. The next phase will be the engagement portion of the process that will take place from now until Spring 2022. During this time we will distribute the proposed Strategic Plan to campus and community and host town halls and workshops. It is important to have your feedback in those sessions so I encourage you to participate when those event details are released in the coming weeks.

Corporate Partnerships

We continue to provide educational opportunities through corporate and nonprofit partnerships that will bring more students to ECU. We recently added Google to our list of Corporate Partners where we will provide Google employees interested in our bachelor's of Occupational Safety program and the master's in Safety, Security and Emergency Management program with partnership rates. We signed a similar deal with the Kentucky League of Cities and the Kentucky Association of Counties, so that nearly every city and county employee in Kentucky can be part of our University. We continue to look at every avenue of bringing opportunity to as many students as possible.

Enrollment Summit

On the heels of enrollment increases for Fall 2021, we want to make sure we are continuing to engage faculty leadership on enrollment data, university goals, and strategic initiatives for achieving those goals. We have invited leadership from each of your colleges to participate on October 22, from 8:30am to noon in Powell 219. Topics for the 2021 Enrollment Summit will include Fall 2021 Recap, Fall 2022 Goals and Strategies, and Retention and Student Life. I encourage you to engage with those representing your areas to ensure we are all working toward those enrollment goals.

Open Enrollment

Over the weekend, Human Resources mailed out information about the upcoming Open Enrollment period of October 18-November 2, 2021. I am pleased to announce that there will be no premium increase for the second year in a row in our Anthem health plan. In addition, there will be two in-person benefit fairs hosted on October 19 at Keen Johnson and October 27 at Perkins Quad. Additional information can be found by visiting www.hr.ecu.edu.

Thank you again for everything that you do for ECU!

One Eastern,



David T. McFaddin