

Faculty Regent Report to Faculty Senate

December 6, 2021

Dear Senators,

For updates of greatest relevance, the next meeting of the Board of Regents remains scheduled for this Thursday, December 9. The meeting location is scheduled for Powell 219 starting at 9:00 a.m. The Board's last meeting occurred on September 23 and was described in a prior Faculty Senate meeting report. The agenda for this Thursday contains many notable items. The draft agenda along with prior Board agendas can be viewed at the following link: <https://regents.eku.edu/agendas-0>

Included on the agenda are as follows:

Action Items for Board Approval Consideration:

- (1) **Performance Distribution Payment & Healthy You Incentive Payment:** As described in the President's November 29th email, the administration is recommending to the Board a \$1,000 per full-time employee Performance Distribution to be issued on the final December payroll, which is a \$2.1M expenditure. Furthermore, also recommended is \$500 through the Healthy You program per all-benefit-eligible part- or-full-time employees who are fully vaccinated. Employees vaccinated prior to November 30 will receive the payment with required holdings in January and persons wishing to take advantage of this opportunity are encouraged to upload their vaccination status prior to February 28. The total expenditure is estimated to be \$1.3M.
- (2) **Approval of Regularly Occurring Items:** Up for approval consideration will be the most recent audit report, Model Lab School tuition and fees, Board minutes, conferral of degrees, personnel actions, and sabbatical program participant approvals.
- (3) **Strategic Plan Approval:** The emerging strategic plan that will replace the existing plan, *Make No Little Plans*, is at a point in the drafting and revision process whereby the executive summary will be presented, and whereby the President is seeking Board approval to have the executive summary of the new plan approved which focuses on experiencing excellence.
- (4) **Approval of Athletics Sports Sponsorship:** As the university has joined the ASUN Conference, the administration has been reviewing which sports we currently sponsor and have existing financial and facility capacity to sponsor. Research into the ASUN demonstrates that the ASUN sponsors all the same sports as the prior conference (OVC), and also sponsors several sports not currently sponsored. EKU had sponsored tennis until very recently and still maintains tennis facilities. The written recommendation is not on the Board agenda at this time, but it is anticipated that a recommendation will be presented.
- (5) **Discussion/Acceptance of President's Performance Evaluation:** The contributing evaluation reports were received by the Board Chair from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Staff Council. Summary reports were also generated in my role using a similar approach for

External Stakeholders and University Boards (Regents, Foundation, and Alumni) as well as the students. The Board Chair has been able to review and has the ability to consult with or share those reports with the President. Furthermore, an Executive Summary based upon the aggregate of all reports will be provided to the full board for discussion and/or action.

Information Items on Board Agenda:

- Prior to presentation of the action items, the beginning of the meeting will include a rich set of presentations/university reports. Included in this meeting will be reports on construction updates (including the bypass pedway), a report on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Diversity Recruitment/Retention, an economic impact presentation on the value of Eastern Kentucky University to the Commonwealth and our local Richmond community, along with the usual updates on development (funds raised), university finances in relation to the prior approved budget, and an academic affairs update. These are likely some of the more impactful reports that have come before the Board in recent years for informing strategies and effectively educating the citizenry on the benefits EKU and higher education to their lives whether or not they attended or attend EKU.

CPE Update: Not part of the Board of Regents meeting, but worth noting, the CPE recently approved the statewide strategic agenda for Kentucky's postsecondary education, *Higher Education Matters 2022-2030*. To see the draft document as presented at the November CPE meeting, feel free to view [this link](#). The statewide goal is to have 60% of adult Kentuckians with a high-quality postsecondary credential by year 2030. To achieve this goal, the statewide priorities as led by CPE will be affordability, transitions, success, talent, and value.

To close, please accept my thanks to you for all of your support. Over the last year and several years, we've had substantial attrition of some of our dear colleagues – campus-wide, which has impacted my home academic department greatly. For several months, I had personally indicated to many of our faculty and even some staff colleagues that time-related difficulties would present challenges for me in further serving in this role for another term. However, these difficulties are the case for many or all of our colleagues, and I have received strong encouragement from colleagues to continue to serve in this role. For these reasons, including encouragement from some faculty leaders whom I respect immensely, I'll seek to stay on in this role during this next term should that be the collective will of our colleagues.

Please know that if you have any questions or suggestions, you may reach me by email (jason.marion@eku.edu) or phone (513-317-9508) and you may reach out over the break as well. It is my sincerest wish and hope that you have a well-deserved restful Holiday season.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason W. Marion