



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: President David T. McFaddin

DATE: September 12, 2022

RE: Faculty Senate September Report

Welcome back, faculty! It was a great summer but as I say every year, I am happy to have everyone back on campus. As we welcome another large freshman class, I can't help but recognize the different energy from this class. In our opening weeks of being on campus, this class appears to be a highly engaged group of students. They are very participatory and want to engage with their peers and faculty at a level that we haven't seen over the past couple of years.

Freshman Enrollment

I am pleased to let you know that we continue to see growth in our incoming class. Our 2022 Freshman class is currently at 2,762 compared to 2,504 from 2021, 2,321 in 2020, and 2,307 in 2019. This is a significant year-over-year improvement. Next fall's freshman class goal is 3,000.

Overall Enrollment

We are very excited about the strong freshman class but certainly see areas where we need to improve to get our overall enrollment to pre-covid numbers. This requires a focus on the two areas, we need attention in our online programs and our graduate programs in order to meet our goals of increased overall enrollment.

Big E Central

Earlier this semester we launched Big E Central which is a one-stop location for Financial Aid, Student Accounting, and Registrar assistance. As with any launch there are always growing pains and the team is experiencing high call volume which results in longer wait times for our students. The team is working on streamlining measures to address reducing the hold times including a shifting of additional staff from other areas to support this work.

Welcoming New Deans

If you haven't had a chance to meet our new group of deans, I highly encourage you to do so. After what feels like years of searches, I know I speak for Provost Zeigler when I say how pleased we are to welcome our new deans. They have wonderful energy and excitement about joining our ECU family.

Parental Leave

Earlier today, I sent an email out regarding parental leave. This change was intentional to ensure that we 1) provide our employees with benefits that allow employees to have work/life balance; 2) make us competitive with other public and private sector entities and 3) push our team to be focused on making ECU the Employer of Opportunity. Please work with your HR Business Partners and supervisors if you are interested in taking advantage of this leave option.

Performance Management

In the upcoming week, Human Resources will announce a new campus performance management system. This system is currently focused on staff reviews. It is important that all faculty overseeing the work of staff employees review the material. I want to stress that the reason we have feedback systems is to do just that...provide feedback. In numerous surveys and exit interviews, employees have shared that a common frustration is the lack of supervisory feedback.

Pedway Update

This week I provided an update at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's State of the University about a variety of topics including the status of the Bypass Pedway. While this isn't a usual faculty senate update, as a prominent feature that has been stagnant for some time, I wanted to give an update. The pedway is not at the minimum height required for state approval. We are currently working with the contractor and our legal teams to reach a resolution between the parties. Once we reach an agreement, the contractor indicates it will take 60 days from the date of agreement to finish the project.

Upcoming Legislative Session

The 2023 short-session (30 working days) of the Kentucky General Assembly, will begin in early January and will end by March 31st. There will be 20-25 new legislators in 2023 due to retirements and redistricting. We will be meeting and building relationships with the new members to brief them on ECU issues and our legislative priorities. We will host Colonels at the Capitol in mid-February and will be sharing more information about our agenda before the end of the year.

We expect the legislature may open the budget to narrowly address several pressing issues, including additional support for communities impacted by the flood devastation in Eastern Kentucky. We will highlight ECU's support for our students in the service region who were impacted by the flooding and will ask the General Assembly to fund some of those initiatives. If you have any questions, have identified opportunities to streamline legislative language, or are asked to testify or plan to meet with a General Assembly member, please contact our Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations liaison Amy Scarborough.

Powell Plaza

You may have noticed the activity in Powell Plaza. We are finalizing an exciting amphitheater project in the plaza. This is going to provide an excellent opportunity for us to give students another location to collaborate with both faculty and each other, create a soft scape in what otherwise is a highly concrete space, and add appropriate lighting and sound capabilities to enable events and activities. We anticipate this being complete in the upcoming weeks.

Veterans Memorial

In addition, out of respect to our men and women who bravely fought for our country, it has not felt appropriate that the hub of energy of our campus, Powell Plaza, is colocated with a place of extreme reverence, the Veterans Memorial. For this reason, the Veterans Memorial will be moved to the Carloftis Garden. This will create a beautiful and peaceful place for staff, students, veterans and community members to reflect and appreciate the sacrifices of our servicemen and women. That project is anticipated to be completed in 2023.

Faculty Lunch and Learns

Faculty Lunch and Learns are an opportunity for faculty members to join Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Richard Crosby and me for discussions on the topic of your choice. Each Lunch and Learn will take place while breaking bread over a meal at

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Case Dining Hall in the upstairs Regents Room. Registration will close once each event reaches capacity. Lunch will be provided at each event for the first 30 faculty who RSVP at the following links:

- [Faculty Lunch and Learns](#)
[September 27, 2022, at 12 p.m.](#)
Case Dining Regents Room
- [Faculty Lunch and Learns](#)
[October 24, 2022, at 12 p.m.](#)
Case Dining Regents Room
- [Faculty Lunch and Learns](#)
[November 9, 2022, at 12 p.m.](#)
Case Dining Regents Room

Colonel Conversations

Colonel Conversations will be topic-specific discussions on hot topics that you tell me are important to you. These sessions are designed to provide open dialogue and discussion about the issues and topics that impact you every day. Registration will close once each event reaches capacity.

Colonel Conversations: EKU...the Employer of Opportunity

October 5, 2022, at 3:00pm

Crabbe Library

This session will highlight the good, the bad, and the ugly of working at EKU. The goal is to have a productive conversation about what EKU is doing to be the Employer of Opportunity and brainstorm new ways and ideas to work towards being a Best Place to Work in Kentucky.

Colonel Conversations: Turn up the Heat-What Facilities are Hot and What are Not

December 1, 2022, at 3:00pm

Crabbe Library

A discussion about what are the hot places to work on campus and the ones that are not. We will share the long-term campus plan for asset preservation funds and realistic timelines on what you can expect in the future as it relates to campus offices, classrooms, and residence hall spaces on campus.

We have an exciting semester ahead of us. With weekends like Family Weekend and Homecoming Weekend nearly upon us, I am excited to show off the Campus Beautiful and highlight to our student families and alumni the strength of our academic programs and our world-class faculty!

One Eastern,



David T. McFaddin, Ed.D.
President
Eastern Kentucky University

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