

Faculty Regent Report to Faculty Senate

November 6, 2023

Dear Senators,

The Board of Regents had a special meeting on October 16, 2023 due to the recent appointment of Regent Michael Garland. The Board of Regents will be having their fourth quarterly meeting of the year on Wednesday, November 15. The November 15 meeting will occur in Powell Building 219 at 9 a.m. The agenda is not yet complete and once available, I will notify the faculty by email.

Regarding the October 16th meeting of the Board, the [agenda](#) was focused on newly appointed Regent Michael Garland being taking Kentucky's oath of office, and then the statutory required election of the Vice Chair, Board Secretary, and Treasurer following a change in the Board membership. The officers of the Board were re-elected.

For general background on incoming Regent Michael Garland, Mr. Garland is from Crestwood in Oldham County. Mr. Garland received a BA in Operations Management from Eastern Kentucky University and is a nationally recognized business leader in the commercial and institutional swimming pool industry. His passion for the industry and leadership of large sales teams led to him being the founding member and Chair of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals Pool Council, the world's oldest and largest association representing swimming pool, spa, and hot tub manufacturers, manufacturers' agents, builders, designers, distributors, suppliers, installers, retailers, and service technicians.

Regent Juan Castro completed his six-year term (2017-2023) and graciously continued serving these last several months beyond his term while awaiting the vacancy to be filled. As stated in my email to the faculty, I will miss his voice, unmatched perspectives on several relevant current issues, and his efforts to promote, defend, and celebrate educational equity efforts aimed at closing academic achievement gaps among diverse students while fostering inclusive campus environments, not just at ECU, but across Kentucky through the Council on Post-Secondary Education's invitation from his position on the ECU Board of Regents. Anyone who knows him, knows he remains passionate that we graduate global citizens capable of succeeding in work and life no matter where ECU students and alumni go. Regent Castro has advised me that he will continue in those efforts, and he will remain an active participant in the university community because supporting students, including his own university student children, is what brings him purpose and joy. He even recently did a keynote talk and discussion for the grand opening of the Bobby Verdugo and Yoli Ríos Bilingual Peer Mentor and Tutoring Center, also known as "El Centro", in the main library on October 25.

Council on Post-Secondary Education Updates:

The CPE is hosting their **2023 Higher EDquity Symposium at Eastern Kentucky University** on November 13 and 14. The program includes Lt. Col. Whitney Allen (seventh Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs), Troy J. Broussard (State Director of AARP), Dr.

Roger Cleveland (EKU Director of Diversity and Faculty Development), Johnny W. Collett (Director of UK's Human Development Institute and past-Assistant U.S. Dept. of Education Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services), Dr. Shawna Patterson-Stephens (Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Belonging at Central Michigan University), and Dr. Vanessa A. Sansone (Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at The University of Texas - San Antonio). **To register or learn more, view the link [here](#).**

The first session of the **2023 Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Webinar**: All members of Kentucky's postsecondary education governing boards are invited to attend and participate the annual "Trusteeship" conferences held by CPE. For this year, CPE decided to do the conference virtually over a period of weeks. The first webinar was with the Lumina Foundation's President and CEO, Jaime Merisotis. In the webinar, Merisotis discussed trends in higher education and how board members may think appropriately and look/think beyond their university for ensuring institutional relevance and responsiveness to issues impacting our local, national and global citizenries. A replay of this one-hour webinar is available from the CPE and I can work with you if you are interested in viewing it.

Closing:

In addition to the regular teaching, service, scholarship, and outreach duties, this last month has been one with many university and community events. One included the commemoration of the [new El Centro space](#) in the library and recently this weekend, [the new Veterans Memorial was dedicated](#) in the Carloftis Garden. If your circumstances permit, or if you have students who you think would benefit from knowing, please feel free to share and visit.

Lastly, thank you for your service on the Faculty Senate and in the various committees associated with the Senate and the university. Should you wish to reach out to me, you can do so by email (jason.marion@eku.edu) or phone/text at 513-317-9508 and I'll do my best to address your concern, which could include routing the matter to the Senate's Executive Committee, Board of Regents, our Problem Solvers group, or elsewhere – while maintaining confidentiality if desired. I am grateful to your support and shared information that assists me in being more effective in my elected role. I look forward to sharing the agenda for the November 15 Board meeting once it becomes available.

Sincerely,
Jason