

To: Faculty Senate
From: Malcolm P. Frisbie
Date: 30 January 2008
Re: Regent's Report

18 January 2008, Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Board

The Board of Regents met on 18 January 2008 for a regular quarterly meeting. President Whitlock distributed a Campus Update, which summarized the Board meeting, via email to the university community on 28 January. Rather than repeat the President's summary here, I will highlight several items that may be of particular interest to the Senate.

Informational Items

- The Board was privileged to hear remarks from Mr. Brad Cowgill, Interim President of the Council on Postsecondary Education. Later in the meeting, President Whitlock and VP Moberly shared with the Board a Powerpoint presentation that had been prepared by the Legislative Research Commission for the General Assembly. It is clear that CPE, legislators, and the Governor are all very concerned about the health of Kentucky's economy. With a sizeable decrease in revenue projected, and with rising unavoidable costs of some programs, it is clear that most state agencies will face decreased appropriations in the next fiscal year. Mr. Cowgill indicated that the CPE is, and will continue to, advocate on behalf of higher education. Mr. Moberly indicated that there is widespread feeling in the legislature that higher education should not shoulder a disproportionate burden in helping the state balance its budget.
- The Board heard a report by VP Newsome that indicated that the University appears to be on track in terms of its expenditures versus revenues for the current budget year.

Action Items

- The Board approved all 12 items that came to it from the Council on Academic Affairs.
- The Board approved the revised University Promotion and Tenure Policy that was recommended by the Faculty Senate. The new policy takes effect in August 2008. The Provost has subsequently emphasized several provisions of the new policy in an email to the university community. It is important that those whose initial appointment at ECU predates August 2008 and who are still in their probationary period understand that they will follow the old probationary period provision of five years unless they request in writing to be moved to the new probationary period of six years. Those requests must be made by 30 September 2008.
- The Board welcomed a new member, April Pergrem, who replaces Cynthia Rogers. In addition, Hunter Bates was re-elected as Board chair. Gary Abney is the new vice-chair, and Steven Fulkerson is the new secretary. It is unusual for a staff member to be elected as a board officer, and Mr. Fulkerson's election speaks to his valued contributions to the Board.

The Board will next convene on April 11, 2008 for a regular quarterly meeting.

Please feel free to contact me for further information about any of these items or to discuss topics of concern to you.

Respectfully submitted,

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