

To: Faculty Senate
From: Sheila Davidson Pressley
Date: September 10, 2012
Re: Executive Committee Report

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met on Monday, August 27th to set the agenda for the September Faculty Senate meeting and to plan future actions for the upcoming academic year. The following highlights are items you may wish to share with your department.

P&T Policy Roll Out

The Faculty-at-Large approved the Promotion and Tenure Policy 4.6.4P on August 14th and President Whitlock approved it on August 15, 2012. The Board of Regents will vote on the policy at its next meeting on September 28, 2012. If approved by the Regents, the effective date of the policy will be August 2013.

Dr. Sherry Robinson reminded the Executive Committee that the new P&T Policy requires the formation of a new Appeals Committee. The members of this committee will need to be trained for their new duties. Trainings for colleges and departments will also be needed so that everyone will be informed. Departmental trainings could begin by late fall, but most of the work will probably be developed in the early spring semester. In addition to the trainings, Dr. Robinson would like to develop case studies based on potential issues that might occur and a step-by-step process to resolve those issues.

Policy Updates

Dr. Sherry Robinson announced that the Policies and Regulations website is being restructured so that current information on each policy can be reviewed easily. Policies that are currently in the review process include Evaluation of Non-Tenured Tenure-Track Faculty, Lectureship, Evaluation of Non Tenure-Track Full Time Faculty, and Faculty Authored Texts. Additional policies that may be reviewed in the near future are Tenure for Model, Post Tenure Review, Evaluation of Academic Administrators, Termination of Faculty, Prior Learning, and Student Attendance.

Senate Involvement in Presidential Search

Faculty Regent, Malcolm Frisbie stated that faculty should be involved now and throughout the search process for ECU's next President. The Executive Committee was in favor of having an open Senate discussion on how faculty could be involved in this important and highly sensitive process.

Senate Sponsored Legislative Forum

Senator Richard Day asked that the Senate consider sponsoring a one-day, legislative forum at ECU. Both US and state representatives would be invited to speak on higher education issues and provide an opportunity for faculty to ask questions. The Executive Committee agreed to place this item on the agenda for discussion and Senator Day will present the idea of the forum in a motion at the September Senate meeting.

Informational Technology Committee Election

The Board of Regents will not vote on the creation of this new standing committee until September 28th (after the September Senate meeting). In the meantime, the Ad Hoc Committee will be nominated and elected at the September meeting with the understanding that those members elected would automatically serve on the new committee once approved.

New Senator Orientation

An orientation for all new faculty senators will be held on Monday, September 10th at 2 pm in the South Ballroom of Keen Johnson. Those who cannot attend should obtain an informational packet from Senator Pressley. We have 27 new senators this year!

Faculty Taskforce for Student Retention

The taskforce met for the first time on Thursday, September 6, 2012. The charge of the taskforce is two fold and it includes understanding faculty roles and responsibilities, and communicating what recommendations faculty members have as they relate to student retention. The taskforce had a great discussion and expressed an interest in understanding the following:

Why do students leave EKU? What are the retention rates by college? What are the DFW rates by courses and majors? Do we know the effect of student retention as it relates to full time faculty versus part-time faculty? Are faculty members who advise given advisor training (not just training on DegreeWorks)? What best practices are already happening at EKU? The taskforce will gather information on these items and meet again on September 20, 2012.

Faculty Senate Committee Charges

Some committee charges were given this summer to accommodate time sensitive meetings and issues, but a formal list of charges will be sent to all members of each standing committee once the Executive Committee approves the charges. Those charges will be included in the next Executive Committee Report. In the meantime, please let me know whom your committee has elected as chair if you have not done so already.

As I attend meetings across campus and learn more about my fellow faculty members, I want to highlight and commend you for working hard to retain students. I have met faculty members who are engaged each day inside and outside of the classroom. They teach full loads with students who are sometimes unprepared, they serve on multiple committees, they advise student clubs, they conduct funded research, they mentor and advise individual students, and they are advocates for their students. While there are many administrative processes that will help Eastern to retain students at a higher level, nothing can surpass having an involved faculty who is appreciated for what they do. As we move through this academic year, I hope to learn more about you and your departments, and the best practices you have established for student and faculty retention. With your permission, I will be sharing some of those best practices and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to you for all that you do.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have regarding this report.

Respectfully submitted,
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