Faculty Regent Report to Faculty Senate
Board of Regents Quarterly Meeting – October 28, 2013

The Board had the first meeting of the 2013-14 academic year Monday, October 28, 2013. At President Benson’s request, the Board meetings will be hosted by different colleges throughout the year; the College of Justice & Safety hosted this meeting in the Stratton Building.

**Morning Sessions**

Two Board committees conducted their quarterly business meetings the morning of October 28 (the full Board meets in the afternoon). Below are the notes from the business meetings of the Finance and Planning Committee and the Executive and Academic Affairs Committee (I attended both meetings but am a member of neither). The other three Board committees (Student Life, Disciplines, & Athletics; Institutional Advancement and Honors; and Internal Affairs) did not meet.

**Finance and Planning Committee (FPC): Business Meeting**
*(Official members of FPC: Janet Craig, Chair; Steven Fulkerson; Janie Miller; David Tandy)*

- Crowe Horwath, LLP, the university’s external auditor, presented the institutional audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. The auditors found no problems with the financial statements.
- Barry Poynter, VP of Finance and Administration, provided an update on the Siemens Project (energy savings performance contract). EKU contracted with Siemens Building Technologies for a $27 million Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) to implement campus-wide energy and resource efficiency improvements. Costs associated with the improvements were financed over 12 years; additional taxpayers’ dollars were not used. If energy and utility reductions are not met, Siemens reimburses the University for any shortfall. According to the June 20, 2013, report, the project is paying for itself.
- Karen Neubauer, Executive Director of Budgeting, Financial Planning, and Fiscal Effectiveness, presented a budget update. As of October 23, 2013, the University has a total of $16,479,119 from new revenue and reallocation sources. A total of $10,834,111 is being used for new positions, salary backfill, salary increases, new faculty lines, bonds for capital renovations, faculty/staff merit and equity, bad debt, capital pool, President initiatives, institutional work study, m&o, and diversity scholarships.
- Barry Poynter presented the September financial update. The operating revenues are in line with the budget; expenditures are up a little more than 1% from last year; total operating revenues are up $3.7m (due to tuition/fees and auxiliary revenue).
- Barry Poynter updated the Board on construction/renovation projects (Phase II of the New Science Building; addition to the Ashland Building; renovation of the top ten floors of Commonwealth Hall for offices; lighting on Hood Softball Field; lighting for Turkey Hughes Baseball Field; renovation to the Keen Johnson Carillon; and updated exterior signage for Commonwealth Hall.)
Two action items were voted on by the FPC but were unanimously approved. The first item approved was the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; the second item approved was the increase in part-time faculty pay rates. The pay rate increase for part-time faculty holding a doctoral degree will increase from $2,600 to $3,200; the pay rate for part-time faculty holding a master’s degree will increase from $2,150 to $2,600; and the pay rate for part-time faculty holding a bachelor’s degree will be $1,850 to $2,100. Academic Affair’s goal is to decrease the number of course sections taught by part-time faculty, which would make the pay rate adjustments budget neutral.

Executive and Academic Affairs: Business Meeting
(Official committee members: Craig Turner, Chair of Board; Ernie House; Janet Craig; Nancy Collins; David Tandy)

The following action items were presented to the committee:

- Personnel Actions
- Staff Emeritus Nominations
- University Organizational Chart
- Confirmation of Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification Form
- Approval of Candidates for Fall 2013 Commencement
- Report for the Council on Academic Affairs (program revisions)

All action items were unanimously approved by the EAA committee.

Board Meeting: 1 p.m.

The notes from the meeting are as follows:

- Sarah Carpenter, Student Body President, was sworn in as the Student Regent.
- A motion was made to move the election of officers to serve on the Board’s sub-committees to the January Board meeting; the motion was approved. The chair of the Board expects the Governor to have appointed the two newest members of the Board by the January meeting.
- The Board approved a revision to its by-laws - allowing for the use of a consent agenda (a type of agenda that places several items on a list to be adopted all at once). This was approved.
- The Board approved the June 14, 2013, minutes.
- Several reports were given to the Board. The report format is different this year; new this year are the additional reports from faculty, staff, and students.
  - Craig Turner (chair of the Board) said he is confident the Governor will appoint two new Board members by the January Board meeting (Gary Abney’s term ended; Anita Johnson resigned due to time constraints). He welcomed President Benson and expressed his confidence that the search committee made the right decision and that many exciting things are on the horizon for EKU. Mr. Turner acknowledged the development team for the outstanding Donor Gala Friday evening of Homecoming.
  - Sarah Carpenter (SGA President) highlighted SGA’s projects for the year: 1) Creating “Fan Fridays” in which EKU will celebrate the Power of Maroon Fridays throughout the
year; 2) Work with shuttle services to create a fixed route for evening shuttle service, and 3) develop plans for a new/improved Student Center. Additionally, SGA goals include more campus involvement in SGA, rebranding, enhancing relationship with faculty & staff, bringing a food kiosk to CB&T’s building, and changing the mission statement for SGA.

Dr. Sheila Pressley (chair of Faculty Senate) highlighted faculty concerns regarding salary equity issues, program review criteria, and the merit process. While thanking the President for the salary increases, she explained that the increases would not address the salary equity issues; however, she informed the Board that a faculty-equity compensation group was in the process of developing recommendations to the President regarding this issue. The group is made up of representatives from each college. Dr. Pressley also expressed to the Board support for President Benson.

Leah Banks (staff council president) informed the Board that Staff Council has four goals this year: 1) to get staff representation in all areas, 2) to support a tobacco-free campus, 3) provide speakers for staff development, and 4) work on salary equity issues for staff.

President Benson reported that he was glad to be at Eastern; he acknowledged the dedication and commitment of SGA (and in particular, Sarah Carpenter), faculty, staff, and administration. He reported that he thinks it is important to hear from faculty, staff, and students at each Board meeting. President Benson thought Homecoming was very successful and acknowledged the team that worked to put together the events. The President presented a brief summary of his time spent that morning partnering with other colleges to develop initiatives that would help residents of Eastern Kentucky transition from working in the coal mining industry to other industries. He is working with the SOAR project (Serving Our Appalachian Region) to find ways to do this. Lastly, the President affirmed his commitment to hold a campus-wide forum at least once a semester to discuss plans for EKU’s future. He ended by stating, “It was a great time to be at EKU.”

Dr. Libby Wachtel (Acting VP for Enrollment Management, Marketing & University Relations) reported on fall 2013 enrollment numbers and retention rates for different populations of students. Six, five, and four year graduation rates have increased; first-time freshmen retention rates have increased; undergraduate enrollment has decreased by .07% while graduate enrollment has increased by 3.7%. There is an increase of 3.4% in Black or African American student enrollment and an increase of 6.9% in Hispanic student enrollment. New freshmen student enrollment is up 5.3%; new transfers are down 10.4%; new graduate student enrollment is up 20.8%. The average high school GPA for new first-time freshmen is 3.20 (up .1); the average ACT composite new first-time freshmen score is 21.8 (up .1). Dr. Wachtel also reported that there will be an approximate 4.5% decline in Kentucky high school students graduating from high school in 2013-14; therefore, the 2014 freshmen class at EKU might be lower. Some areas of potential growth include low income high ability populations; international students; out of state transfers; online programs; degree completers, graduate school/professional masters; and increased retention of current students.
• Following the individual reports, the College of Justice & Safety presented a 20-minute film to the Board that highlighted the accomplishments and achievements of the College, its faculty, and students. Eight students from the College shared how their program of study has helped prepare them to be competitive in the job market. Several of the students explained they chose EKU and the College of Justice & Safety because of its national reputation and recognition by national and state agencies.

• Eight action items from the morning business meetings were presented to the Board for approval. All action items were unanimously approved (except for the two compensation items: the Faculty Regent has to abstain from voting on issues pertaining to faculty compensation).

• The Board went into Executive Session.

• Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Thank you for all your hard work!
Respectfully,

Amy

Amy Thieme, Ph.D.
Faculty Regent
Amy.Thieme@eku.edu
(859) 622-1320