Chair’s Report

7 March 2016

April will be here before we know it, so it’s time to begin thinking about next year’s Senate leadership.

Senators are reminded that the Faculty Senate Chair is elected from all members who have previously served on the Senate. This includes new members who are not currently serving but who have served in prior years. If a departmental election is to be held for a new Senator, it should be done before the March 21st meeting of the Executive Committee, if at all possible, so that the names of those eligible for Chair can be circulated. This includes Senators whose terms have expired and any who know they will need a permanent replacement for the next year.

Nominations will be taken for Senate Chair at the April meeting.

Continuing Senators currently serving on a Senate Committee should notify the Chair if they will not be able to serve in the fall semester.

Last month Senator Swain raised a new issue for Senate consideration. It appears that some Eastern students have been hired by a website called Study Soup to “take notes” (which in some cases includes actually taking and posting a professor’s actual PowerPoint notes) and posting them on the website for sale. The Executive Committee decided that the best approach would be the drafting of a specific policy that would take into consideration issues related to academic integrity, commercial activity on campus, copyright infringement. Dr. Robinson will form a drafting team in the fall.

The faculty should be aware of increased security measures on campus. One hundred new video cameras are being added to the 183 existing cameras on campus in an attempt to mitigate campus threats and increase security. The stated purposes is to enhance our investigative abilities, and allow for a more effective response to any hostile situation. Cameras may, or may not be, a deterrent to hostile action, but it is clear that they make people feel better. It is my understanding that one can initiate quite a debate on these issues over in the College of Justice and Safety.

The university is sensitive to different points of view and is attempting to strike a balance. The idea seems to be that our security protects our freedoms. For some historical perspective, residence halls are already accustomed to enhanced security measures and EKU had many more cameras on campus in the 90s (but one assumes that today’s security systems are more capable). The new system can hold 30-days of recorded data. Active monitoring of video is possible when necessary but it is not happening routinely.
So far the effort has received mixed reactions. Where cameras have been added, suspicions have been raised about their purpose. Where cameras do not exist, faculty have asked, “Why don’t we get cameras?” The most vulnerable areas of campus were targeted first, (Model Lab School and Burrier) then the buildings that have been affected by threats most recently (Powell and Combs…plus nearby Wallace).

There seems to be general agreement among our justice and safety folks that lockable office and classroom doors are also important to campus security and an inventory of our current situation is anticipated.

Look for an announcement soon on the opening of **two new residence halls**: Martin Hall and an as-yet-unnamed new hall. The two residence halls will house 1,100 students (a net increase of about 100 beds) along with study space, laundry, classrooms, and faculty apartments. The new residence halls are targeted for opening in the fall of 2017.

A field test of **eXplorance Blue** (an option that could replace IDEA) is presently underway. One hundred ten faculty members are test-driving the system over 310 courses this spring. There is greater flexibility in questions used in Blue and a faculty Question Development Group is presently writing and reviewing questions for the student survey. Blue will return student input data one week after final grades are posted.

The University Assessment Committee has changed its structure. It is now called the **Academic Planning and Assessment Committee**. The new committee retained its usual faculty membership. The committee is presently conducting in-depth reviews of 150 academic programs, based on the SACSCOC principle of “meaningful change,” which they hope to complete by the end of March. Program coordinators will be asked to review the data during our Assurance of Learning Day in the fall.

**Did You Know?**  *The Eastern Progress* has an online form that permits faculty and staff to submit story ideas and opinion letters to the editor. Here’s the link: [http://www.easternprogress.com/submit-letter-or-press-release/](http://www.easternprogress.com/submit-letter-or-press-release/)