

Report from the Senate Chair

October 3, 2016

To: ECU Faculty Senate

Dear Colleagues:

September sure passed quickly, full of actions and meetings. As a Senate we are learning we have work to continue with the exploration of transparency in meetings, posting minutes, and staying involved. Kudos to the committees that have scheduled and submitted meeting dates for the semester and year. Our next task will be the development of internal procedures for each committee (standard operating procedures). Internal procedures will help committees anticipate work and schedule their time effectively. They are more than the descriptions published in the bylaws. I urge all committees to consider their work flow and major tasks, along with when they need be completed. The more we can outline, the better the process.

Faculty Senate relies on Senators' dedicated participation between meetings and robust involvement in meetings. We have learned that we are missing some of the involvement the Senate needs because some departments/units have not elected alternates. We appreciate Dr. John Settimi for his invitation to discuss this issue with the Chairs' Steering Committee. We hope to have our Alternate shortage rectified shortly, with every department electing an Alternate to accompany elected Senators.

In the recent Board of Regents meeting, I spoke for the Senate to voice concerns about the Health Benefit Package. In your Faculty Senate materials, Human Resources has provided a schedule of dates for open enrollment. Please attend and explore the options for your unique situations in the selection of benefit programs. HR has a very useful and constantly-evolving list of FAQs on their website <http://hr.eku.edu/2017-health-care-benefits-and-information>. Please continue to ask questions.

I will be participating in the Joint Budget Review Committee Meeting on October 3rd. I hope to add comments about the meeting during my oral report at the Senate Meeting.

Athletics has reached out to us, after sharing a Powerpoint with me after a Joint Budget Committee presentation at the end of June. Because that initial report did not completely address questions posed by the ad-Hoc Academics and Athletics Task Force, Senator Rusty Carpenter and I met with the Athletic Director, Mr. Steve Lochmueller, and Mr. Matt Roan to discuss the committee report and to express the faculty's need for further data. They readily shared additional data, which is included with the meeting materials. I have invited Athletics and the university's Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Sheila Pressley, to present at the November Senate meeting to further discuss the data. Athletics has indicated a willingness to continue monthly conversations as we move forward through the academic year. (LINK)

AAUP has rescheduled Dr. Howard Bunsis' presentation for Thursday, November 3rd. Please stay tuned for more information from the AAUP chapter.

Our regularly scheduled October Faculty Senate meeting again gives faculty the opportunity to participate in shared governance. Right now, dilemmas the university faces and decisions the university makes challenge faculty to our core beliefs, as we all are forced to recognize and respond to the fiscal obstacle before us. But to everything there is a season... and I look forward to a more prosperous season.

Thank you for your commitment and service.

Sincerely,

Shirley