Dear Faculty Senators,

The FS Budget Committee has been looking at the Athletics budgets and expenditures and will have a full report with recommendations sometime next semester. In the meantime, please find the attached Budget Charts and Numbers PDF and the Powerpoint from Dr. Bunsis' presentation on EKU Sports.

The first document was prepared by members of the budget committee and contains a summary of budgeted athletics funds and expenditures, along with a look at some of the overall trends since 2012. As you'll see, the differences between 2012-2017 include increased salaries for coaching staff (sometimes due to the addition of coaching staff members, and other times due to raises), increases in scholarship costs (some of this is due to inflation in tuition and housing costs, but it's also due to more scholarships being funded at out-of-state tuition levels, rather than a mix of in- and out-of-state), and improvements to sports facilities or new construction (located in the operating budgets for each team). Just for a little context: during this same period, EKU tuition has increased by about 20% and average faculty salaries have risen from between 2.5% and 5% (depending on rank). The second document (from Dr. Bunsis) provides some additional, contextual information.

Our analysis is not complete and we have no recommendations at this point, but I think that the university may be able to recover well over $1.2 million if it returned to 2012-2013 funding levels. Such a move would probably not change the number of scholarships, number of players, and number of sports offered at EKU. As you can see by the win/loss records of the teams, there does not appear to be a relationship between increased spending and improved performance between 2012-2016.

I have to say that I think it's unfortunate that a few individuals have resorted to using a "straw man" argument on this issue. They claim that faculty would like to dissolve all sports programs at EKU, and that "that can simply cannot be done." This stance is both hyperbolic and irresponsible. In my 11 years at EKU, I've served as a faculty senator, a chair and co-chair of FS committees, and a member of several university committees, and I have yet to meet a single EKU faculty member who is seriously interested in closing the entire athletics program. Most seem to approve of a modest reduction in spending on sports in favor of support for academics.

I look forward to working with all of you next semester. I will send you our final findings and recommendations as soon as the committee has completed them.

Best wishes,

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