

Provost's Report to Faculty Senate

April 2, 2018

Faculty Senators:

Today we address both routine curriculum review and continued curriculum review of programs being evaluated for possible suspension. These proposed program suspensions, along with a record of the recommendations by CAA, have been put forward to you today for your consideration. Along with recommendations from Dean's Council, Budget Advisory Committee, and Council on Academic Affairs, your voice and vote here today will be part of the proposals that go forward to the President in the coming days in order to make final recommendations to the Board of Regents.

We continually engage in program review as part of the important work by Academic Affairs and routinely report those reviews to Council on Postsecondary Education. Our job is to review programs in light of the academic mission and goals of the University. This process is central to a strong academic mission.

In 2016, the Dean's Council were the major part of an additional program review addressing low-enrollment and low-degree-awarding programs. At that time, programs were recommended for suspension, revision, or placed on a probationary or watch list. Many of those program review recommendations came directly to Council on Academic Affairs for recommendations and then were forwarded to Faculty Senate for their recommendations. Embedded in the 2016 report was the scheduled follow-up program review for this academic year. The review conducted by the deans was a scheduled continuation of the work of 2016. Additionally, this year's review considered stand-alone associate degree programs, minors, and certificates. The work has coincided with the work of the Budget Advisory Committee established this year to address a significant shortfall estimated at \$25 million dollars.

There's no question the list of proposals you have been asked to review includes some high-quality programs. These programs are highly valued. However, students are not selecting them or are not graduating from them. When resources are committed to programs that do not attract students, the University is impeding its ability to commit resources to growing current programs or pioneering innovative new programs on the horizon. In all cases, the primary consideration of the final recommendations was the academic goals of the University. It is also about using our limited resources as wisely as possible to conform to the new higher education reality.

Over the last ten years, we have reduced vacant positions, restructured, implemented buy-outs and early retirement enhancements, outsourced, and more. Each reduction is harder than the last – and each proposed measure is more difficult. We will continue to look for opportunities to be more efficient, strategic, and innovative to grow enrollments, serve students, and increase revenues. Right now, we are burdened with the heavy task of meeting an unprecedented budget shortfall. As my wonderful predecessor, Dr. Vice said in her farewell speech to the Senate last Spring, we must “continue to work as an institution to ensure ECU's best days are the days ahead.” We all represent ECU, and we must make decisions that are in the best interest of the University. We may not agree about what that means; but I ask that we be respectful of each other as we have these important discussions.

Sincerely,

Deborah Whitehouse

Important Dates

Please mark the following upcoming dates on your calendars:

April 6 – ECU Board of Regents' Meeting

April 9-13 – Scholars Week (<http://ekuscholars.eku.edu/>)

April 13 – University Presentation Showcase

May 15-16 – 2018 Faculty Scholars Institute

May 18 – Pedagogicon (<http://studio.eku.edu/2018-pedagogicon>)

May 17 – Pre-Conference Workshops (<http://studio.eku.edu/2018-pedagogicon-pre-conference-workshops>)

- **9:30-11:00 a.m.** – *Effective Communication for Leaders Under Pressure*, Joan Beck
- **1-4 p.m.** – *Assignment Design and Assessment: Intentional Integration for Significant Student Outcome*, Cindy Judd & Ryan Baggett, ECU Faculty Innovators

September 28 – Assurance of Learning Day (**SAVE THE DATE**)