

Provost's Report to Faculty Senate

December 4, 2017

Colleagues,

I know you are working diligently to help our students finish strong in December and either graduate or enroll for the Spring 2018 semester. Thank you for all you do to help our students progress and achieve their dreams.

Summer School

As part of program progression, let's keep encouraging our students to strive for "15 credits to finish" and use summer school to catch up, stay on track or get ahead on their work toward degree completion. Since the November Senate meeting, Dr. Rusty Carpenter and the Summer School Workgroup have:

- * launched the Summer Session web presence, available at <http://www.eku.edu/summer-school>, with additional content drafted and going up in the coming days.
- * designed an initial marketing campaign to promote summer session opportunities to students in geographic areas near Richmond. (This geo-targeted marketing campaign advertises summer session courses and opportunities to ECU students and potential visiting students returning to the area during the holidays).

The Summer School Workgroup is also:

- * reviewing historic summer enrollments for trends, opportunities, and potential bottlenecks and designing a process for triaging summer enrollment based on academics, financial need, and opportunity.
- * launching an ECU Direct survey of students to determine the most popular modality, days, and times in which students would like summer session courses.
- * designing a dynamic schedule to make searching for and selecting summer courses more convenient for potential students.
- * working to reduce barriers in the process.
- * implementing an email communication plan to promote summer courses to Winter Term students.

Inclement Weather Plan

As we prepare for wintry weather and the possibility of delays and cancellations in the coming months, now is a good time to revisit our Inclement Weather Plan and review other important information regarding inclement weather.

Decisions Regarding Canceling Classes

Interruptions to our class schedule are inevitable and always challenging. The President's team takes many factors into consideration, makes a decision as early as possible, and announces that decision broadly. In addition to traditional venues, we can now use the RAVE system to make announcements regarding delays and cancellations. If you have not signed up for RAVE, please consider doing so by visiting ECU Direct.

Questions Regarding Class Attendance

Given our large service area, the variations in road conditions, our academic schedule, and students' expectations, it's impossible to know and accommodate everyone's situation. Students take to social media with questions and make inquiries of our faculty and staff. We remind those inquiring that the decision to travel to campus ultimately rests with each individual regardless of the University's decision. Students bear the responsibility of working with the instructor(s) to determine how he/she can make up missed work. That is, indeed, the most common concern of anxious students, who are concerned about their progress in their classes.

Plans for Continuing Instruction Electronically

We encourage academic departments to consider how faculty can continue short-term instruction through the use of technology, particularly when we experience several consecutive days of severe weather or other schedule interruptions. As with the All “A” Classic, resources are available to assist faculty in planning alternate teaching methods when severe weather impacts class meetings. For resources and assistance, please see the Noel Studio’s Academic Continuity Plan (ACP) (<http://studio.eku.edu/academic-continuity-plan-acp>), meet with your Faculty Innovators, and/or contact the Noel Studio for Academic Creativity.

The University’s Inclement Weather Schedule can be found at <http://www.eku.edu/weather>.

Pedagogicon

The Noel Studio for Academic Creativity will host the 2018 Pedagogicon on Friday, May 18, 2018. This year’s conference theme is “Student-Centered Teaching and Learning.” The Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Gregg Wentzell, Interim Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami University (Ohio) and Associate Director of the Lilly Conference on College Teaching. Dr. Gregg presents seminars and workshops on faculty development and the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at U.S. and international conferences.

The Noel Studio is inviting faculty to submit proposals for Pedagogicon sessions. Threads might include but are not limited to:

- High-Impact Educational Practices
- Use of technology to enhance teaching and learning
- Creative instructional techniques that engage students in learning, especially deep learning
- Innovative faculty development initiatives, programs, and processes
- New ways to use Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom
- Ways to incorporate diversity into teaching and learning

The Studio welcomes submissions by individuals and groups, faculty-student research teams, and cross-institutional collaborators. Proposals are due by February 1, 2018.

Please visit <http://studio.eku.edu/2018-pedagogicon> for more information about the conference and call for proposals. The proposal submission form is available at <http://studio.eku.edu/pedagogicon-proposal-submission-2018>.

Professional Development Opportunity: DEEP Week

Members of the EKU community are invited to a week-long series of professional development workshops scheduled to take place on January 29 – February 2, 2018 as part of the inaugural DEEP (Developing Excellence in Eastern’s Professors) Week.

The DEEP system, developed by the Faculty Innovation Workgroup and available at studio.eku.edu/deep, includes a set of online, self-paced courses focused on broad-based teaching and learning topics. To promote these courses and related opportunities, DEEP Week will consist of daily interactive workshops focused on the development of excellence in teaching and learning. Workshops will take place in the Noel Studio for Academic Creativity and Crabbe Library. To learn more about and register for daily workshops, visit studio.eku.edu/deep-week-2018.

I hope you enjoy outstanding graduation celebrations with your students and their families and experience a peaceful and restful Winter Break. Thank you for the gift of teaching and learning that you give to our students every day of the year.

Important Dates

Please mark the following upcoming dates on your calendars:

December 15, 2017 – Fall Commencement Ceremonies (*For individual ceremony times and other information:*
<http://registrar.eku.edu/2017-fall-commencement>)

January 24-28, 2018 – Kentucky All “A” Classic (*Faculty are encouraged to consider alternate methods of course delivery for Richmond campus classes, especially on January 25 and 26. Available faculty resources for alternate teaching methods:* [Noel Studio’s Academic Continuity Plan \(ACP\).](#))

January 29-February 2, 2018 – DEEP Week (studio.eku.edu/deep-week-2018)

February 1, 2018 – Application deadline for Annual Faculty Awards (<http://studio.eku.edu/annual-faculty-awards>)
– Submission deadline for Pedagogicon proposals (<http://studio.eku.edu/2018-pedagogicon>)

February 6, 2018 – Colonels at the Capital Day

February 8, 2018 – Posters-at-the-Capitol

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

Respectfully,

Deborah Whitehouse