



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: President David T. McFaddin

DATE: February 7, 2022

RE: Faculty Senate February Report

Legislative Update

The Legislative Session is in full swing. I am pleased by the prioritization of higher education in both Governor Beshear's proposed budget and the budget that passed out of the House last month. We are currently working with the Senate to move a variety of bills forward as well as some key budget projects forward. The EKU budgetary highlights are:

- Asset preservation-This will allow us to address maintenance issues on campus. I want to be clear that the list of projects is lengthy and this will not repair all of our needs, however, it will make a substantial difference in our most needed places on campus.
- Model Laboratory School Construction-This project will support the connectivity between our College of Education, Model Lab, and Burrier Child Development Center by creating a space where we can lead the way in the PreK-12 educator preparation.
- Alumni Coliseum Renovation-As the front door for our students on campus, the home of the Bratzke Center and our hands-on classroom for students in broadcasting and sports medicine, this project will address much-needed deferred maintenance on the facility while providing a space for multipurpose use for our students and community.
- Full funding of our KERS pension liability subsidy.
- Nearly \$50 million in new performance funding in each year of the biennium.
- Increase in the College Access Program (CAP), Kentucky Tuition Grant Program, and Work Ready Scholarship Program

EKU Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations Ethan Witt has done an excellent job helping to plan our Colonels at the Capitol this Thursday. We hope to bring our faculty and staff to Frankfort to continue advocating for our various projects. If you have questions regarding any of our legislative positions, I encourage you to contact Ethan at ethan.witt@eku.edu or 859-622-6220.

COVID-19 Update

Campus health and wellbeing continue to be a top priority as we learn to live with COVID-19 and its variants. We continue to provide KN-95 masks to those faculty and staff that request them. In addition, we are providing testing and vaccinations through Student Health Services. We will continue contract tracing those students in residential spaces. All other positive students, faculty, and staff should continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC.

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Fundraising Goal Exceeded

I want to commend the work of our Alumni Development team who recently announced the end of the Make No Little Plans Campaign. This campaign was the largest and most ambitious fundraising effort in EKU's history and has exceeded its \$50 million goal. This ensures that we can maintain and strengthen our excellence in academic programs, student success and campus revitalization. This effort allows us to enhance opportunities for professional development, reward innovative research and promote applied classroom learning. We know that through investing in our faculty, we will continue to achieve academic excellence.

President's Excellence Awards

Serving as president of an institution with faculty and staff who provide excellence daily is inspiring. We want to recognize those in our campus community who demonstrate excellence in leadership, engagement, hospitality, philanthropy, diversity and inclusion, and innovation during our first-ever President's Excellence Awards on Wednesday, April 27. The ceremony will be held on the main stage of the EKU Center for the Arts. I invite you to nominate a deserving colleague or yourself for the award. Winners receive an award and \$2,500. Nominations are due Friday, February 25. Visit the [President's Excellence Awards website](#) for criteria and nomination information.

Presidential Installation

I am excited about the upcoming Presidential Installation, and more importantly the campus-wide celebration of our institution. While you will be getting an invitation later this year, please go ahead and mark your calendars for the week of April 25, 2022, and specifically the Installation day of Friday, April 29, 2022. The installation theme, One Eastern, will play triple duty and also serve as the mantra for our Strategic Plan and the upcoming fundraising campaign.

Strategic Planning

This month we will begin the faculty-based portion of the strategic planning process. I want to encourage everyone to think about the areas of Knowledge, Innovation, and Transformation. This will be the foundation of our strategic plan but it will also be the barometer by which we will measure employee performance. I encourage you to be thoughtful and participatory in your division's planning process.

All "A" Classic

Alumni Coliseum once again served as host to the All "A" Classic basketball tournament. Despite the winter storm, we still hosted a record number of students and parents, many from our EKU service region. Showcasing all that EKU has to offer potential students is the main reason why we invest time and resources into this event. We know that getting potential students and their families to physically visit campus is a great recruiting tool. Thank you to those of you who volunteered to serve at this year's event.

Thank you for all you do.

One Eastern,



David T. McFaddin, Ed.D.
President
Eastern Kentucky University

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