



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate

FROM: President David T. McFaddin

DATE: November 1, 2021

RE: November Report

As we look toward this season of thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to our faculty for navigating the challenges and opportunities of a full return to on-campus classes, activities, and support services. I know many of you have played a more active role in the lives of our students this semester to ensure their academic and personal success. Providing personal attention and individualized support is a key ingredient in the Exceptional Eastern Experience. Some of our students need that attention and support now more than ever. Thank you for steering them in the right direction and helping them to persist. They may not communicate it right now, but they will remember your efforts in years to come.

Freshman McKenzie Johnson is an example of a student who came to ECU from an online high school environment and admits she has struggled this semester with the new routines and expectations that come from the collegiate environment. She found that simply communicating with her professors made all the difference to her feeling overwhelmed. On behalf of McKenzie and our record class of 2,531 first-time freshman -- thank you.

We hosted our third Enrollment Summit last week with an amazing team of enrollment management, academic affairs and support services departments. During that meeting we were able to celebrate our significant growth in new students and acknowledge that preliminary data shows ECU to be the only public university in Kentucky to post a positive growth in new first-time undergraduate students. Our 8.4% increase represents an amazing achievement by our team and is a promising indicator of success yet to come. Please know I am grateful to everyone for their hard work and dedication to help make this success possible.

The Board of Regents recently advanced our work toward the 2022-2030 Strategic Plan. Your participation is critical to the completion of the 2022-2030 Strategic Plan. A campus message was delivered last week requesting feedback on the draft plan. As faculty, your experience and knowledge is important during this final portion of the process. I encourage you to thoughtfully consider where we are going in this next phase in the life of our University and how your role is crucial to our vision that we will "be excellent in all that we choose to do."

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We are excited to celebrate with our fall graduates on December 3 and 4. We will host three commencement ceremonies over those two days in Alumni Coliseum. Commencement is an important transition point for our students, their families, as well as the life of our University. It is important to pause and reflect on their contributions and achievements and wish them well in their future endeavors.

While COVID-19 positivity rates and the impact on our local community and the campus continue to decline at an accelerated rate, we will continue to require masking indoors throughout the balance of the fall semester. We will work with our local experts to formulate a plan for the winter term and spring semester that will be communicated out to campus prior to the end of the fall semester. The greatest tool we have to combat this pandemic continues to be vaccinations. We are pleased to now have the Pfizer vaccination option on campus as an additional choice for students and faculty. We continue to encourage, educate and provide ample opportunities for everyone in the ECU family to get those much needed vaccinations. If you have any questions please visit www.staywell.eku.edu for more information.

It's been a busy but exciting fall semester for us all. I wish you the best as you finish the semester strong.

One Eastern,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David T. McFaddin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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