

Report of the Senate Chair

3-6-23

The Senate Executive Committee met on 2-20-23 by Zoom. A good deal of meeting time was invested in discussion of the feasibility of a hybrid (in-person and Zoom) setup for next year's Senate meetings. We were joined by Jesse Hood and Brian Popa from Conferencing and Events, and they said that the results would be less than satisfactory to do the hybrid approach. They cited the challenges faced by the Board of Regents trying to do the same thing, and it was noted that the Regents are no longer doing a hybrid approach.

In the end the EC decided that the best option would be to recommend that the Senate adopt a plan where the first and last meetings of the year would be in person and all other meetings continue to use Zoom. I met with Brian Popa in Powell 219 and we agreed that it would work as well as the South Ballroom in Keen Johnson. However, since it is used for classes, it is not available for the September 11, 2023 first meeting. The conversation then shifted to Perkins which 1) is available, 2) is both large enough and has the needed equipment on hand to meet our needs, and 3) it has parking. Therefore, that will be the recommendation when we discuss the issue today.

I have spent a considerable amount of time consulting with Senator Brent about his report from the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee which you will hear today. It contains many items of concern to faculty, and I've given him my consent to have both Dana Fohl and Lauren Keeler present as guests of the Committee to answer questions about a number of things, including the Grievance Policy. Hopefully some valuable clarity will begin to emerge from this presentation.

The EC also discussed upcoming Senate Vacancies. A letter from Senator Spira, Chair of the Elections and University Nominations Committee, went out on 3-1 to all Department Chairs alerting them to the upcoming vacancies so that they may fill those vacancies by election in time for the May 1st Organizational Meeting.

I was pleased to be able to participate in the Colonels at the Capitol on 2-15 with other members of the ECU community, the administration and the Board of Regents. It was interesting to meet the Legislators upon whose decisions our future rests and to get a sense of the forces at work in Frankfort. It was clear that ECU has invested a great deal of time in cultivating relationships with key legislators, many of whom are ECU alumni and are devoted both to higher ed and to their alma mater. We also had a chance to meet briefly with Governor Beshear, a strong and enthusiastic supporter of education. Details of the meetings will be shared by the President in his report during this meeting.

I need to correct an assertion I made at our last meeting. When I discussed that nominations for Chair and Vice Chair would be solicited at the April meeting, I incorrectly stated that the election would take place in the REGULAR meeting on May 1. In fact, it will take place first thing in the ORGANIZATIONAL meeting immediately following the regular meeting. As soon as the new officers are elected, they take over the remainder of the Organizational meeting.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your Chair.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Crosby
EQU Foundation Professor
Chair of Faculty Senate