



David T. McFaddin  
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate  
FROM: President David T. McFaddin  
DATE: April 3, 2023  
RE: Faculty Senate April Report

Every year, I feel like a broken record when I reflect on how fast the school year has passed and this year is no different. With Spring Break behind us and graduation squarely in front of us, this academic year is quickly coming to an end. I have been so pleased by the immense energy on campus and the excitement generated externally by our community and statewide partners. People are seeing what we are doing at EKU and taking notice in a positive way.

### **2023 Legislative Session Closeout**

This year's legislative session has come to an end. EKU, led by Amy Scarborough, tracked over 240 bills in both the Senate and the House. While many bills were introduced and debated, 34 with potential impact for EKU actually became law. Of those, 11 are K-12 bills, five are police/public safety and five are human resources/healthcare benefit related. We don't believe any of the bills passed have a direct impact on our current or prospective student population. If you have any questions about specific legislation, please reach out at amy.scarborough@eku.edu.

### **Budget**

As we approach the end of the budget year, we will be closing out the current fiscal year and preparing for the 2023-2024 budget year. Currently, the VPs are working with Deans, AVPs, Chairs, and budget managers to create the upcoming budget. While budget reviews often make faculty and staff uncomfortable, I want to remind everyone that under my leadership, EKU will annually review, edit and prioritize our funding based on our strategic priorities. I plan to provide a high-level preview of the budget priorities during the upcoming "Lunch and Learns" with faculty and staff.

- April 12, 2023-Faculty Lunch and Learn
- April 18, 2023-Staff Council Luncheon

### **Leadership Updates**

While we normally do not announce staffing announcements at Faculty Senate. We have recently made some significant changes that I feel are worth noting. Additional information will be sent campus wide regarding these changes later this week

- Vice President Dannie Moore will be adding Housing to his program oversight. To accommodate the new addition, the following have been named:
  - Karen Peveler-AVP of Student Life (includes Campus Recreation, Housing, and Student Life)
  - Rae Loftis-AVP of Student Life (Veteran Programming, CEIGE, and Federal TRIO programs)
- Carrie Earnst, our Chief Innovation and Optimization Officer, will move to report to the President's Office.
- As Provost Zeigler communicated earlier to campus, we are pleased to finalize our Dean search with the announcement of Dr. Elizabeth Smith as the Dean of Education and Applied Human Sciences

Key searches that are ongoing include the Vice President of Development and Alumni Engagement and the Director of E-Campus. Both of these searches are the result of the upcoming retirements for two of our most outstanding leaders, Betina Gardner and Tim Matthews respectively. Those search committees are hard at work now and I will provide updates as those searches progress toward completion.

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## Scholars Week

EKU's Scholars Week celebrates, showcases, and promotes the rich culture of faculty, student, and faculty-student scholarship, research, and creative endeavors. Scholars Week begins this week and will take place from April 3, 2023 to April 14, 2023.

## Giving Day

EKU's annual Giving Day is quickly approaching. On Wednesday, April 19, our hope is to meet this year's goal of 2092 donors. The number represents the number of EKU graduates that walked across the graduation stage last year. I encourage you to hit social media to promote the day among your colleges and departments, make requests of donors who are committed to our mission, and consider giving yourself. I am encouraging everyone to sport their maroon this Giving Day.

## Recognizing Excellence

As we approach graduation, there are a variety of events that highlight the excellence that we see on our campus. Please mark the following dates and prepare to celebrate with our students, faculty and staff.

- April 4-Faculty Awards and Recognition Ceremony
- April 6-Phi Kappa Phi Induction Ceremony
- April 7-Scholars Assembly
- April 26-Employee Milestone Recognition Breakfast
- April 26-Presidential Excellence Awards
- April 27-Student Excellence Awards
- April 30-Colonels' Celebration

## 2023 Spring Commencement

As a reminder, 2023 Spring Commencement ceremonies will take place at 9am and 6pm on Friday, May 12, 2023. Here are some faculty reminders:

- Our commencement committee has worked hard over the past year to redesign our spring ceremonies to maximize the student, faculty, staff and guest experience. The overall length of the ceremony has been shortened significantly, the staging and processional/recessional flow has been improved and several key contingencies have been put in place to enhance comfort and health.

Key changes include:

- Reduction of the ceremony length that reflects the shortened Fall Graduation Ceremony
  - Two speakers will tandem announce graduates to reduce the time to announce/walk graduates across the stage
  - Concessions will be open
  - All students and faculty will be provided water in advance
  - Walk in will be indoors instead of outside for both students and faculty
- A severe weather plan is in place. We will move to the Alumni Coliseum in the event of severe weather. A website will be activated in the event that decision is made. That website will direct faculty and students to a new ceremony date and time.
  - Please prepare that the second ceremony will be slightly longer. We will be honoring EKU alumni and four star general, General James Rainey with an Honorary Doctor of Laws at the 6:00 p.m. ceremony. This ceremony will be slightly longer (additional 15 minutes) in order to accommodate the honorary degree portion of the program.

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### **Presidential Office Hours**

Still having full sessions for our President's One on One's. I encourage anyone wanting to discuss issues impacting the University to stop in for a visit. The final date for the semester is Friday, April 21, 2023, from 10-11am.

### **EKU Today**

EKU Today is getting a facelift. Thanks to the work of the CBM and Slate teams, CBM will be moving later this month to the new platform to communicate internal campus messages. The most important component impacting faculty is that the link that you have traditionally utilized to send announcements will be modified. Be watching for communication coming later this month.

### **EKU in the News**

We have had great success in getting our faculty, students, and alumni in the news, especially when newsworthy topics align with the work of our faculty. Here are some of the examples of EKU in the News:

- [Eastern Kentucky University adds new engineering program](#)
- [Baptist Health Richmond welcomes new board members](#)
- [Kentucky Newsmakers 3/26: EKU President David McFaddin](#)
- [Mass shootings are changing the way police operate](#)
- [The News Journal UC, EKU named 2022-2023 Military ...](#)
- [EKU alumna Mullins wins Miss Earth USA 2023 title](#)
- [EKU highlights student resources during Mental Health Week](#)
- [EKU's Hamilton a finalist for Skip Prosser Award](#)

As we round the corner to the end of the semester, continue to do the outstanding work of staying engaged with our students. We all know the stress that finals paired with graduation deadlines can create. Let's help get our students to the finish line.

One Eastern,



Dr. David T. McFaddin  
President