



David T. McFaddin
President

TO: Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: President David T. McFaddin
DATE: October 2, 2023
RE: Faculty Senate October Report

We are beginning to enter one of the most amazing seasons on the Campus Beautiful. The changing of the leaves casts our campus in the most beautiful sea of color. It also reminds us that midterms will soon be behind us and the second half of the semester is upon us. I know each of us are committed to finishing the semester strong.

EKU Highlights in the News-September 2023

The following highlights received coverage in local, state, and national media outlets touting our EKU success. If you are a faculty member or know one who can serve as a subject matter expert for Communications and Brand Management (CBM), please contact Sarah Baker at sarah.baker@eku.edu.

- Climate Smart Agriculture
 - <https://www.lex18.com/news/mt-folly-farm-receives-1-million-for-climate-smart-innovation-project>
 - <https://www.weku.org/the-commonwealth/2023-08-28/mt-folly-farm-kicks-off-climate-smart-farming-programs-through-usda-grant>
- Mental Health wrap around services:
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-eases-transition-for-new-and-returning-students/article_231dcc3e-541b-11ee-ab69-f32541a75888.html
- Rankings
 - Top-ranked colleges in Kentucky
 - <https://ca.movies.yahoo.com/top-ranked-colleges-kentucky-2023-151920312.html>
 - Most affordable online social work degree programs
 - <https://lifestyle.995jamz.com/story/49680628/best-universities-releases-2024-rankings-for-most-affordable-online-social-work-degree-programs>
 - Most affordable online fire science degrees
 - <https://lifestyle.995jamz.com/story/49680462/best-universities-releases-2024-rankings-for-most-affordable-online-fire-science-degrees>
- Option 9/COEAHS
 - <https://spectrumnews1.com/ky/louisville/news/2023/09/14/option-9-supporting-eku-students->
 - <https://fox56news.com/news/local/a-central-kentucky-university-looks-to-battle-teacher-shortage-with-new-path/>
- [Coach Roy Kidd](#)
- STEM Week:
 - <https://www.wymt.com/2023/09/13/eku-hosts-stem-week-high-school-students/>
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/community/eku-college-of-stem-announces-first-female-iconic-professor/article_ca04f082-58ca-11ee-a75b-03e152024122.html

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- Manchester scholarship:
 - <https://maysville-online.com/719/209006/eku-launches-1-5-million-scholarship-initiative-to-support-eku-manchester-campus-students>
 - <https://www.wymt.com/2023/09/13/senate-president-robert-stivers-announces-endowment-eku/>
- Bat/Mammal Expert - Dr. Luke Dodd
 - <https://www.wowt.com/2023/09/12/bat-infestation-leads-elementary-schools-temporary-closure/>
- 9/11 Memorial
 - <https://www.lex18.com/news/eku-hosts-9-11-remembrance-ceremony-honorary-stair-climb>
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/9-11-memorial-stair-climb-honors-lives-lost/article_87dc213a-5203-11ee-ad85-537dee7de802.html
- Anthem Scholarship
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/eku-and-anthem-blue-cross-and-blue-shield-medicaid-announce-rural-medicine-scholarship-expansion/article_3b5323f0-5045-11ee-b79a-5f7aa51754b6.html
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/eku-expands-medicine-scholarship-to-better-serve-rural-ky/>
- Hannah Gentry turns 101
 - https://www.richmondregister.com/news/former-teacher-eku-graduate-celebrates-turning-101/article_a6681b2a-4ea4-11ee-ae81-7f9870a0c1f4.html
- Suicide Prevention Event
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/09/08/suicide-prevention-training-held-eku/>
- AI Expert - Dr. Lisa Blue
 - <https://www.govtech.com/education/higher-ed/professors-find-ai-most-useful-for-lesson-plans-discussions>
- Coach Kidd Medical Update
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/09/06/legendary-coach-being-moved-into-hospice-care/>
 - <https://www.wtvq.com/former-eku-football-head-coach-roy-kidd-being-moved-into-hospice/>
 - <https://www.wave3.com/2023/09/06/legendary-coach-being-moved-into-hospice-care/>
 - <https://www.lex18.com/news/legendary-eku-coach-to-be-placed-in-hospice-care>
 - https://www.easternprogress.com/sports/former-eku-football-coach-roy-kidd-hospitalized/article_2f5a129c-4cd6-11ee-aaca-8778c45c3924.html
- Prison Expert - Professor Judah Schept
 - <https://environmentmag.org/2023/09/05/qa-from-coal-to-prisons-in-eastern-kentucky-and-the-struggle-for-a-just-transition/>
- EKU Psychology Clinic
 - <https://www.wymt.com/2023/09/01/theater-partnership-puts-depression-suicide-prevention-under-spotlight/>
- Dept of Government Expert - Dr. Matthew Howell
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/08/31/how-filling-vacancy-congress-work-kentucky/>
- Dept of Government Expert - Dr. Anne Cizmar
 - <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1196712574>
 - <https://www.wkms.org/government-politics/2023-09-07/beshear-attacks-cameron-over-abortion-restrictions-in-kentuckys-race-for-governor>
- Psychology Expert - Dr. Dan Florell
 - <https://www.weku.org/lexington-richmond/2023-08-29/ky-students-in-trouble-for-tiktok-challenge-a-reminder-of-the-dangers-of-youth-smart-phones-and-social-media>

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- DNA Expert - Dr. Cindy Tran
 - <https://www.wkyt.com/2023/08/28/suspect-once-cold-sexual-assault-cases-now-facing-rape-charge/>

Budget

The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) adopted the FY24-26 statewide Postsecondary budget request components at their September 19th Council meeting. Highlights include:

- Additional \$22M requested to increase the current Performance Funding appropriation to \$120M and \$191M in recurring base General Fund appropriation increases to be allocated annually to institutions, intended to help offset inflationary impacts stretching back several fiscal years;
- \$350 million each year of the upcoming biennium (or \$700 million in total) to finance asset preservation projects at Kentucky colleges and universities, which could be either cash or bond funded;
- The Performance Funding Work Group members voted unanimously to recommended five changes to the university funding model for the upcoming three-year period:
 - increase the premium for low-income bachelor's degrees (↑ pool allocation from 3% to 8%; ↑ reward per degree from \$1,579 to \$4,213)
 - add a new adult learner metric to the model (include in credit hours earned metric @1.00 weighting)
 - eliminate degree efficiency index weighting
 - increase the small school adjustment for KSU and MoSU (↑ by \$6.6 million at KSU and by \$1.4 million at MoSU)
 - increase nonresident credit hour weighting (from 0.50 to 0.75)
- Increase for the Model Lab School to reflect public state support on a per pupil basis, similar to all other public K-12 schools; and
- Phase II capital appropriations for the new Model Lab School, Alumni Coliseum renovations, an additional round of Asset Preservation state funding and a Comprehensive Aviation Expansion project for the Aviation program and Central Kentucky Regional Airport.

New EKU Board of Regent Member

Governor Beshear has appointed Michael Garland to the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents. He will replace Juan Castro, whose term expired. I am very grateful for Juan's passion, commitment and dedication to Eastern Kentucky University. His tenure on the Board of Regents positively impacted EKU and he will be missed. Regent Garland will be sworn in at a special meeting of the Board of Regents at a date yet to be determined.

Open Enrollment

Benefits are one of the major components of being an Employer of Choice. This year open enrollment takes place October 16-November 1, 2023. The Human Resources team worked diligently with our insurance broker to get the best competitive benefit package. We are happy to report that we were able to keep rate increases to less than 1%. Here are some highlights:

- The maximum number of Physical Therapy visits has **increased** to 50 visits per plan year for all plans.
- PPO plan deductibles are being **lowered** by \$500;
- Co-pays for participants in the PPO2000 plan, which is the most widely used plan, are being **lowered** from \$35 to \$30 for primary care visits; and
- Consumer Directed Health Plan is being **lowered** to \$3,500

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Remember, open enrollment participation is mandatory for all benefits-eligible employees, regardless of whether they elect benefits. Enrollment access is available through your myEKU account. There will be two benefits fairs on October 17 at Keen Johnson Ballroom from 9-3pm and October 25 at Perkins Quads from 9am-3pm.

Performance Evaluations

The [Performance Management](#) process for staff will begin on October 6. Employees will be notified by email to begin the process. Last year the response was unacceptably low at a participation rate of 56%. It is critical that our employees have the information and tools to be successful and our supervisors have a matrix to ensure accountability and support. This year I expect all eligible faculty and staff to fully participate. The Performance Management schedule is as follows:

- October 6, 2023 – Performance Evaluation opens for all employees (goal-building phase)
- January 2024 — Progress check-in
- May 2024 – Complete evaluation

Celebration of Philanthropy

This past Thursday night we hosted the annual Celebration of Philanthropy. As a reminder, we concluded our largest campaign in 2022, well exceeding our ambitious goals and raising over \$61 million for the good of our campus community. Generous gifts helped us provide 2,323 scholarships and totaling \$1.7 million to deserving students last year. We awarded over 250 more scholarships than the previous year.

One of the highlights of the evening was recognizing Dr. John Wade was recognized as the 2023 EKU Philanthropist of the Year. This award is the highest recognition for an alumnus or other friend of the university who has made a noteworthy, university-wide impact or has supported or directed fundraising for a specific major university priority project. His two scholarships, the Dr. John A. Wade Latino Endowed Scholarship and the Dr. John A. Wade Endowed Economics Scholarship, have provided opportunities for an astonishing 46 individual students since they were established.

State of the University

Historically we have hosted the Richmond Chamber of Commerce's annual State of the University at the Perkins Building. Last year we opted to change the format and invite the community onto campus for the event. Our inaugural site was the Campus Recreation Building. It was such a great success that we opted to select another on-campus location. I want to thank Dean Otieno and the STEM faculty for making the Science Building ready to host this year's event. We welcomed community and business leaders from across the County to hear about all of the work our faculty has done over the past year. As a bonus, watching students move through the space during the presentation reinforced all of the great work we do here at EKU.

Calendar of Events

October 9-10-Fall Break

October 13-15-[Homecoming](#)

October 17-18-[GradFest](#)

October 17-[Benefit Fair and Flu Shots](#)

October 18-EKU Football vs. Stephen F. Austin (Senior Day, Band Day, College of Health Sciences)

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October 25-[Benefit Fair and Flu Shots](#)

October 30-Faculty Lunch and Learn at noon in Case Regents Room - [Register Here](#)

November 4-Veteran's Memorial Plaza Dedication

November 23-24-Thanksgiving Break

December 2-Convocation

Please remember to take time and enjoy the beautiful fall weather.

One Eastern,

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

Dr. David T. McFaddin
President