

**Eastern Kentucky University
Board of Regents**

**Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2013**

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Eastern Kentucky University
Board of Regents
October 28, 2013**

A regular quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened at 1:05 p.m. on October 28, 2013, in Room 233, Stratton Building, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky. Mr. Turner, Chair of the Board, presided. Mr. Turner noted the presence of a quorum. The following members of the Board were present:

Mr. Gary Abney
Ms. Sarah Carpenter
Ms. Nancy Collins
Ms. Janet Craig
Mr. Steven Fulkerson
Mr. Ernie House
Ms. Janie Miller
Mr. David Tandy
Dr. Amy Thieme
Mr. Craig Turner

Other persons present at the meeting were:

Dr. Michael Benson, President
Dr. Janna Vice, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Barry Poynter, Vice President of Financial Affairs and Treasurer
Ms. Dreidre de Leon, Assistant Secretary
Members of the faculty and staff
Members of the media

**Acceptance of Certifications of Election and Qualification to Serve as a Member of the
EKU Board of Regents**

The Certifications of Election and Qualification to Serve as a Member of the ECU Board of Regents for Ms. Sarah Carpenter, Student Regent were distributed to the Board in the Board agenda materials. Copies of the election certification and qualification documents are included with the Official Minutes of the Board of Regents.

Swearing in of New Members

Ms. Judy Spain, University Counsel, provided the oath of service to Ms. Sarah Carpenter, elected Student Regent for a term of one year. Mr. Turner congratulated and welcomed Ms. Carpenter as a new member of the ECU Board of Regents.

Election of Officers

In accordance with the provision of the Board's Bylaws pertaining to the election of officers following the election of a new member to the Board, Mr. Abney made the motion for the existing officers to remain the same until the January Board meeting. Mr. Tandy seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Discussion of Consent Agenda

Mr. Turner recognized Dr. Judy Spain, University Counsel to discuss the process of a Consent Agenda. Dr. Spain explained a Consent Agenda is a meeting practice which packages routine committee reports, Board meeting minutes, and other non-controversial items not requiring discussion or independent action as one agenda item. Dr. Spain explained this can save meeting time by allowing the Board to approve this "package" of items together in one motion.

Approval of Revised By-Laws

Ms. Craig made the motion to add language for a Consent Agenda in the meetings section three (3) of the ECU Board Bylaws and to include listing the items that should not be on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Tandy seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote. A copy of the revised By-Laws are included with the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Approval of June 14, 2013 Minutes

Mr. Fulkerson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Thieme, that the minutes of the regular quarterly meeting of June 14, 2013, be approved as distributed. The motion passed by voice vote.

Reports to the Board

Mr. Craig Turner, ECU Board Chair

Mr. Turner reported a new Regent has not yet been appointed to replace Mr. Abney. Until a new member is appointed by the Governor, Mr. Abney continues to serve as a board member. Mr. Turner welcomed Mr. Abney and thanked him for his continued service. Mr. Turner announced Anita Johnson resigned as a member of ECU's Board effective September 17, 2013.

Mr. Turner congratulated the university with their Strategic Budget Reallocation task to secure \$20 million dollars. He stated with collaboration and leadership, ECU can accomplish great things. Mr. Turner also stated Governor Beshear has recognized ECU as a leader in Financial Planning. Mr. Turner stated with the hiring of ECU's 12th President Michael Benson in August that as we embrace ECU's past, he is confident President Benson understands our goal to reach higher academia. Mr. Turner also stated he believes there are many exciting things on ECU's horizon.

Mr. Turner introduced Ms. Sarah Carpenter to give her report to the Board.

Ms. Sarah Carpenter, Student Regent

Ms. Carpenter reported the Student Government Association (SGA) has held thirty events thus far. She stated their freshman class is very involved. SGA has created three service projects. The first is "Eastern Fans Friday". This project is to encourage everyone to wear maroon every Friday all year. The second project is to ensure evening Shuttle Service with a fixed route with stops every twenty minutes. The third project is creating a new Student Center with the plan to use a current location.

Ms. Carpenter stated SGA's position is to hold their members accountable and their office to be transparent. Ms. Carpenter reported SGA has finalized their goals. Those goals are: 1) Campus Involvement; 2) Branding; 3) Enhance their relationship with Administration, Faculty and Staff; 4) Dining Issues – a) upstairs options; b) use colonel cash off campus; c) more food options; and 5) SGA Standards – they have changed their mission statement to say: "*We serve and represent students to enhance their EKV experience.*"

Mr. Turner thanked Ms. Carpenter for her report. Ms. Craig commended SGA for their goals. Mr. Turner recognized Dr. Sheila Pressley to present her report to the Board.

Dr. Sheila Pressley, Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Pressley thanked the Board to allow faculty to speak to them. Dr. Pressley shared what is on the minds of the faculty. She stated faculty are concerned about salary equity. A work group has been created to discuss salary recommendations and are scheduled to have their ideas submitted to the President by December 1, 2013. She and Dr. Lynnette Noblitt are the co-chairs of this work group. Dr. Pressley noted there are huge disparities across the colleges. While the faculty is thankful for the 2.5% increase, she stated this doesn't make up for the gaps. Dr. Pressley noted the next meeting of the work group is scheduled for October 29, 2013. Dr. Pressley stated faculty do not expect the salary issue to be fixed overnight, but they do expect something. Dr. Pressley also stated faculty wish merit pay were on their base pay and not just on a one time basis. Another concern is from the Chairs. They don't understand the reason for program review. They are questioning if programs are going to be cut. Dr. Pressley also reported everyone whom she is aware of is on board regarding the Tobacco Free campus initiative. She also stated, generally speaking, the faculty are very happy with President Benson's leadership, honesty and openness. Dr. Pressley reported the next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. and invited the Board members to attend.

Mr. Turner thanked Dr. Sheila Pressley for her report and acknowledged Mrs. Leah Banks to give her report.

Mrs. Leah Banks, Staff Council President

Mrs. Banks reported the role of staff council is to serve as a conduit for the EKV Staff and to ensure their welfare. The Staff council would like to have members that represent

all areas on campus. Currently, they are down five members. A special election is scheduled in December. Staff Council's objectives are to reduce healthcare with their main concern being staff equity. Mrs. Banks stated Staff Council is a vital body to the campus.

Mr. Turner thanked Mrs. Banks for her report and acknowledged President Benson to give his report.

Michael Benson, President

President Benson reported that he, along with other university presidents and significant leaders, were strongly encouraged by the Governor to attend a SOAR conference in Hazard. SOAR is an acronym for "Shaping Our Appalachian Region". In an effort to focus on the future success of southern and eastern Kentucky, Gov. Beshear and Rep. Rogers organized the summit to gather ideas and recommendations about how to move Kentucky's Appalachian region forward. Morehead and ECU will partner to start aggressive talks regarding Eastern Kentucky and how to transition from the coal industry.

President Benson commended Sarah Carpenter. Her heart has the best interest of the students and stated he has enjoyed working with her.

President Benson announced, like today, there will be five standing reports at each Board meeting. President Benson reported it is our job to help the Board see what ECU is doing. Therefore, he has asked each College to host the Board of Regents meetings. President Benson thanked the College of Justice and Safety for hosting this meeting.

President Benson reported that Homecoming was very successful, and the Development Gala was truly spectacular. He thanked Jackie Collier, Dr. Michael Eastman and all the staff for their hard work. President Benson also thanked Dreidre de Leon, Lisa Kelley, the President's Council, the faculty and the Board for their support. President Benson stated we are only as good as our students.

The on-line suggestion box received over 700 responses. President Benson said this shows people do care. President Benson announced a campus-wide forum will be held next month as a way to communicate to the campus community that their concerns have been heard and what concerns have been addressed. President Benson stated a campus forum will be held each semester. He believes this is a great time to be at ECU to build upon.

Mr. Turner thanked President Benson for his report. Mr. Turner recognized Dr. Elizabeth Wachtel to present an enrollment update.

Enrollment Report

Dr. Wachtel gave a PowerPoint presentation which showed progress in 4-year graduation rates as well as an increase in freshman retention rates. Dr. Wachtel stated this progress is the result of the hard work of the faculty and staff and we should be very proud.

Dr. Wachtel noted there is a slight decline in total enrollment. Undergraduate enrollment has decreased, but reports show an increase in on-line graduate enrollment.

In regards to ethnicity, there is both an increase in African/American and Hispanic/Latino enrollment. Several new programs have been established to assist with mentoring and retention. In addition, scholarships are available such as the Rodney Gross Scholarship and, ECU's new Latino Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Liliana Gomez de Coss is working to establish a diverse scholarship.

Faculty are asked to complete a four-week progress report on their students. Over seventy percent of faculty have reported and approximately 1800 students have been referred to tutoring.

New Student Enrollment shows an increase in new freshman. New transfer student enrollment has declined and poses a challenge. However, the feeder schools such as KCTCS, BCTCS and Somerset has shown a decrease in their enrollment as well. The number of new graduate students have increased.

Other areas of growth in new freshman include New Merit Scholars, the Fall Bridge program, on-line programs, and increased quality of students (i.e. ACT & GPA).

Our service region is losing population. There is a projected decline in high school graduates from 2012-2020. Next year, 2013-2014, there is an expected decline of 4.5% in high school graduates. ECU's staff are working hard to get the biggest share of high school students. Dr. Wachtel was available for discussion and questions.

Ms. Craig thanked Dr. Wachtel for her report and asked what ECU was doing to help the African/American and Latino students to integrate academically and socially to the campus. Dr. Wachtel stated that Professor Wardell Johnson serves as a mentor and advisor to these students.

Ms. Carpenter asked what ECU was doing to recruit locally. Admissions Director, Brett Morris stated we are in the process of purchasing the names of sophomores and juniors of local high schools from ACT. In addition, he stated, we are taking our mascot, the Colonel along with current ECU students to local high schools.

Ms. Collins asked what are we doing in regards to college fairs and how are we working with the schools. Mr. Morris stated ECU is hosting a multicultural statewide recruitment fair and plan to have a "Colonel For A Day" that would allow a high school student to shadow a current ECU student.

President Benson commended Dr. Wachtel and her team and stated recruitment and retention is more than metrics and believes we are going in the right direction. A copy of the slide presentation is included with the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Mr. Turner thanked Dr. Wachtel for her report. Mr. Turner recognized Dr. Allen Ault for their college presentation.

Dr. Ault gave a PowerPoint presentation about their college and its programs. The students who were in that presentation were available at the meeting for questions. Mr. Turner asked each student how they learned of ECU and their program. The students stated they learned about ECU and their program(s) in a variety of ways such as through FEMA website, their high school counselor, web search, word of mouth and through a cultural exchange program. Mr. Turner and the other Regents applauded and thanked the College and the students for their presentation. A copy of the College of Justice and Safety's slide presentation is included with the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Committee Agendas

Information Agenda

Executive and Academic Affairs Committee

Mr. Turner reported that the Executive and Academic Affairs Committee met the morning prior to the full Board meeting and the recommendations on the action items included in the Board agenda materials would be presented during the action agenda.

Finance and Planning Committee

Committee Report

Ms. Craig reported the Finance and Planning Committee met twice since the last Board meeting. The first meeting was to recommend approval of the Financial Audit to be submitted to the state before the October 1 deadline. The second meeting was this morning prior to the full Board meeting. She noted Mr. Poynter provided the committee with an update on the Siemen's Project, a Construction update and a financial update through September 30, 2013. Ms. Karen Neubauer, Executive Director of Budgeting, Planning and Fiscal Effectiveness provided a budget presentation for FY2013-14. She also advised the committee received a report from the University's external auditor, Crowe Horwath LLC, for FY2013. In addition, the committee received an Enrollment Update from Dr. Elizabeth Wachtel.

Ms. Craig stated that Mr. Poynter reported to the committee the Siemen's project is working according to the baseline comparison. In addition, Mr. Poynter presented to the committee a

distribution report of the new revenue received from the reallocation monies. He also stated according to the September financial update, revenue is up slightly. Ms. Craig requested additional updates on the reallocation monies.

Ms. Craig reported the construction update included the completion of the new dorm excluding some exterior site work as well as the on-going renovation of top ten floors of Commonwealth Hall for office space.

Ms. Craig reported that the committee voted to recommend approval of the Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013 and an increase in Part-time Payroll Rates. A copy of the Financial Update, the Crowe Horwath report, the Enrollment Update, and the FY 2013-14 budget presentation are included with the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Action Agenda

Finance and Planning Committee

Approval of Audit for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013

Ms. Craig presented the recommendation of the Finance and Planning Committee to accept the audit for fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. Mr. Tandy seconded. The roll was called and the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Abney, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Collins, Ms. Craig, Mr. Fulkerson, Mr. House, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tandy, Ms. Thieme, and Mr. Turner. The motion passed.

The financial audit report is included in the Official Minutes of the Board of Regents.

Approval to Increase Part-Time Faculty Pay Rates

Ms. Craig presented the recommendation of the Finance and Planning Committee to approve an Increase in Part-Time Faculty Pay Rates. The roll was called and the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Abney, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Collins, Ms. Craig, Mr. Fulkerson, Mr. House, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tandy, Ms. Thieme, and Mr. Turner. The motion passed.

Executive and Academic Affairs Committee

Personnel Actions

Mr. Turner presented the recommendation of the committee to approve the personnel action items as presented to the committee. Mr. Fulkerson seconded. The roll was called and the following members voted “aye”: Mr. Abney, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Collins, Ms. Craig, Mr. Fulkerson, Mr. House, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tandy, and Mr. Turner. The following member abstained per the applicable KRS provision: Dr. Thieme. The motion passed. The detail of this item as approved is included in the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Staff Emeritus Nominations

Mr. Turner presented the recommendation of the committee to approve the Staff Emeritus Nominations as presented to the committee. The nominees presented were Beverly Burrus, Laura Melius, Jim Fisher & Katherine Williams. Mr. Fulkerson seconded. The motion passed by voice vote. The detail of this item is included in the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

University Organizational Chart

Mr. Turner presented the recommendation of the committee to approve the updated University Organizational Chart as presented to the committee. Ms. Craig seconded requesting that Internal Audit have a line to the Regents. The motion passed by voice vote. The detail of this item is included in the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Confirmation of Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification Form

Mr. Turner presented the recommendation of the committee to approve the Confirmation of Ohio Valley Conference Governing Board Certification Form as presented to the committee. Ms. Craig seconded. The motion passed by voice vote. The detail of this item is included in the Official Minutes of the ECU Board of Regents.

Approval of Candidates for Fall 2013 Commencement

President Benson advised the Board candidates who have completed their degree requirements for Fall 2013 need Board approval for their degrees. Ms. Carpenter made a motion to approve. Ms. Craig seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Report from the Council on Academic Affairs

Mr. Turner presented the committee's recommendation that the Board approve each of the items from the Council on Academic Affairs as presented and detailed in the October 28, 2013 Board agenda materials (pages 86-108) which have appropriate department, Faculty Senate and Council on Academic Affairs endorsement for the Board approval. Mr. Tandy seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote. The detail of the Council on Academic Affairs items as approved is included with the Official Minutes of the Board of Regents.

Executive Session

Mr. Turner noted that a motion would be in order for the Board to go into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b)(c) and (f) for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition of property, pending litigation and matters relating to personnel issues appropriate to executive session. Mr. Fulkerson made the motion to the effect requested by the Chair. Mr. Abney seconded. The motion was passed by voice vote. The Board went into executive session.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Turner noted that only matters stated in the motion were discussed. Mr. Tandy made a motion to reconvene; Mr. House seconded.

Mr. Turner asked the Board members to review the upcoming ECU events and reminded them the Regents have a box (six tickets) at the ECU Performing Arts Center. He also noted that business related/potential donor opportunities have priority for use of these tickets.

Mr. Turner encouraged all of the Regents to attend as many basketball and football games as their schedule permits. President Benson mentioned on November 16, the Board is invited to attend a pregame reception that will be held two hours before kick-off.

Mr. Turner stated Dean Ault did an outstanding job with their College presentation.

Mr. Turner also mentioned he is getting good feedback from the community, the Mayor, Representative Rita Smart and Senator Jared Carpenter. President Benson is getting out and about in the community. Mr. Turner stated we have a good start with the Governor and legislature.

Dr. Thieme invited the Board to serve on a panel for the American Association of Faculty and to attend their Friday meetings that are held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Dr. Thieme stated she would send out an invite for the March 16 event.

With no further items to discuss, Mr. Tandy made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Collins seconded. The Board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Steven Fulkerson,
Secretary