

Regular Quarterly Meeting

April 20, 2015 11:45 AM

Library

First Floor Study Area

Call to Order

A regular quarterly meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened at 11:45 a.m. on April 20, 2015 in the Library First Floor Study Area at Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY. Mr. Turner, Chair of the Board, presided. Mr. Turner noted the presence of a quorum. The following members of the Board were present:

Present:

Mrs. Nancy Collins
Mrs. Janet Craig
Mr. Ernie House
Mr. Alan Long
Mr. Bryan Makinen
Mr. Kyle Nicholas
Mr. David Tandy
Dr. Amy Thieme
Mr. Craig Turner

Absent:

Mrs. Janie Miller

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 for Finance and Administration
Dr. Laurie Carter, Exec. VP for Student Success & University Counsel
Mr. Stephen Lochmueller, Athletic Director
Mr. Scott Cason, VP for Communications & Marketing
Mr. Nick Perlick, VP for Development
Mr. Matt Roan, Special Asst. to the President
Ms. Dreidre de Leon, Exec. Asst. to the President & Asst. Secretary to the Board
Members of the faculty and staff
Members of the media

Information Items

Committee Reports

Finance & Planning

Mrs. Craig, Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee reported the committee met prior to the full board meeting and received an update on the budget and the Madison County Jurisdictional Agreement, respectively.

Finance & Planning (cont.)

Mrs. Craig reported the committee received a report from Mr. Barry Poynter on the revenue and expenses of the budget as of March 31, 2015 and stated the committee requested to schedule a Finance and Planning Committee meeting prior to the regular quarterly June Board meeting to review the budget.

In addition, the committee received a yearly report on the Madison County Jurisdictional Agreement from Mr. Bryan Makinen, Interim Exec. Director of Public Safety and Chief Brian Mullins. They reported this agreement has served EKU and Madison County well and proved to be a tremendous help when EKU had the terroristic threat last fall.

Mrs. Craig also reported the committee approved the Minutes from the February 2, 2015 Finance and Planning Committee meeting on the Consent Agenda, but deferred action on Policy 1.5.1, Financial Exigency to allow the committee more time to review the policy. Mrs. Craig stated the committee applauded the work done on the policy.

The committee voted to approve the following actions items be brought forth to the full board for approval:

1. Meal Plan Rates for 2015-16
2. Tuition Rates for 2015-16
3. Resident Hall Rates for 2015-16
4. Tuition for Model Laboratory School for 2015-16

Executive & Academic Affairs

Mr. Ernie House reported on behalf Chairman Turner. Mr. House stated Dr. Laurie Carter presented to the committee an updated Enrollment Report. Mr. House commended Dr. Carter and her staff on their efforts to improve the retention rate among the students by providing programs and information to the colleges, faculty, and students. Mr. House stated he believed that over time significant results will be seen.

Mr. House also reported the committee received an update on the Strategic Plan from Mr. Matt Roan. Mr. Roan mentioned additions were made to the Strategic Plan to include more diversity and reported that a retreat will be scheduled for the Board of Regents to go over the Strategic Plan in more detail.

Mr. House stated the committee approved all of the items on the Consent Agenda to be forwarded to the full Board for approval except for item 4, Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty. This policy was removed from the Consent Agenda to allow for further review and be brought back before the Board in June.

The committee voted to approve the following actions items be brought forth to the full board for approval:

- 1) Personnel Actions
- 2) Approve Candidates for May 2015 Commencement
- 3) Approve Foundation Professor Nominations
- 4) ~~Approve Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty – Deferred Action~~
- 5) Report from the Council on Academic Affairs
(New Programs, Program Revisions & Program Suspensions)
- 6) Approve Faculty Emeritus Nominations
- 7) Approve Promotion and Tenure for 2015-16

Student Life, Discipline & Athletics

Mr. Tandy, Chair of the Student Life, Discipline & Athletics Committee stated the committee met prior to the full board this morning.

Mr. Tandy reported the committee approved the items on the Consent Agenda and approved the following item be brought forth for approval of the full board:

- 1) Approve Repeal of Policy 5.2.1, Student Assistance and Intervention Team

Institutional Advancement & Honors

Mr. House, Chair of the Institutional Life, Discipline & Athletics Committee stated the committee met prior to the full board meeting.

Mr. House reported the committee approved both items on the Consent Agenda and approved those items be brought forth for approval of the full board:

- 1) Recommendation to approve Lt. Governor Crit Luallen for an Honorary Degree
- 2) Proposal to name EKU's Herbarium the Ronald L. Jones Herbarium (2015)

Audit & Compliance

Mr. Long, Chair of the Audit & Compliance Committee stated the committee met prior to the full board meeting.

Mr. Long reported the committee approved the item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the February 2, 2015 Audit & Compliance Committee.

Additional Reports to the Board

Craig Turner, Chair

Mr. Turner reported Commencement and College graduation ceremonies were coming up in a few weeks, and he wanted to publically thank all of the faculty for their hard work in getting the students to his point and wish to extend his congratulations to all of the students for reaching this very important milestone in their lives. Mr. Turner reported the University-wide Commencement ceremony will be held outside this year and it deems to be a very exciting time.

Mr. Turner announced two new hires at EKU. He introduced Mr. Stephen Lochmueller as the new Athletic Director and announced Dan McHale as the new head Men's Basketball coach. Mr. Turner stated he believed these two gentlemen were going to be a good addition to not only EKU, but to the community as well.

Mr. Turner also reported he and a number of representatives from EKU attended the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) board meeting that was held in Morehead on April 17th. EKU made a presentation to CPE in support of the request to approve a Special Use Fee Exception. Mr. Turner stated he was proud to report CPE approved this request and stated this serves as a catalyst for what we are about to do at EKU.

Kyle Nicholas, SGA President

Mr. Kyle Nicholas extended his thanks to the Board, faculty, staff and students for their support this year which proved to be a pivotal time for ECU. Mr. Nicholas stated he was very proud to serve alongside the administration and the Board.

SGA has been working on several initiatives. The Athletic Incentive Program “Colonel Up” has helped form a strong partnership with Student Athletics, efforts are going into Paint the Town Maroon, Eastern Fan Friday and Colonel Up have been combined to enhance further offerings, and a great relationship has been created with Aramark to offer different options on campus.

Katie Scott alongside Colin Potter, the newly elected SGA President and Vice President will do a great job representing ECU students. Mr. Nicholas said he is looking forward to working with them to transition them into their new roles.

The new \$150 fee was done after vigorous planning and hours of work. Mr. Nicholas said he was proud to announce the unanimous approval by CPE and stated this is a pivotal direction for ECU.

Mr. Turner stated on behalf of the Board, Mr. Nicholas did an outstanding job.

Richard Day, Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Senate Chair’s Report to the Board of Regents 20 April 2015 Dr. Richard E. Day

Good morning.

The faculty has undertaken the task of **evaluating ECU’s thirteenth president** - Dr. Michael T. Benson. Policy calls for the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to conduct a survey of the faculty, crunch the numbers, and transcribe the comments. **Dr. Jerry Palmer** will lead the Executive Committee in compiling our report, which will be transmitted to the president, and to the Board for your consideration. We are shooting for May 4th.

The faculty **data-gathering process** prevents duplication but is not perfectly anonymous since it requires someone to manage the Qualtrics reporting system. Anonymity is a sensitive issue for some faculty members and it relies on the discretion of three individuals (two folks from Institutional Research, and me). The good news is that our process does not cost the university \$18,000, which is what we paid for Doug Whitlock’s fourth year evaluation in 2011. None of the leaders of the faculty, staff, or Regents thought that the expense was indicated this time around.

Speaking of evaluation, **two Annual Review policies** come before the Senate in May: **one for faculty, and one for administrators**. They were crafted to mirror one another. The general idea is that instructors, or staffers, would have an annual professional development conversation with their supervisor. This is followed by a formal report in the third year – produced by a few clicks in our Digital Measures system, for faculty.

We will bring forward the **Tenured Faculty Review policy** (formerly known as Post-tenure review) later today in the Executive Committee. That’s where the teeth are. Any tenured faculty member with three years’ worth of unremediated deficiencies under the annual review process, has legitimate cause for concern. Deficient performance is measured against established (or soon to be established)

Richard Day, Faculty Senate Chair (cont.)

departmental standards. Despite what some pundits might have you believe, tenure is not a guarantee of lifetime employment for no work....not at Eastern.

Work on drafting a new **Policy on Policies** has moved quite rapidly and we will be ready to present it early in the fall. Our effort has been to allow Colleges and Departments to retain their autonomy in determining their processes, and how faculty authority is maintained in curriculum and governance matters, but it also requires publication of those policies for the sake of transparency and consistency. We are also debating a proposal to **reduce the standard 30-day comment period down to 14 days**.

Sherry Robinson and I have been looking at a ways to better communicate the progress of **policy development** to the faculty. We are looking at a web-based flow chart that shows where each policy is in the vetting process and who drafted the policy language.

The Senate is also looking for a way to better connect faculty to existing information on a number of important topics - such as the university budget and employee benefits - through a **centralized web-portal** of some sort. What we really need is some kind of ECU transparency portal for Frequently Asked Questions on a range of topics impacting the university and the public.

It seems to me that we would also benefit from improving the **internal search function on ECU.edu**. Our present search algorithm needs to be more robust, as it too frequently buries needed items we know are there.

We should also create a system that allows faculty to track the status of their own **professional development fund** online - even if that risks reminding faculty of just how little the amount is. As long as we're sprucing up around here, let's not forget to support the scholarship upon which good teaching relies.

There has been a lot of talk this semester about making **improvements to general administration**. The Provost and Barry Poynter have been looking to streamline some of our processes and generally make delivery of essential services more efficient. I am encouraged by this effort. Accomplishing these improvements will be a great benefit to our Chairs.

We are very encouraged by the budget projections that may allow for the **second phase of salary equity adjustments to occur by July 1st**.

In the **Faculty Senate nominations for Chair and Vice Chair** were made in April, and since **Dr. Shirley O'Brien** and I were re-nominated without opposition, and Senate rules prohibit nominations from the floor in May, it will apparently be my honor to report to y'all for one more year.

Thanks again for your service.

Sincerely,



Richard Day

Leah Banks, Staff Council President

I personally want to welcome you all to the library, my home. We are very excited to have you here today.

Staff Council remains busy with serving on many committees and policy making initiatives on campus. We continue to represent and serve on behalf of our diverse staff.

Staff Council has partnered with Human Resources, Faculty Senate, and Institutional Research to conduct the two year assessment of President Benson which went out to all faculty and staff. I will submit the results of the survey from the staff to you, the Board, at the June meeting.

Last week, Staff Council had a great meeting with Bullhorn to help with the branding initiative. To make sure that Bullhorn heard from several employees, Staff Council members invited a couple of their constituents to join us so we could have a bigger overview of what staff feel is important here at ECU. It was a great discussion about ECU. Bullhorn left feeling very positive about the feedback we provided.

Upcoming summer plans for staff are:

The Staff Regent Election. Our current staff regent, Mr. Makinen was elected in 2014 to fulfill the last year for Mr. Fulkerson's term which will end on June 30th. This upcoming election will be for a 3 year term. Staff Council will start accepting nominations from eligible staff members on May 1 through June 1. We will hold an open forum with all the candidates on June 8 here in the library auditorium and the election will be held on June 15 and 16 via ECU Direct.

As mentioned at the last board meeting, Staff Council is planning a family picnic for faculty and staff. This is scheduled for June 2 at 6pm on the Intramural fields. In May each of you will receive an invitation to the event with all the details.

I am glad to take any questions.

Michael Benson, President

President Benson reported today's meeting is held in a newly renovated study area for students. The 10,000 square foot area is a multifunctional, flexible space that supports and encourages collaborative learning. Ten study rooms allow groups a bit of privacy in a vibrant, active larger space. The space is designed to maximize students' opportunities to create the kind of learning environment that they need to accomplish a goal. By the start of the semester, moveable furnishing and booth seating near the large windows will complete the design.

Ron and Sherrie Lou Noel made a significant contribution to construct a reading porch on the south side of the Library. The Noel Reading Space plans to bring new life to the Library and the campus. President Benson acknowledged Kari Martin and Betina Gardner for their collaboration in making this possible.

The International Student Banquet was held on Saturday, April 18th. The night was full of richness and diversity. President Benson stated these types of events describe who we are, but doesn't define who we are. President Benson noted the food was outstanding and plans to invite the board members to next year's dinner.

A national magazine, *The University Business Magazine* highlighted 10 programs that were considered gold standards. The ECU Gurus Program were mentioned. This program offers peer to peer interaction by providing tutoring, other forms of homework help and answering questions about financial aid, registration, residence halls, and more. They staff three locations on campus, but are also available via Skype, Twitter, Facebook, chat and in person in other settings. President Benson stated it is one thing to have faculty advisors, but he wanted to commend ECU GURU Coordinator, Mandy Eppley for her

Michael Benson, President (cont.)

constant support and guidance to these students. President Benson stated Brooke King, an ECU Guru is a force of nature and acknowledged newly elected SGA President, Katie Scott is also a GURU.

President Benson congratulated Katie Scott on her election and thank Kyle for a really tremendous job.

Craig Turner and Kyle Nicholas went to Morehead to attend the CPE meeting. Chairman of the CPE Board, Mr. Glen Denton complimented them on their presentation. Mr. Denton stated he believed it was the first time a chair and a member of the study body attended a board meeting. President Benson stated this fee is vital to what we want to do at the university. April 2015 was a watershed moment at this university and will transfer its look, its feel and its curb appeal.

Members of the President's Council each met with the Chairs Association in an effort to be as open and transparent as possible.

President Benson stated he was sad to announce that Men's Head Basketball coach Jeff Neubauer was leaving ECU, but wishes him the very best. President Benson mentioned Jeff Goodman, sports analyst for ESPN reported on the best hires at the end of the hiring season and gave ECU an A- for hiring Dan McHale. President Benson stated he would ask Coach McHale to attend the next Board meeting.

President Benson thanked Dr. Richard Day for his report and stated that relative to length, his reports also had depth and stated he is at heart, a policy wonk. In addition, Dr. Day blogs at Theprincipal.blogspot.com. President Benson stated Kentucky is very fortunate to have Richard as a faculty leader.

Banners will go up outside Alumni Coliseum featuring graduates to commemorate the upcoming graduation ceremonies. The university wide ceremony will be held outside with individual college ceremonies to be held separately. This is in an effort to create a more memorable experience for the student.

ECU was named Tree Campus USA. To earn this distinction, ECU met five core standards for sustainable forestry: establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance, and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects.

On the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) webpage is a listing of college championships. ECU is the only school listed with three Colonel Heads denoting championships. President Benson stated we are well on our way to a third Commissioner's Cup in four years.

On April 13, a Faculty Legislative Forum was held at the ECU Center for the Arts. President Benson stated he wished it was better attended. He noted Representative Rita Smart, Senator Jared Carpenter, Representative Arnold Simpson and CPE President, Bob King attended. The legislators stated how much it meant to them to have ECU's Board of Regents visiting the Capitol. President Benson stated it is the plan for the Board to go to Frankfort every year. President Benson thanked the Board for their time in doing this.

In closing, President Benson stated dates will be sent to the Board to schedule a retreat to discuss the Strategic Plan and also extended his appreciation to the Board for their continued support.

Michael Benson, President (cont.)

Craig Turner added there are a lot of ways to evaluate our efforts, but the most common logical thing is what people are talking about. There are a lot of exciting things going on and it isn't going unnoticed.

Consent Agenda

Actions Items

Mr. Turner presented to the full board the following items on the Consent Agenda for approval except for items 5 and 6, the Policy 1.5.1, Financial Exigency and Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty respectively which were placed on the pending consent agenda for further review to be brought back to the Board in June.

1. Approve Minutes of the Full Board for the February 2, 2015 Meeting
2. Personnel Actions
3. Approve Candidates for May 2015 Commencement
4. Approve Foundation Professor Nominations
5. ~~Approve Policy 1.5.1, Financial Exigency – Deferred Action~~
6. ~~Approve Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty – Deferred Action~~
7. Approve Repeal of Policy 5.2.1, Student Assistance and Intervention Team
8. Report from the Council on Academic Affairs
(*New Programs, Program Revisions & Program Suspensions*)
9. Approve Faculty Emeritus Nominations
10. Proposal to name ECU's Herbarium the Ronald L. Jones Herbarium (2015)
11. Recommendation to approve Lt. Governor Crit Luallen for an Honorary Degree

Mr. Turner asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items excluding items 5 and 6. Mrs. Collins made a motion to approve. Mr. Long seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Action Items

Mr. Turner asked for a motion to approve the following action items 1-4 below. Mr. Tandy made a motion to approve; Mr. Makinen second. The roll was called and the following members voted "aye": Mr. Turner, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Makinen, Mr. Long, Dr. Thieme, Mr. House, Mrs. Wiedemann, Mr. Nicholas, and Mr. Tandy; No members voted "nay." Mrs. Janie Miller was absent. The motion passed.

1. Meal Plan Rates for 2015-16
2. Tuition Rates for 2015-16
3. Resident Hall Rates for 2015-16
4. Tuition for Model Laboratory School for 2015-16

Pending Consent Agenda Items

5. Approve Policy 1.5.1, Financial Exigency – Deferred Action
6. Approve Policy 4.6.16, Dismissal of Faculty – Deferred Action

