

To: Faculty Senate
From: Joanne K. Glasser
Re: President's Report
Date: January 31, 2006

As the spring semester is underway, I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your hard work and commitment to moving ECU forward. Also, I wish to acknowledge and extend my congratulations to Senator Dave Eakin, the first Vice-Chair of the Faculty Senate. I look forward to continuing to work with Dr. Eakin in his new role.

The following are my updates for February's report, including a number of items that came before the Board at its regular quarterly meeting on January 30, 2006:

All eyes are on Frankfort in the coming weeks as the Kentucky General Assembly considers the 2006-08 state budget. At this point, I am very concerned about the University receiving adequate financial resources to continue to implement our Strategic Plan and move Eastern forward. While we do not depend entirely on state funding, it remains a critical source of revenue to enable us to keep our doors open and serve our students and service region. The Executive Budget, while including funds to proceed with the joint ECU-UK dairy complex at Meadowbrook Farm, did not include funds for our desperately needed new Science Building. We remain hopeful, however, that the final state budget will include much-needed funds to address all our strategic needs, including the new Science Building.

Over the next two weeks, I will testify in Frankfort on two occasions to deliver the message that now is the time to invest in Eastern Kentucky University. I will be urging our Legislature to provide strong financial support for our operating budget through state appropriations and to fund our new Science Building. On Wednesday, February 1, I will appear before the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Education and on February 7, the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee. Certainly, I will continue to be a strong advocate for ECU in this process, working as hard as I can to communicate to our public officials the need for state appropriations and our new Science Building. I will keep you informed of future developments.

Our SACS review process is on track as we continue to move toward reaffirmation of our accreditation. I wish to thank our faculty who are working diligently on this process. In December, the QEP steering committee arrived at broad methods to meet the learning outcomes identified in the theme and related focus statements. A five-part infrastructure has been proposed to guide program development between 2007 and 2011. This includes a management group to oversee the QEP process; a faculty development process; innovative programming at the unit level, including a university-wide call for concept papers that will identify programs to be included in the QEP; goals, outcomes, and key performance indicators in the strategic plan for each unit; and an overall assessment process of student learning.

At the January 30 Board meeting, the Board approved the University's Strategic Plan for 2006-10. The Plan, which takes effect July 1 and builds on the previous 2003-06 Plan, is a "living road map" that will continue our transformation into a comprehensive university of national distinction and strengthen our case for public and private support. You may visit www.oie.eku.edu/spc to view the Plan online; printed copies will be distributed later this semester.

During the meeting, I had the opportunity to share with the Board the attached summary of faculty accomplishments since our last Board meeting.

In other business, the Board:

- Approved the site for the new Science Building – an area bounded by the Rowlett and Dizney Buildings to the south, Kit Carson Drive to the west, the Brockton parking lot to the east and Daniel Boone Drive to the north.
- Recognized Registrar Jill Allgier for Staff Emeritus distinction.
- Approved the awarding of honorary degrees to Sen. Mitch McConnell, Lee Majors, Homer Ledford and Dan Mason. The degrees will be conferred at commencement ceremonies to be announced. Majors, Ledford and Mason are Eastern graduates.
- Discussed with Athletic Director Mark Sandy new marketing and branding concepts for athletics. Discussions will be held with various campus groups in the near future.

Additionally, Mr. Dustan McCoy, chair of the ECU Foundation, reported to the Board that the University's endowment continues to grow, from approximately \$24 million 2 1/2 years ago to nearly \$41 million today.

I also wish to share with you several important campus developments and information items:

- Final headcount for Fall 2005 was 16,219, slightly above the official headcount for Fall 2004. Spring 2006 enrollment is running 3 percent ahead of our Spring enrollment a year ago. New freshman applications are up approximately 25 percent compared to those for Fall 2005 at the same time last year.
- Our student retention rate increased this past year from 64.5 percent to 66 percent. We're far from satisfied, but we are making progress.
- The CPE has determined that ECU has met six of the eight Kentucky Plan goals, which are related to African-American student enrollment, retention and graduation, as well as employment of African-Americans in faculty, managerial and other professional positions. This qualifies ECU for automatic eligibility status for the submission of new degree programs for calendar year 2006. While we are pleased with the status, we must and we will continue our efforts and progress toward achieving all eight goals of the Kentucky Plan
- According to the 2005 National Survey of Student Engagement, our first-year students rated ECU significantly higher than our counterpart public universities in Kentucky on level of academic challenge and enriching educational experiences. Seniors rated ECU significantly higher than the other universities on active and collaborative learning and student-faculty interaction. Both first-year students and seniors scored ECU significantly higher than other master's level institutions and all other NSSE institutions on the student-faculty interactions benchmarks.

- Plans are moving forward on the development of a joint doctoral degree in educational leadership with Western Kentucky University. A prospectus has been posted with the CPE, and we plan to have a completed proposal this summer before sending it to the CPE in early fall.
- In athletics, we are nearing the end of our NCAA certification process. The self-study was transmitted earlier this month, and the site team will be on our campus April 23-25. We expect to learn of our re-certification in July.
- The new EKU Athletics Hall of Fame will induct a Founders group and inaugural class the first weekend in November.

Thank you for your continued dedication to this University and to your service on Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne K. Glasser
President