

To: Faculty Senate
From: Joanne K. Glasser
Re: March Faculty Senate Report
Date: March 1, 2006

As we are beginning the month of March, I want to encourage each of you to take time to enjoy some well deserved rest and relaxation over spring break. I am always amazed at how quickly the spring semester passes. Also, I want to remind you that March 1 is the official kick-off of the "Healthy You! At ECU" annual wellness program. I hope you will choose to participate in this initiative and take advantage of the many programs and events available during the month of March, including the Health Fair to be held on March 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Powell Building. For more information on the Health Fair and the wellness program, please watch your mail for a brochure, visit ECU Today, or contact Adrienne Bauer in Human Resources. Additionally, I want to remind you that following a recent utilization review of the University's Fitness & Wellness Center, and in conjunction with the launch of our employee wellness program, the center has now been opened to all current benefits-eligible faculty and staff on a paid annual membership basis. For more information, please contact Billy Martin, Director of Campus Recreation.

The month of February was filled with activities to advance the Capital Campaign and keep abreast of developments at the CPE and in the General Assembly. The following are my updates for this report:

Capital Campaign

- The schedule of campaign events and visits continues to go well. We have completed two successful series of events and visits in Florida, as well as a very positive series of events in Texas. These events and visits serve as a springboard for our campaign activities in several key regions of the country. Follow-up contact with event attendees is already underway.
- Preparation for Alumni Weekend 2006 is going very well. Of particular interest, the Faculty Senate's Centennial Committee, in cooperation with the University's Centennial Committee and University Advancement, is finalizing plans for the rededication of the Keen Johnson Building on the afternoon of April 28th as a part of the Alumni Weekend activities. More on this very special event will be coming soon.
- In the fall, we launched a new giving initiative called the Circle of Opportunity, which encourages alumni and friends to give at the one thousand dollar level and up. The targeted appeal was very successful in the fall and a much broader appeal will be going out in the next few weeks. A special event recognizing all Circle of Opportunity members is scheduled for the Friday of Homecoming, October 13th.
- This spring, we are also launching a new initiative to encourage our graduating seniors to give back to their soon-to-be Alma Mater. This student lead initiative will be getting underway in the next few weeks, with a special recognition event for our graduating seniors to be held the Friday evening before the May Commencement.

Frankfort Update:

In my February report, I shared with you my concern about the Executive Budget and adequate funding for the University to continue to move forward. In the intervening time, I have continued to monitor the state budget process and activities related to the CPE's tuition policy, a policy that sets tuition increase maximums by institution based on the level of CPE recommended state appropriations approved by the Legislature. The following are a few points of interest related to this tuition policy:

- Undergraduate tuition increase parameters for ECU in the policy, which is effective beginning in FY07, are \$332 per year (7.1%) on the low end and \$533 (11.4%) on the high end, with two tiers in between. For comparison, the Board-approved tuition increase for ECU for FY07 was \$800 per year (17%). The difference in gross tuition dollars is a decrease of approximately \$3.5 million (for the 11.4% cap) and \$6.0 million (for the 7.1% cap). The Council staff indicates that the council will not recognize tuition rates previously set by institutional governing boards for future fiscal years.
- The CPE will allow cases to be made for exceptions to the policy guidelines, with the focus for such relating to any differential tuition for professional or other special programs. Rates for on-line and all graduate courses are to be brought to the Council based on market and affordability factors. All universities are required to present their board-approved tuition rates to the Council over the next several weeks for determination of parameter adherence or appeal for an exception. Indications are that the hearing for ECU will be held in early April.
- The CPE is continuing to debate the guidelines and calculations related to performance funding. The Governor's budget calls for only a small allocation to fund this program at this time. I will include any updates regarding this and other CPE funding initiatives as more information becomes available.

Also, as ongoing tuition discussions continue with the CPE, the Student Government Association and the President's Office are sponsoring a student forum focusing on tuition. This forum, scheduled for March 7 at 5 p.m. in the Kennamer Room, will provide an opportunity for students to learn more about the roles tuition and state appropriations have on funding the operation of ECU and to ask questions about tuition and related issues. The panel, to be moderated by Interim Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, Dr. E.J. Keeley, will include SGA President, Kyle Moon, Student Representative on the Budget Advisory Council, Amy Jo Smith, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. James P. Chapman, Vice President for Financial Affairs, Debbie Newsom and me.

I continue to express our concerns regarding state appropriations for ECU and the lack of funding for the new Science Building in the Executive Budget. I testified before the House Budget Review Subcommittee on February 1 and before the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee on February 16.

As we continue to monitor the state budget process, the University's internal budget process for 2006-07 is well underway. Even with the uncertainty revolving around any increases in state appropriations and tuition levels, there is much work being done in identifying areas of need in support of the University's academic purpose and in conjunction with the Strategic Plan. A more robust and detailed budget process with a goal of fine tuning the base budget and strengthening the planning process for University operations is being put into place and has been communicated to the Provost and the deans. This complements the focus and work of the Budget Advisory Council, which has been ongoing for the past several months, in prioritizing the funding needs of the University.

I also wish to share with you the following additional campus updates:

- We are beginning the process of closing out the Business and Technology project and are working through punch list items. We should have a certificate of occupancy in the next few days.
- Programming for the new Science Building will be complete in the next two weeks. The project will then be placed on hold until we know how much money will be allocated by the Legislature. While I continue to work with our Legislative contingent to secure funding for this project, it appears that full funding may not materialize in this session. Our design team is evaluating a variety of approaches to phasing should the state's budget not include full funding.
- The electrical project is substantially complete with only the Samuels Track lighting and some miscellaneous change orders remaining. All buildings on campus are currently served by the new system.
- Questions around the transfer of the property for the new Manchester Center remain, and the Finance Cabinet and other parties in Frankfort continue in their attempts to resolve the situation.
- We passed our heat plant stack test with flying colors (30+ times under the limit).
- The proposal outlining the joint education doctorate program being developed by ECU and WKU has been posted on the CPE web for review and comment as is required. Teams from the two universities are continuing to review and revise current courses and the development of new curriculum while the CPE process is underway.

- The money for the design and development of the dairy merger with UK at our Meadowbrook Farm facility was appropriated in the last state budget (\$270,000) to the Council on Higher Education. Planning for this project is underway.
- The Smoke-Free Zone Task Force, established during fall 2005 to develop a proposed University-wide smoke-free zone policy to work in conjunction with the impending transition of all residence halls to non-smoking effective fall 2006, has completed a draft of a proposed policy. The task force will share the draft policy with campus constituents for feedback and comment during the month of March. I wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Ballard for his leadership as Chair of the Task Force and to all members of the Task Force.
- The Eastern Committee on Responsible Environmental Stewardship (ECRES), established last fall to further the University community's effort to become a more environmentally sound community and to promote environmental awareness and stewardship, held a forum on February 23 at the Teaching and Learning Center. The forum provided an opportunity for the committee to discuss its mission, the University community to become acquainted with ECRES, and committee members and forum participants to exchange ideas related to the mission and purpose of the committee.

While I was not personally able to attend the forum due to a conflict with the Legislative Black History Month event at the Capitol Rotunda, I heard very positive feedback. Dr. Robert Wiess provided the introduction and discussion of several areas of the committee's focus: energy use; campus planning; natural areas; environmental education; and simple practices. Additionally, Dr. Steve Konkel provided an excellent power point presentation on the work his graduate students have done in developing and researching initiatives for environmental stewardship, including bike rentals, bike and walking trails in conjunction with the City, recycling programs, and wellness programs. I want to express my appreciation to Dr. Wiess for his leadership as Chair of ECRES and to all of members of the committee.

- I also wish to express my appreciation to our faculty for their commitment and dedication to ECU students both inside and outside the classroom. Faculty engagement in our residence halls continues to steadily increase. In fall 2004, we had 36 faculty/staff interactions in the residence halls. In fall 2005, we have had 84 faculty/staff interactions in the residence halls.

You may wish to note the following dates in March:

- March 2, the Chautauqua Series continues with Tomas Pogge's lecture entitled "How is Global Justice Possible?"
- March 3, the 45th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Political Science Association, with Congressman Ben Chandler as the Keynote Speaker.
- March 4, Pre-Concert Reception for "Appalachian Variations" with Richard Crosby, followed by POPs for Music Sake, celebrating the ECU Centennial and featuring student ensembles and "Appalachian Variations" by Dr. Richard Crosby.
- On March 9 & 10, 2006, Dr. Gerald Nosich with the Center for Critical Thinking and Professor of Philosophy at Univ. of New Orleans will be on campus for a SACS QEP Workshop entitled "Facilitating Critical & Creative Thinking". I encourage you to participate in this important activity as we continue our journey with the SACS reaccreditation process. For more information, please contact Dr. Onda Bennett.
- Also, on March 9, I will present opening remarks at a program in Frankfort in honor of the late Vic Hellard, an ECU alumnus and longtime director of the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission. The program is entitled "Vic Hellard: Leader, Mentor, and Visionary." Other speakers are Rep. Joe Barrows, House Majority Whip; Lindy Casebier, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Cultural Heritage, and former Kentucky State Senator; and Stan Cave, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, and former Kentucky State Representative. Dr. Paul Blanchard is coordinating the program on behalf of the ECU Center for Kentucky History and Politics.

Thank you for your continued dedication to ECU and your service on the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne K. Glasser
President