

To: Faculty Senate
From: Joanne K. Glasser
Re: President's Report
Date: November 30, 2005

First, please let me express my regrets that I will not be able to attend the December 5, 2005 Faculty Senate meeting as I will be attending the Commission on Colleges (SACS) Annual Meeting in Atlanta. I am committed to attending Faculty Senate meetings and to communicating and being available in person to each Senator and to the Faculty-At-Large.

Also, I would like to request that you please take a few moments to reflect upon our campus community, the sadness we have experienced with the untimely passing of two of our students, Chase Hall, a sophomore from Kite, Ky., and Shawn Samples, a freshman from Ravenna, Ky. and the tragic loss to their families. Please share with students whom you may be assisting in coping with these tragic events that the University has many available resources through its Student Affairs area. Any student who is in need of counseling or other types of support is encouraged to seek assistance through the appropriate university office. Also, ECU's Counseling Center and Housing staff are available for any student wishing to discuss these recent incidents. Located in Room 571 of the Student Services Building, the Counseling Center may be contacted by calling 622-1303. University Housing, also located in the Student Services Building in Room 552, may be contacted by calling 622-4806. Persons wishing to contact the ECU Meditation Chapel in Memorial Plaza may do so by calling 622-1723.

The following are my updates for this month's report:

Budget Process

- The FY 06-07 budget planning process is underway. I have shared with the Budget Advisory Council my commitment to provide funding in FY 06-07 for both a cost of living adjustment and a faculty merit pool and that it is my expectation to see both coming forward in the Budget Advisory Council recommendations. Additionally, I have shared with the Budget Advisory Council my commitment to providing additional recurring funds for faculty professional development and faculty recruitment and retention, as well as increased funding for strategic priorities. I will keep you apprised of developments in the budget process.

Faculty Senate Lounge

- To create a warmer and more welcoming environment for your use, the faculty club lounge is receiving a face lift. The lounge will be painted over the winter break and I have authorized the purchase and funding of new furniture for the lounge.

University Advancement

- University Advancement, in cooperation with Financial Aid, has initiated a new emphasis on coordination of Foundation Scholarships and Endowed Funds. As members of the Senate are likely aware, each endowed fund and, in particular, each endowed scholarship fund has unique characteristics related to the donors' interests. This new emphasis will provide for a more detailed involvement by University Advancement in regards to assisting the Colleges and Departments with the specific requirements of each endowed fund. The intent is to allow increased responsiveness to endowed donors, as well as better assist with the coordination of privately funded scholarships and endowed funds across campus.

- Our annual fund efforts continue to be successful. As we close out the calendar year and move into 2006, we will be launching annual fund appeals to targeted constituencies, encouraging them to give with their respective graduating class and to join certain annual giving societies.
- The regional outreach component of the Capital Campaign continues to move forward with an event in South Carolina planned for December 8th and an extensive schedule of events scheduled to begin after the first of the year.
- The latest edition of the Eastern magazine has been mailed to more than one hundred thousand constituents. The latest edition is the first of three editions to commemorate our Centennial Celebration.

Capital Projects

- OMNI Architects, who designed the ECU Fitness and Wellness Center and the Student Services Building, were selected to provide design services on the proposed ECU Science Building. Programming meetings with faculty that will be housed in the new structure are ongoing, and OMNI's educational and lab design consultant, HERA, has been on campus several times to gather information about the various science disciplines that are to be housed in the building. A separate group is working on site selection, and eight sites on both sides of the Bypass have been evaluated by the committee. Design of this project will take just over one year, and we have emphasized to the CPE, Capital Projects Advisory Board and other interested parties that securing full funding for this project in the 2006 Legislative Session is the University's number one capital project priority.
- I am very pleased to share that approximately 95% of the infrastructure associated with the electrical renovation project is in place. The only major facilities remaining to be connected to the new system are the Carter Building and associated environs and the Samuels Track. Work is underway to finish the Samuels Track wiring and lighting upgrade. This project should reach completion just after the first of the new year and in advance of the contract's March completion date.
- The Business and Technology (Phase 1) project is 90% complete with much of the exterior masonry, window, roof and site work nearing completion; however, the masonry work is approximately 30 days behind schedule and is adversely affecting the installation of much of the interior work. The current substantial completion date is February 6, 2006; however, the current 30 day delay caused by the masonry situation may move the date at which time the University can occupy the building to March 6.
- Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects were selected to design Phase II of the Business and Technology project and are now under contract to begin design of the building. A committee comprised of state legislators, local officials and members of the University community is currently working on the building's program. An initial meeting has been held with the architect to review the preliminary project programming information, and the architect will begin working with the programming committee in the next few weeks to determine the program elements that will be included in the structure. As reported previously, the 2005 Legislative Session funded this project at a level of \$32.85 million. Phase II includes the completion of Phase I (approximately 25,000 square feet will be added to the building currently under construction), conferencing facilities and a performing arts venue. Site work, including an entrance that directly connects to the Bypass and paved parking for 500 cars, will take place during Phase II.

A series of public forums have been planned to gather public input into the Performing Arts and Conference Center portion of Eastern Kentucky University's Business and Technology Complex.

Five public forums, each geared to a specific segment of the community, are scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 30, and Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Perkins Building on the ECU campus.

Members of the campus community are invited on Nov. 30 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Also on Nov. 30, representatives of external arts organizations are invited to participate from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

On Dec. 1, regional community leaders (Madison and other counties) are invited from 9:30 to 11 a.m., primary and secondary school representatives from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and the community at large from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

- Evans Murphy Design Group was selected to design the Manchester Center and they also received a contract to begin work. Early in this project's evolution a site was identified that is owned by the City of Manchester and Clay County that was to be contributed for this building's construction. In July the University learned that the site is to be sold to the Commonwealth which was an expense not anticipated in the original proposal and associated budget. Also not anticipated was the delay associated with the state's acquisition process. The design of the building is temporarily on hold so the Finance Cabinet can evaluate the proposed site to determine if access and subsurface conditions are acceptable, and this evaluation is underway. Upon successful completion of that phase, the state's Division of Real Properties will begin the formal acquisition process.

As we approach the close of the semester, I wish to express my deep appreciation to each of you for your hard work and dedication to Eastern Kentucky University and my continued commitment to our faculty and to moving this great University forward together.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne K. Glasser
President