

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Joanne K. Glasser
DATE: January 31, 2007
RE: December Faculty Senate Report

I am looking forward to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the Spring semester on Monday, February 5. By all accounts we are off to a very positive beginning, and I am very pleased to share with you, in addition to those set out in my January 16, 2007 Campus Update and my January 22, 2007 email (Clarification of Faculty Merit Pool) to all full time faculty, the following items:

Senator Rodney Piercey

Please join me in welcoming Senator Piercey to his first ECU Faculty Senate meeting on Monday, February 5.

New Financial Aid Initiatives

As you may have read in the Jan. 29th edition of *EKUUpdate*, ECU unveiled new financial aid initiatives this week. In keeping with our heritage as a School of Opportunity, it is my intention as president, and our intention as a university, to make sure that no student is ever turned away from our doors for financial reasons. That's why we were so excited to announce the launch of the BEACON Program, a bold, new financial aid program that widens our safety net to reach those students and families least able to finance a college education.

BEACON is an acronym for "Bringing Educational Access to the Commonwealth and Our Nation".

The program contains several initiatives designed to enhance accessibility and affordability while also addressing our efforts to improve retention and graduation rates. Another initiative addresses the critical need to attract more students into science- and math-related professions. For further information on the BEACON Program, please see *EKUUpdate* (<http://www.prm.ecu.edu/Update/?issue=82&department=0&article=849>).

Budget Process Update

As I shared with you in my December report, a new and improved budget calendar and process are in place. The Academic Affairs budget information submitted to date is being accumulated/processed for redistribution through the Provost's Office for the Provost review.

Student Tuition Forum

As has been the case over the past few years, the Student Government Association, in conjunction with the President's Office, held a student tuition forum to give our students the opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns regarding the tuition increase for next year. Members of the panel included Dr. Piercey, Ms. Newsom, Dr. Keeley, Mr. Fifer and me. The forum was held in Walnut Hall on January 23rd and was also made available via broadcast and web-cast to students at our extended campuses. Those attending were given the opportunity to ask questions concerning tuition and related issues, and many good discussions ensued.

Council on Postsecondary Education

On January 29th, I brought the 2007-08 Board of Regents approved tuition before the Council on Postsecondary Education for approval. The CPE approved the tuition increase without discussion.

University Advancement and Capital Campaign Update

Since the last campus update, there has been a significant emphasis on regional events and visits. Events have been held in key cities in Florida and California, along with multiple campaign visits. Numerous other events and visits are scheduled in the coming days in Texas, Tennessee and other cities in Florida. While the multiple events and visits do require a great deal of time, the regional outreach program has been and continues to be key to securing support for the capital campaign.

Our Spring Phonathon and Annual Fund efforts are off to a very good start. Student calling is underway and annual fund initiatives targeting key constituencies, especially class gifts, are also off to a promising start.

Efforts are underway to redesign the alumni magazine to provide more features, better coverage of special interest stories and a revitalized look for the magazine. The first edition of the redesigned magazine will be mailed in early March.

Planning is well underway for this year's Alumni Weekend, scheduled for April 27 – 29, 2007. This year's programming promises to be very exciting and many alumni and friends are already planning their return to campus. If you would like more information regarding this year's Alumni Weekend, please contact Jackie Collier, Director of Alumni Relations, at 622-1260.

Childcare Feasibility Study

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Human Resources submitted a proposal for funding to the ECU Foundation for a Feasibility Study for an On-site Child Care Center. The proposal was approved and funding is now available to conduct this study.

The proposed feasibility study will be designed to provide insight into the child care needs of students, faculty and staff and assist the University in identifying alternatives that might be available to address those needs.

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and Human Resources are currently working with Bright Horizons, one of the nations leading providers of worksite childcare, early education and work life consulting firms. It is anticipated that the study will begin during the spring and be concluded by summer.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication to ECU and wish you a very successful Spring semester.