

Dear Arlington Board Members

On behalf of the Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate, we want to begin by saying that the ECU faculty deeply value Arlington, not only for its dining, but for its golf, tennis, and swimming as well. A number of faculty members envision Arlington as a gathering place for faculty to dine, discuss ideas, and meet new faculty, and have enjoyed their memberships at Arlington for a number of years.

Nevertheless, recent events have created serious concerns among ECU faculty. We would like to submit our concerns to the board. First and foremost, we are confident that the recent assessment of approximately \$2800 per member and the increase in dues have made Arlington no longer affordable for many of the ECU faculty members. While we understand that the increased expense is to be used to fund much-needed renovations to the roof and attractive new facilities for the golf course and the swimming pool, we are deeply concerned that this increase may hinder Arlington in its efforts to fulfill its mission statement: "...to promote close relationships among faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Eastern Kentucky University through programs of social and recreational activities."

Secondly, although we realize that this increase affects all Arlington members, we believe that the increased dues and the one-time assessment will disproportionately affect ECU faculty, particularly ECU faculty family memberships. Despite the fact that ECU faculty have received salary increases that have amounted to "cost-of-living raises" over the past few years, the cost for monthly dues for ECU faculty remains the same as those of the community. Our discussion with faculty members (both at the Faculty Senate and in various contexts outside the Senate) suggests that the ECU community can no longer afford the dues required to join Arlington, and the additional cost of the assessment has only made matters worse.

As faculty members, we appreciate the variety of Arlington members who are from the community. We appreciate the support of the community and enjoy the increased interaction with the community that the Arlington setting provides. Nevertheless, the question for most faculty seems to be whether the benefits are worth the cost. Is Arlington for the "pleasure of the ECU family" with additional memberships available for non-ECU at an additional rate?

We would appreciate an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Board to better understand the mission of Arlington as it applies to the future of ECU.