

**TO:** Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Rodney B. Piercey  
**DATE:** April 9, 2007  
**RE:** April Faculty Senate Report

The following updates are submitted to the Faculty Senate for April on behalf of Academic Affairs:

**Preliminary Distribution of Merit Funds**

Merit fund allocations have been distributed to the college Deans. Deans will submit their proposed distributions to the Provost by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Distributions will be submitted to Human Resources to validate position status and employment.

**Enrollment Management**

Admissions:

Admissions made 72 High School visits: participated in 22 College Fairs, including the NACAC National College Fair in Detroit, MI; mailed 98,244 pieces of direct mail to Prospective, Applied and Admitted students for the Fall 2007 recruitment year; hosted 1,085 participants in campus visits; hosted 9 group visits with a total of 450 visitors; made 29 Community College visits to KCTCS institutions and out of state feeder schools; made 2,086 phone calls to prospective students for Fall 2007; and hosted 6 special recruitment receptions within our recruitment territory.

The March Spotlight attracted more than 450 registrants, and we appreciate the faculty and departmental attendance and participation which greatly contributed to the success of the day.

The Office of Admissions collaborated with the College of Business and Technology in hosting the Region 5, FBLA Conference on campus. This program brought approximately 1,200 students to campus.

The Office of Admissions was a co-sponsor for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Leadership Caucus. This event brought 130 minority students to campus for a day long conference on leadership development.

The Office of Admissions collaborated with the ECU Army ROTC department in hosting the ECU Pershing Rifles Drill Competition. This event brought 320 high school students from 19 high schools to campus.

Academic Advising & Retention:

- Processed approximately 500 major changes and advisor assignments in March
- Buck Buhler, retention coordinator, met with 25 early alert students

- Buck Buhler was awarded an EM ‘SOS’ award for his work with an at-risk student.
- Created an academic advising syllabus to be distributed at new student orientation
- Sarah Lennon, advisor, was honored as ‘expert on call’ for the College Parents of America
- Hosted the Athletic Academic Honors Breakfast on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Scott Amundsen, director, had an article published in *The Journal of College Student Retention*:

Kamphoff, C.S., Hutson, B.L., Amundsen, S.A., & Atwood, J.A. (2007). A Motivational/Empowerment Model applied to students on academic probation.

*Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory, and Practice*, 8(4), 397-412.

#### Transition & University Services:

As the CPE Developmental Education Task Force and their six core recommendations for colleges and universities are finalized, institutional funding will be tied to the success of developmental students in college entry level courses and to the retention of these students. The recommendation is that the success and retention rates of these students be at the same level as for students who entered prepared for college level coursework. This represents a challenge for ECU because the gap in retention for these two groups of students is 16% for students remaining at the University (about 73% for prepared students to 57% retention rates for under-prepared students). Additional advising, mentoring, tutoring, summer programs, and academic skills programs have been proposed to better support these students.

Academic Testing is preparing for upcoming orientations and working to get a Mathematics Placement Test online for the April orientations. Two Residual ACT and two Miller Analogies Tests have been administered. March 30<sup>th</sup> was the third UWR administration for the spring 2007 semester.

The Academic Skills unit is preparing for both the Mathematics and Science Academy and the beginning of the summer First Step to College Success program.

#### Registrar:

##### Summer & Fall 2007 Course Schedules

- In partnership with the faculty, the Registrar’s Office assisted with the creation, revision and release of the summer and fall 2007 course schedule. This process involves the solicitation of course information from faculty, manual entry of course offerings into Banner, multiple edits based on faculty feedback and then release of the on-line schedule to the campus community.
- Additionally, the registration staff were held to a new operational standard whereby they were required to double check all submitted course offerings to ensure compliance to university scheduling regulations and requisite contact hours.

Commencement Preparation

- Informational brochures were prepared and mailed to pending graduates and their families.
- New Banners were order to replace aging ones and new banners were ordered for the Graduate College as well as for the Foundation Professors.
- Grad Fest was held March 19-21 for pending graduates to confirm their intent to participate in commencement, to review their demographic information, and to pick up their cap and gown.

NCAA Athletic Coding

- In partnership with the Student Athletic Office, the Registrar's Office helped establish a revised student athlete coding schema more representative of NCAA standards.
- Additionally, we're exploring the implementation of a new NCAA CARES report and are assisting with the creation of a Banner interface with the NCAA CAii software.

Financial Aid:

The financial aid office has received 21 RFP for lenders that are requesting to be placed on EKU's lender list- the final lender list will be determined by March 30. The Veterans Administration recently conducted their approving agency review, and EKU continues to be approved for VA benefits. Approximately 500 scholarship offers have been made to first time freshmen for the fall semester.

**Graduate Education and Research**

Associate Dean Search:

The Graduate School is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jaleh Rezaie as Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Rezaie was chosen from a pool of outstanding candidates following a national search. As you know, Dr. Rezaie has a remarkable record of campus leadership and she will be a wonderful addition to the Office of Graduate Education and Research. Dr. Rezaie will begin her appointment on May 15.

Graduate Faculty Status:

The Graduate Council is reviewing the roles, responsibilities and qualifications for graduate faculty membership. The next meeting of the Graduate Council is scheduled for Friday, April 6 at 2 pm in LIB 201. Faculty with ideas and suggestions are encouraged to contact the Dean of the Graduate School and/or members of the Graduate Council. Agenda items and additional information is posted on the Graduate School website at [www.gradschool.eku.edu/council](http://www.gradschool.eku.edu/council).

Graduate Assistantship Processing:

The Graduate School held workshops for faculty and administrators on the new electronic process for submitting graduate assistantship nominations to the graduate school. The

new system will replace the paper process used by the Graduate School. The use of the HR employment system will still be required for posting of all new assistantship positions. Additional information on the process will be published in the Graduate School Newsletter later this week.

Graduation Process Workgroup:

The Graduate School has established a working group of faculty, graduate advisors and departmental administrators to look at ways to streamline the process for graduation. The first meeting of the workgroup was held on March 28. The Graduate School welcomes comments and suggestions for improving the graduation process. Please forward all comments to Tina Puckett in the Graduate School.

**Honors Program**

On April 12-14, fifty-one seniors in the Honors Program will be making a 30 minute oral presentation of their senior thesis projects. These students represent all five of the colleges and have been mentored by thirty-nine faculty members from these colleges. Concurrent sessions will take place in the Kennamer and Jagers rooms of the Powell Building at these times:

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:15-9:15 p.m.

Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-4:30 p.m.

A complete presentation schedule is available on-line on the ECU Home Page by clicking "Events", or by calling Debra Ball at 622-2924.

**Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research**

Institutional Effectiveness:

Reviewed Assessment Grant applications and awarded more than \$13,000 to faculty and academic departments (in conjunction with the University Assessment Committee); Completed the Assessment Newsletter; Ongoing review of Assessment Plans; Preparation for SACS on-site review; Administering NSSE survey with 864 responses so far (compared to 177 at the last administration); Served on Regional Stewardship CPE Workgroup; Preparing to facilitate 4 focus groups of students regarding the "first-year" experience at ECU; Completed draft document and communicated with deans and leaders of university planning groups to discuss the reporting of data to measure progress on the 2006-2010 strategic plan; and Convened the feedback subcommittee of the Strategic Planning Committee to review 2005-2006 progress reports submitted by university planning groups.

Institutional Research:

Institutional Research finalized the Factbook and is awaiting its completion at the printer. For Faculty Senate, we hosted both the Faculty Regent Election and the Faculty Regent Runoff, as well as conducted Committee Self-Nominations for the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees. We have created a CIRP Freshmen Profile report that will soon be distributed to the campus community. This report provides a portrait of our entering freshmen regarding their background, attitudes, and college expectations. Using current funding and performance measures, we also analyzed benchmark data for Financial Affairs. In addition, we compiled and submitted university data as it relates to the Consortium for Student Retention and Data Exchange (CSRDE) and the ACT Class Profile. We completed several ad hoc data requests and currently have five pending survey projects.

### **University Programs**

Dr. Salome Nnoromele was appointed as permanent Director of African/African-American Studies

A record number of individuals attended the Vagina Monologues (1200 – triple from last year) which raised over \$4,000 for the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center.

A successful Women's History month with Women's Studies sponsoring or co-sponsoring a total of seven events with approximately 280 people in attendance.

Dr. Aaron Thompson's new book which he co-authored titled *Thriving in College and Beyond: Research-Based Strategies for Academic Success and Personal Development* was just released. This is the first book of its kind which focuses on academic strategies, critical and creative thinking throughout the first year of college.