

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Rodney B. Piercey
DATE: May 7, 2007
RE: May Faculty Senate Report

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

Current Issues:

- 1) Proposal to change CAA membership and charge
- 2) Proposal for an amendment to the University Promotion & Tenure Policy, which would include a modification to the Faculty Handbook to include the amended policy
- 3) Recommendations for one time merit awards were transmitted to Human Resources and will be included in the May 15th payroll.

Enrollment Management

Summer and Fall Enrollment:

Current year-over-year comparative enrollment data for summer and fall reflect strong increases over 2006. Summer 2007 enrollment is about 4% higher than at the same time last year, with a particularly marked increase (almost 9%) at the graduate level. Fall enrollments are difficult to compare year-over-year due to an earlier new freshman orientation schedule this year, but even with that timing issue factored out, Fall 2007 enrollment is still well above last year at this time, particularly at the graduate level (up 32%). Undergrad enrollment is up more than 500, and is markedly improved thus far among new transfers and readmitted students, each up about 36-38%. If current trends continue, Fall 2007 enrollments will likely be near 16,000.

Admissions:

During the month of April, the Office of Admissions made 110 High School visits; participated in 16 College Fairs, including the Nashville NACAC National College Fair; mailed 37,016 pieces of direct mail to Prospective, Applied and Admitted students; hosted over 1,200 participants in campus visits; hosted 8 special recruitment group visits; made 29 Community College visits to KCTCS institutions and out of state feeder schools; and made 2,375 phone calls to prospective students for Fall 2007.

EKU hosted three special recruitment events including transfer recruitment fairs at Somerset and Bluegrass Community Colleges and for the Louisville regional territory.

The Transfer Recruitment staff also participated in the Spring KCTCS Transfer Student College Fair circuit. These events focused on KCTCS transfer students and were hosted by the 17 KCTCS Community and Technical Colleges of the state.

Academic Advising & Retention:

Conducted Faculty Advisor Training for April + Summer Orientation programs (April 2nd); Conducted three new faculty advisor trainings (April 2,3,4); Participated and facilitated academic advising for four April orientations (April 13th, 19th, 20th, 21st).

Transition & University Services:

Sue Cain presented to the Provost and the Academic Affairs' direct reports on the Council on Postsecondary Education proposed changes in the College Admissions Administrative Regulation KAR:2:020 that would impact the number of students at EKU and other state public institutions. The proposed changes include raising the standards for college readiness which greatly impacts the number of students entering with developmental needs. Also the CPE Developmental Education Taskforce recommendations were discussed along with their impact on institutional funding. We will need to address reducing the number of students entering EKU under-prepared for college level work by working with area high schools and adult education centers in our region so that there is an understanding of the skill level needed to enter college level classes. We will also work to improve the success rates of under-prepared students admitted to the University by developing summer programs and workshops throughout the academic year that address the needs of students in transition.

During the month we have administered the Residual ACT three times to 54 students so that students could meet EKU program and freshmen admissions standards. The Miller Analogy Test was administered three times for 51 students applying for graduate school. For the three new freshmen orientation sessions in April, 169 students took 282 university, placement tests to ensure appropriate placement and/or meet readiness standards for college level courses. The Office of Academic Testing administered 206 national ACT exams on April 14 and one extended time national exam in April.

We are looking forward to the implementation on the online mathematics placement test for students entering with developmental needs for June and July orientations.

Registrar:

Summer & Fall 2007 Registration:

Provided standard support services to students and academic departments as they relate to pre-registration and course scheduling activity.

Commencement Preparation:

Continued with commencement ceremony preparation activities, including the revision of the program to allow students receiving Masters' Degrees to march as a group.

Participated in the welcome sessions for New Student Orientations, giving the audience a brief overview of the services provided by the Registrar's Office as well as some general information regarding FERPA.

Sandy Cain, Assistant Registrar for Registration and Scheduling, provided a registration presentation to all four April Orientation sessions.

Heidi Terry continues to work on the creation of a new on-line registration tutorial.

Committee & Miscellaneous Assignments:

Heidi Terry collaborated with the Faculty Senate's Rights and Responsibilities Committee to recommend some revisions to the recently proposed Awarding "I" (Incomplete) Grades policy.

Heidi Terry and Tina Davis collaborated with the Associate Deans to come up with a revised proposal for the late add policy.

Financial Aid:

714 Summer financial aid award letters have been sent to students requesting aid for the summer term.

1,087 financial aid award letters have been sent to new freshmen and transfers students for the 2007-2008 academic year. Financial aid award notices for currently enrolled students will be sent around May 24.

Lender List for 2007-2008 has been determined as the following for Stafford Loans: Chase, Edamerica, Fifth Third, National City, PNC, Student Loan Funding, Student Loan Xpress, Sallie Mae Education Trust, Student Loan People, and U.S. Bank

Recently there have been many stories in the news about financial aid officers at various institutions that have engaged in unethical practices with lenders. ECU requires any interested lender to complete an RFP, and we do publish a listing of lenders (we have dropped the word "Preferred"). ECU has never entered into any agreement for revenue sharing with any student loan lender.

Loan exit counseling letters were mailed to 1,980 May 2007 graduates. A follow up packet of exit loan counseling information will be mailed to graduate who do not complete the online process.

Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research

Institutional Effectiveness:

Participated in the SACS on-site visit and engaged in meetings and interviews with visiting team members regarding Institutional Effectiveness at ECU. The Institutional Effectiveness function was noted specifically in the SACS on-site exit interview by visiting team members as being very strong at ECU.

Collaborated with the College of Education on SACS Substantive Change application due to SACS May 1st

Presented to Board of Regents on ECU Strategic Plan progress for 2003-06 – "closing the loop"

Provided facilitation for four focus groups of students to discuss the first-year experience at ECU – A summary report will be submitted to the Office of First Year Programs

Provided a workshop presentation to KACECE membership during Spring Meeting

The Strategic Planning Committee recently concluded final assessment of the 2003-2006 strategic planning cycle at ECU. A final progress report was submitted to the Offices of the President and Provost and is accessible at the Office of Institutional Effectiveness website. This report includes a summary of institutional progress based on the key performance indicators included in the plan. The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet and will direct future efforts to the collection of data and assessment of KPIs as outlined in the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan. The committee will be calling on university leadership to begin data collection early in the Fall 07 semester.

The Academic Program Review Committee has met and reviewed 30 academic programs during the 2006-07 academic year. Summary reports are currently being prepared and will be forwarded to the Office of the Provost for further review before the end of the Spring 2007 semester. The program review process will conclude with a meeting to include the Provost, Department Chair, and individual program coordinators to discuss findings of the Program Review Committee. Meetings will be scheduled between May 15 and June 30.

The NSSE Survey has garnered 1,017 responses and counting. Thank you to the faculty for a great final push that got us over 1,000!

The University Assessment Committee analyzed the data for the Strategic Plan key performance indicators; worked on assessment prompts for the QEP and General Education; reviewed and awarded eight assessment grants; completed survey of University-wide assessments; and began developing a proposal for a comprehensive university assessment strategy and instrument bank.

Institutional Research:

During April, the Office of Institutional Research completed the IPEDS Graduation Rates and Financial Aid survey, as well as the US News and World Report Main Survey and Financial Aid survey. The IPEDS Finance and US News Finance surveys were also submitted (completed by L. Herzog). In addition to creating and/or launching four surveys for various groups on campus, we also provided survey consultation to two other university groups. OIR staff completed 10 ad hoc data requests, including requests regarding enrollment forecasting and five-year data trends. We also completed an ad hoc request from CPE regarding completed hours for students with 100+ attempted hours. The OIR staff is attending the annual CPE Comprehensive Database meeting this month. This meeting brings together IR offices around the state to discuss current and future state data reporting needs, issues and projects.

University Programs

The Department of Women's Studies is offering two sections of WMS 201 for the first time ever in both summer and fall 2007. Previously, one section was offered each semester. All four sections are at capacity and we are now giving overrides. In the past, WMS 400 typically had 4 or fewer students enrolled. This fall the course is almost at capacity. The Women's Studies program is truly growing.