

Faculty Senate Report
October Meeting
David A. Eakin, Chair Faculty Senate

I am including President Whitlock's comments [as reported in the official Faculty Senate minutes for our 9-17-2007 meeting] with regard to our Promotion and Tenure recommendations:

The Promotion & Tenure recommendations approved by the Senate were listed as an informational item on the Board's September agenda. Several issues have emerged that must be addressed prior to submission to the Board as an action item, hopefully at the January, 2008 meeting. Senator Whitlock stated that the proposed recommendations provide for a more clear delineation of the roles of the committees and the academic administrators in the development of recommendations. Furthermore it provides greater flexibility to allow departments and colleges to develop new criteria for those units for promotion and tenure which can, among other things, recognize and reward more toward regional stewardship.

Senator Whitlock indicated that a consensus needs to be reached on whether or not it is politic to convene the faculty-at-large to consider the Promotion & Tenure recommendations prior to the Board's consideration. In the Faculty Handbook under the "Organization of the faculty of Eastern Kentucky University", one of the Senate's duties and responsibilities is to act on recommendations and revisions for promotion and tenure on behalf of the faculty-at-large. Therefore there is no requirement that the document must go before the faculty-at-large prior to going to the Board of Regents. However, Senator Whitlock stressed that if the judgment was made to do so, it could be done.

At present, I have had the opportunity to continue this discussion individually with President Whitlock, Provost Piercey, University Counsel Cheryl Harris, Dr. Sherry Robinson and representatives of the Rights and Responsibilities Committee regarding the changes that are being made to the Senate's recommendation on Promotion and Tenure. I asked Cheryl Harris to come and explain some of the legal ramifications to the Executive Committee at our last meeting. It was very enlightening for all of us. Everything appears to be on schedule for presenting the recommendations to the Board of Regents as an action item in the January 2008 Board meeting. All those mentioned above are meeting regularly to make the needed changes as quickly as possible. It was agreed upon by the Executive Committee [9-17-2007] that the Provost will make a presentation of these changes to all concerned faculty in a forum around mid-October. This will allow full faculty feedback before being presented to our Board of Regents in January.

I would like to remind each of our Senate committees to appoint a Chairperson ASAP and send that name to myself as Chair and to our Secretary, Pauletta King. With the help of the Executive committee, updated 2007-2008 charges have been established. However, only the *two committees* that have already named chairs have been sent their current charges. We desperately need the names of the other Chairs.

Let me remind you of the Faculty Senate dinner at Arlington planned by President Whitlock for Wednesday, October 17, 2007. If you have not yet RSVP'd, please give this your consideration. It is a very generous offer and opportunity for all Senators. Thank you President Whitlock.