

Doug Whitlock
Faculty Senate Notes, 12/10/07

Dr. Eakin and Members of the Senate; I regret that I am missing today's meeting of the Faculty Senate. Please accept my "*in absentia*" thank you for your part in making my return to the job at Eastern Kentucky University the joy that it has been, for your role in making such a contribution to the lives of our students, and my sincere best wishes for a joyous holiday season should I not see you before we break at the end of the semester.

As you hear or read this, I will be preparing to return to Kentucky from New Orleans where I am part of our delegation to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges Meeting. Tomorrow (Tuesday, December 11), I will be in Frankfort attending the inauguration of Steven Beshear as Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. With his assumption of office, all the major actors will be in place for the legislative session that begins after the New Year.

Then will begin in earnest our efforts to secure for postsecondary education and ECU as much increased as will be possible from what promises to be a relatively meager amount of new state revenues. As soon as the financial picture resolves itself into a clearer image, we will be able to begin making the decisions necessary to build our 2008-2009 operating budget.

In my last report, I indicated to you that I was considering some high level reorganizational actions. Now, of course, you know the details of what I had in mind and what my thinking was on each of the actions. Before I announced my decisions, I discussed my plans with a number of individuals, including Senators Eakin and Frisbie and valued their comments and counsel. One thing which I did not explain in the memorandum was that the difference in the approaches to the two major components of the reorganization was purposeful. While I dealt with some specificity on the business/institutional support segment, I left the

details of the “marriage” between academic and student affairs which will lead us to a stronger provost model to be worked out in a collegial fashion by the affected parties. This seemed appropriate to me given the importance and relationship of student success to the academic purposes of the institution.

My travel schedule representing Eastern and its interests has been quite full. A visit last week to Washington, DC, where several of us called on the Kentucky Congressional Delegation and attended an ECU Alumni Reception hosted by Congressman Ben Chandler was among the high points of those travels. Congressman Chandler has expressed a desire to be supportive of this institution and is very pleased to have one of our students interning with him each year.