

Doug Whitlock
Report to EKV Faculty Senate
April 6, 2009

I apologize once more for being absent from a meeting of the Senate. Earlier today I left for California with Mike Conway, President of the EKV International Alumni Association, and members of our advancement team. While there we will meet with major donor prospects and hold alumni meetings in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. We have 500 or more graduates in each of those cities. We sometimes underestimate the reach of the Power of Maroon.

While in San Diego, we will visit the headquarters of General Atomics and spend an afternoon there with our bio-fuels project partners. Dr. Bruce Pratt, who is heading this effort, and our other faculty researchers have already visited there and came away very impressed.

Last Thursday, I was pleased to have an opportunity to meet with our newly formed Strategic Planning Council, chaired by Dr. Jo Ann Ewalt, a faculty member in the Department of Government. I shared with them my thoughts on how a strategic plan is more like a compass than a roadmap and that we should use ours to point this institution toward its "True North," a descriptor I borrow from Harvard business professor Bill George in his book of the same name. I also described how I expect both the SPC and the FPC to work with the organizational structure, the Faculty Senate, the Staff Council, the SGA, and our standing committee structure to conduct their work in a collegial, shared governance mode. This is the only way I know to align responsibility and accountability.

In last August's convocation remarks, I committed that Provost Piercey and I would visit with each college faculty sometime during this year. We have had four such meetings and I have

found the opportunity to engage in conversation with faculty in these venues, and we will be meeting with the remaining college soon. I have also enjoyed continuing to participate in the Fireside Chats in the Faculty Club in Keen Johnson Building (though I wish more folks would participate) and in the professional learning community discussion of Derek Bok's recent book on American colleges and universities.

We have received official written notice from the Governor's budget office that our current year appropriation has been reduced by two percent, as anticipated. As you know from previous communications, we have implemented a four-percent state appropriation reduction to help position us for what might be ahead for us in 2009-10. In addition, the Financial Planning Council will be recommending to me some further economies to further prepare us for the coming year. This includes about \$800,000 in savings from administrative positions that have been cut through attrition and further reductions in certain institutional pool accounts. We hope in this way to avoid or minimize any future cuts to our departments and other units.

We do not yet know exactly how the budget stabilization funds from President Obama's stimulus package will affect us. One scenario (the best one) would be that we would not have a further reduction to our appropriation base. In this event, we would have both the opportunity to work together to reallocate the funds we have set aside against a possible cut and would be able to spend the stimulus package funds on one-time allocations to better position this institution. The other scenario would be that we would have another base reduction and the stimulus funds would be used for "backfill." In either event, the Strategic Planning Council and the Financial Planning Council would work together to provide recommendations to me, operating in the mode I described earlier in this report.

There are a variety of opportunities in the stimulus package through which we can compete for grant and contract funding. The state is working to coordinate some of these efforts to maximize the benefits that might accrue to Kentucky. We are a significant actor in this regard.

You have heard me express my intention to pursue congressional earmarks. We have been fairly successful in this regard. Please keep tuned, because later this month, I believe we will have another good announcement in this regard.

Senate Bill 1, in the recently concluded session of the General Assembly has some significant and exciting implications for higher education. In addition to its remaking of the testing system in the state's elementary and secondary schools, it requires the Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the state's higher education institutions to collaborate specifically in the setting of standards in reading and math and in the alignment of curricula. This will be a process that will require significant faculty involvement.

Our discussions with Morehead State University, the community/technical colleges, and private institutions in our and Morehead's service regions continue to make progress. The University Center of the Mountains at Hazard, and the Center for Rural Development at Somerset are also partners in this collaborative effort aimed at effective regional stewardship through collaboration.

Next month Joanne and I will visit China, our trip financed by a combination of Chinese support and personal funds. While there, I will make a presentation at an international conference. The subject of my remarks will be "Globalization and the Stewardship of Place." While in China, we will also renew our partnership agreement with Liaoning University of Technology. We will visit Daegu Haany University, our partner institution in South Korea, before returning.

I know that compensation is foremost in the minds of many. My long-term commitment is to return this institution to the point it was 10 years ago. At that time our faculty was compensated at more than 100 percent of the benchmark and the staff was at 100 percent. I am very aware of the interest in this matter on the part of both faculty and staff. There is still some work to be done before we can announce what can be recommended to the Board of Regents in the way of salary and benefit improvements.

I will close with something that might be TMI (too much information). Ever since I came back to work, many faculty and staff, knowing of my heart surgery in 2000, have urged me to take care of my health, and I have. I know about HIPAA rights and suppose I can violate my own. Since the first of the year, I have seen my primary care physician, my cardiologist, my urologist, and, just last week, my gastroenterologist. They each have pronounced me fit for duty. I hope you find this news as good as I do.