

To: EKU Faculty Senate
From: Mixon Ware, Chair
Date: September 15, 2008
Re: Executive Committee Chair's Report

It is a pleasure to welcome everyone to our first Faculty Senate meeting of 2008-2009, and I look forward to working with every one of you this year. I apologize for the length of this first report but much has happened since we last met in May; hence the plethora of updates.

The Executive Committee met on August 25, 2008. Agenda items and information to be presented at the September Faculty Senate are as follows:

- EKU Staff Council Chair, Beverly Burrus, presented the EKU Rides program and asked that Senators encourage faculty to participate in the program. In addition to the economic and environmental benefits of the social carpooling system, prime parking spots have been designated for EKU Rides participants. Faculty, staff, and students may sign up for the program on Facebook or at www.rides.eku.edu.
- The New Senator Orientation for 2008-2009 is scheduled for September 8 at the Faculty Lounge in Keen Johnson. Thank you to Senators Robles, Randles, and Ware, members of last year's Ad Hoc Committee on New Senator Orientation, for continuing to serve and for organizing this year's orientation. The motion to add the Committee for New Senator Orientation to the Faculty Handbook was approved by the Faculty-at-large at the August 13 meeting and a new committee will be voted on at the May organizational meeting of the Senate.
- Dr. Sherry Robinson presented an update on the status of the Policy on Faculty Qualifications. Work is continuing on the draft of this policy, and a task force was appointed to work with Dr. Robinson. Serving on the task force are Senators Collins, Kristofik, and Taylor.
- Work continues on the Policy on Policies and a draft will be available for review in the near future. Because a number of policies are in the draft and consideration stage, Senator Ware asked that policy updates be included as a standing topic on the Executive Committee agenda. Dr. Robinson agreed to attend and to keep us informed.
- Senator Ware presented an update provided by Dr. Jaleh Rezaie on the status of the Graduate Faculty policy. The policy is still in the review stage and input from faculty will be elicited during the fall semester. A draft for presentation and consideration should be forthcoming near the end of the year or early 2009.
- SGA Vice President, Lindsey Cross, presented a revised draft of the Dead Week policy. The Executive Committee provided suggestions and feedback based on faculty and curriculum concerns. Ms. Cross took these suggestions under advisement; she will bring a revised draft policy to the Executive Committee at the September 22 meeting.
- Senator Ware presented a report from SGA President, Alex Combs, on the status of the policy on bulletin boards, stamping, and language guidelines. The policy is under review by university counsel. It will be presented to the Executive Committee with recommendations for consideration when the review is complete.
- In response to discussions last spring, President Whitlock is looking into the possibility of providing extension strips for laptop use at Senate meetings. Facilities must check the electrical system in Keen Johnson to see if the additional load can be handled by existing power sources. IT will also be notified of the "dead spots" in wireless access and we will try to address this.

- Senator Ware reported on issues from the June meeting of the Provost Council to be brought before the Faculty Senate at the September 15 meeting.
 1. New standards enacted by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) necessitate revisions in first-time freshmen admissions policy.
 - As of Fall 2009, college readiness standards will be defined as ACT sub-scores of at least 18 for English, 19 for mathematics and 21 for reading, or equivalent SAT scores. Students can also demonstrate readiness based on appropriate scores on placement exams.
 - In order to comply with the new standards, a new policy is needed. Effective Fall 2008, the new policy would provide for three admission categories:
 - a. "full" admission for all students meeting the current requirements for full admission status;
 - b. "admission with conditions" for admitted students with developmental education or pre-college curriculum needs, or who otherwise do not meet full admission criteria; and
 - c. special admissions, for which continued enrollment would require full participation and success in identified retention support programs.
 - In addition to bringing us into compliance with CPE, revisions will assist in our efforts to recruit and retain students. They will allow flexibility in adding service and program requirements and recommendations as new programs and services are developed for "at-risk" students.
 - Because the Board of Regents' September 6 meeting predates the first Faculty Senate meeting of the new academic year, and because the Regents will not meet again until January 2009, a compromise was discussed at the Provost's Council that would facilitate approval of the policies needed to meet the new CPE guidelines.
 - A revised First-Time Freshmen Admissions Policy will be presented to the Board of Regents at the September 6 meeting for their consideration and vote. Said vote will be contingent on formal approval and ratification by the Faculty Senate at its September 15 meeting. Revisions at the Senate would require the policy to come back to the Board.
 - The First-Time Freshmen Admissions Policy was approved by the Board of Regents and will be submitted to the Faculty Senate for discussion and a vote on September 15.
 - Discussion on the First-Time Freshmen Admissions Policy at the Executive Committee included the following:
 - Senator Taylor stated that Western has their own community college and that they divert their lowest scoring students into that community college.
 - Senator Taylor suggested that ECU consider a similar system.
 - He further suggested that ECU should look at acquiring the Richmond Mall as a place for the community college.
 2. Issues were discussed related to the awarding of dual degrees. President Whitlock and Provost Piercey reiterate the university's commitment to encouraging our students to pursue dual majors and multidisciplinary study. However, transcription issues must be addressed in awarding degrees. On September 19, the provost will be meeting with academic officers from around the state to discuss their policies and procedures.
- Dr. Janna Vice will present an update on the status of the Syllabus Policy at the September 15 Faculty Senate meeting. Before the policy goes back to CAA, Dr. Vice has suggested putting together a task force of interested parties for additional faculty input. Senator Dorothy Carter has agreed to serve on this committee.
- The status of subsequent degrees was discussed and will be brought before the Senate as an Informational Item at the September 15 meeting.

- Committee vacancies include the following:
 - Executive Committee replacement (for Bob Shadur) – vote to be held at the September 15 meeting.
 - Committee on Committees replacement (for Vickie Sanchez) – vote to be held at the September 15 meeting.
 - University General Education – Senator Noblitt volunteered to serve on this committee
 - Arlington Board – Senator Flanagan is willing to serve
 - Withdrawal Committee – Senator Schmelzer volunteered to serve on this committee
 - Residency Appeals – need someone to serve on this committee
 - The following members of the Executive Committee agreed to serve as liaisons to standing committees during the coming year: Senator Taylor, Budget Committee; Senator McKenney, Rules Committee; Senator Kristofik, Rights & Responsibilities; Senator Ware, Elections Committee; Senator Collins, Committee on Committees; Senator Johnson, Faculty Welfare Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee liaison will not be chosen until a replacement has been elected for former Senator Shadur's position on the Executive Committee.

- The Committee agreed that For the Good of the Order discussions should be continued. The topic, "What can we do with our advising system to improve student retention," was discussed for the September meeting. All agreed that a goal of FTGOTO discussions should be to conclude with an actionable agenda (e.g., investigate and report back to Senate; resolutions proposed) so that the discussions will be proactive and effective.

- Senator Ware stated that a priority for this year is to see how we can improve communication in ways that facilitate shared governance. Toward that end, she asked Gene Kleppinger to set up a Blackboard for Faculty Senators. A Blackboard can also be established for Senate Standing Committees to assist them with sharing information and online meetings, if desired.

- **NEW BUSINESS:** A draft of an Early Registration for Designated Populations policy was presented at the Provost's Council on September 3. Because this occurred after the Executive Committee meeting on August 25, it is not on the Agenda for the September 15 meeting. However, in the interest of making the information available to faculty in a timely manner, an overview of the status of the policy is presented in this report.
 - A preliminary outline of this policy was presented to the Executive Committee in the spring. It elicited a great deal of comment and the Executive Committee asked that it be reviewed and revised.
 - The revised policy was brought before the Provost's Council. At the September 3 meeting of the Council, it was apparent that faculty members had an interest in this policy and that it would be beneficial if faculty input could be incorporated into deliberations of the proposed policy.
 - A motion was made and approved for the policy draft to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate, with recommendations submitted to the provost's office no later than December 1, 2008.
 - An Ad Hoc Committee on the Early Registration for Designated Populations policy draft has been appointed. Members of the committee include Dr. Steffen Wilson, liaison from Faculty Senate; Dr. Dave Eakin, former Senate Chair; Dr. Linda Frost, Honors Program Director, and Dr. Karin Sehmman, Associate Chair, Music Education.
 - The Early Registration for Designated Populations policy draft shall be made available to all Senators on the Faculty Senate Blackboard.
 - Senators are charged with:
 - presenting the policy to their constituents;
 - preparing a written response summarizing concerns and recommendations;
 - submitting the written response to the Ad Hoc Committee no later than Friday, October 17 (contact information for submitting the response will be posted on the Senate Blackboard).
 - The Ad Hoc Committee will compile a summary report to be presented to the Faculty Senate at the November 10 meeting.
 - A final report will then be submitted to the Office of the Provost for consideration and review.