

To: EKU Faculty Senate
From: Mixon Ware, Chair
Date: October 6, 2008
Re: Executive Committee Chair's Report

The Executive Committee met on September 22, 2008. Information to be presented and considered at the October Faculty Senate is as follows:

- The Senate will be asked to consider whether or not to retain summer commencement. The Commencement Planning Committee recommends discontinuing EKU's practice of summer commencement effective immediately based on decline in participation and cost. The approximate cost for summer commencement is \$15,000. Those who complete requirements for graduation in July will have the option of participating in the May or December commencement, with degrees awarded upon completion of all requirements. In discussions of this issue at the September 20 Executive Committee meeting, Senator Johnson suggested the SGA should be asked for student input on summer commencement.
- Policy on Faculty Qualifications – Senators Larry Collins, Paula Kristofik, and John Taylor worked with Dr. Sherry Robinson on the draft for this policy. The policy is ready to be presented to the full Senate for consideration. It has been posted on Blackboard and will be brought before the Senate for action at the October meeting.
- The Externally-Sponsored Programs policies presented at the September Faculty Senate meeting will be discussed at the October meeting. The policies, including background information, have been posted on the Senate Blackboard for review will be brought before the Senate for action. The policies are on the Board of Regents agenda at their December meeting.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on the Early Registration for Designated Populations policy has met and will report at the October 20 Executive Committee meeting and November meeting of the senate. The policy has been posted on Blackboard for review, and Senators are asked to submit a written report on their constituents' concerns and recommendations to the Ad Hoc Committee by mid-October.
- The Executive Committee approved nominations of Dr. Jessica Lair (Arts & Sciences), Dr. Laurence Hayes (Education), and Dr. Preston Elrod (Justice & Safety) for appointment to the University Intellectual Property Committee.
- The Graduation and Retention Task Force submitted a number of recommendations to CAA for consideration and discussion. These include:
 - A recommendation to lower the minimum number of hours to complete a Bachelor's degree from 128 hours to 120 hours. This would be a floor, not a ceiling.
 - A recommendation to allow academically dismissed students to take coursework elsewhere during their dismissal period and transfer their work back to Eastern. The impact of this change on students' ability to apply for academic bankruptcy needs to be considered in any final recommendation.
 - A recommendation that students declare a major by their 45th hour rather than the 60th hour as is currently the practice. As discussed at the Council on Academic Affairs meeting, the impact of this change on faculty advising and workload will need to be reviewed before this recommendation moves forward.

- A motion was presented at the Council on Academic Affairs meeting to preclude students from declaring the General Studies degree as a subsequent degree. After considerable discussion, the motion was defeated.
- The CAA also discussed whether or not the 21-hour maximum load per semester needed to be reconsidered. At present it has been a firm policy with no exceptions, and Associate Provost Vice wanted input as to whether the maximum should be raised or remain at 21 hours. This was presented to the Executive Committee for discussion, and it was felt that students and faculty should always have the option to ask for exceptions, but that exceptions to the 21-hour maximum should only be granted in extreme circumstances. Senator Noblitt suggested that faculty be polled as to their opinion on this policy.
- SGA Vice President, Lindsey Cross, asked to delay presenting the revised draft of the Dead Week policy until the October 20 Executive Committee meeting. She is continuing to talk with faculty about curriculum concerns related to the policy in order to address these concerns while working to alleviate student concerns. Work continues on this policy draft.
- On behalf of the Faculty Senate, Senator Ware expressed our thanks to Mona Isaacs and the IT staff for providing extension strips for laptop use at Senate meetings. Thanks also to Gene Kleppinger for working with us to make the Faculty Senate Blackboard more interactive.
- According to President Whitlock, the faculty dining room in Powell is slated for renovations later this fall.