

## President's Report to the Faculty Senate

As you meet on Monday, October 6, my wife, Joanne, and I will be about halfway between Chicago and Tokyo. While in Tokyo, we will participate in a reception for more than 30 Eastern alumni living in or near Tokyo. Professor Emeritus Michiko Kwak, whom many of you know, has been instrumental in arranging this event. We will also visit Tokyo's Rikkyo University with which we hope to initiate a relationship that would benefit our faculty and students by increasing our exchange opportunities.

From Tokyo, we will travel to Kofu-shi, the capital of Yamanashi Prefecture and home of the University of Yamanashi. While there, I will execute with President Hideako Nukui the third 10-year renewal of our 20-year relationship with that fine institution. We hope to visit with the ECU students currently studying there as well as the latest group of University of Yamanashi students who have just returned there from Eastern where they studied in the EELI program.

Then comes Hokuto City and the Kiyosato Experimental Education Project (KEEP) where Joanne and I will be members of the Madison County delegation to our sister region, located in the Yatsugatake Highlands. As head of the delegation, I will have two official speeches to make, which I plan to do in Japanese. (Nihongo de hanasu tsumori desu.) KEEP was founded after WWII by the late Dr. Paul Rusch, a native of Louisville. His work there endeared Kentucky and Kentuckians to the Japanese people.

I have recently been invited to Daegu Haany University, our partner institution in Korea, to visit there during the spring semester and to address their faculty and staff. (I probably will not do those in Korean, which I do not speak.)

Closer to home, on September 28 and 29, I attended the most recent Council on Postsecondary Education meeting and the Governor's Conference on Trusteeship. The highlights of those two days included:

- There was considerable time spent focusing on accountability, productivity and efficiency. This reaffirmed my conviction that future state funding for postsecondary education is going to reflect both rewards and consequences based on outcomes. Our focus on student success, regional stewardship, and our QEP should stand us in good stead in this sort of environment, which is reflective of national trends.
- Kentucky appears to be headed toward state-wide diversity planning. You have all heard me express my belief that diversity is not only the right thing to do, but also the smart thing to do educationally. My goal will be to seek a state plan that reflects that philosophy and is not so specific as to fail to recognize institutional uniqueness.

- I was very encouraged by discussion in sessions regarding the need for stable state funding for postsecondary education. This was especially true when Governor Steve Beshear spoke and expressed his commitment to this concept and outlined his plan to establish a work group to address it.
- The highlight for all of us associated with Eastern was when Dr. Jerry Cook was presented the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education's Acorn Award for excellence in teaching. In the 16 year history of this award, ECU faculty members have won it four times, more than any other institution. Our previous honorees were Dr. Merita Thompson, Dr. Hal Blythe, and Dr. Charlie Sweet.

At the opening convocation, I indicated my intention to more closely wed our strategic planning and budgeting processes. A model has been DRAFTED designed to accomplish this. During my absence, this will be rolled out for discussion. Please know that my objectives include the following: 1) Incorporation of shared governance concepts into the process; 2) Transparency; 3) Tying the planning and budgeting process into the organizational and committee structures of the institution to facilitate implementation and assessment, and 4) Linking strategic planning and budgeting more completely.

I look forward to seeing you at the November 10 Senate meeting. I will likely have to leave that meeting before its conclusion as I have a Madison County Board of Education work session at 5 p.m.