Report to Faculty Senate

Janna P. Vice, Interim Provost

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Spring Enrollment

The Office of Institutional Research has reported the following enrollment for Spring 2010 as of January 8, 2010.

*Compared to this date last year...*

- Total enrollment is up 2.2% to 14,068
- Undergraduate enrollment is up 1.2% to 12,019
- Graduate enrollment is up 8.9% to 2,049
- New Freshmen enrollment is down 5% to 210
- New Transfer enrollment is up 18% to 444
- New Graduate Student enrollment is up 16% to 201
- Black Student enrollment is up 10% to 714
- Total credit hours are up 3.4% to 172,794
- Corbin credit hours are down 1% to 7,794
- Danville credit hours are down 4% to 3,790
- Manchester credit hours are down 24% to 1,584
- Online credit hours are up 34% to 16,490

Focus on the Health of Academic Affairs

As EKU has focused on the physical health of our employees, we have seen some very positive outcomes (e.g., a larger number of employees engaging in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle, which helps keep insurance costs under control). Institutions also have "health" indicators. Overall, I believe we serve a very "healthy" institution, and one of which I am certainly proud.

To keep EKU healthy, President Whitlock (at his fall convocation and of his Administrative Council) has asked that each unit of the institution closely examine everything we do to ensure we are effective and efficient. Especially in these challenging budgetary times, we must focus on the factors that can move EKU forward.

Therefore, the question for this first day of the Spring 2010 semester: What is the health of Academic Affairs at EKU? How can we answer this question?

First, the Provost’s staff is gathering data and will be providing an analysis for the following questions:

1. Evaluation of Faculty Resources – Over the last five years
a. How has the number of tenure-track faculty changed from 2005-2009?

b. How has the number of part-time faculty changed from 2005-2009? Visiting faculty? Lecturers? In what areas have these changes generally occurred?

c. To what extent are tenured faculty members being given administrative responsibilities?

d. How does the ratio of faculty/student enrollment at EKU compare with KY comprehensives? Ratio of faculty/staff?

e. How does CPE define staff and faculty in its statewide comparisons? Do CPE reports compare “apples to apples”?

f. How does the growth/reduction of faculty positions compare with growth/reduction of staff positions?

g. Where has the growth/reduction in numbers of faculty occurred? Of staff? Why?

h. How does the number of academic programs at EKU compare with the other KY comprehensives?

2. Faculty Workload

a. To what extent are EKU’s academic programs adequately staffed?

b. On average, how many student credit hours do EKU faculty members generate?

c. How many student credit hours, on average/per faculty member, should a department be expected to generate? Undergraduate – lower division? Undergraduate – upper division? Graduate - Masters? Graduate – Doctorate?

d. How do our sister institutions reward academic departments for good performance? What combination of criteria might be used to reward departments that are excelling? (e.g., evidence of Faculty-Student engagement? Growing/Increased student enrollment? Faculty productivity? State and/or national recognition?)

Second, our faculty, academic departments, and colleges are encouraged to begin analyzing:

1. Which academic programs are “healthy”? Based on what criteria?

2. Do we have academic programs that have been rendered less effective/ineffective due to reductions in the number of faculty?

3. Aside from faculty resources (addressed above) how can EKU better support academic programs as they strive to achieve both faculty and student success?

4. Do we have academic programs that have out-served their effectiveness? For example, do we have academic programs whose “champion” faculty member has either retired or resigned—yet we still offer the program, but provide/expect minimal resources and outcomes?

5. Has the curriculum in some programs become inflated? Do we have stand-alone programs that should become options or should even be suspended?
Although the above lists of questions are only a starting point and not intended to be an exclusive list, the Provost’s staff is well underway answering the first two sets of questions. However, these questions cannot be addressed in a vacuum—and apart from the crucial conversations taking place in Academic Affairs, the Strategic and Financial Planning Councils, and throughout the University.

Tremendous gratitude goes to each faculty member, staff, and administrator who works hard every day with a commitment and focus to make EKU the very best institution it can be. Although the conversations evolving from this self examination may be somewhat challenging, I believe seeking the truth about our “health” is an essential step to becoming Kentucky’s top regional university.

Lunch with the Provost

For further conversation about this report or any issue in Academic Affairs, Faculty Senators are invited to eat lunch with the Provost on Wednesday, January 13, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room, Powell Cafeteria. Please sign in at either register.