

To: Faculty Senate
From: Malcolm P. Frisbie
Date: 5 October 2009
Re: Regent's Report

19 September 2009, Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Board

The Board convened on the 19th of September for a regular quarterly meeting. Three new members of the Board were sworn in: Nancy Collins, from Hazard, David Sloan, from Fort Mitchell, and Afsi Siahkoohi, President of the Student Government Association. Gary Abney and Stephen Fulkerson were reelected as vice-chair and secretary, respectively. (Hunter Bates's term as chair runs until January.) The Board passed resolutions of appreciation for Orson Oliver and April Pergrem, whose terms on the Board have ended.

The Board heard a progress report from Jo Ann Ewalt and Harry Moberly concerning the university's progress relative to its strategic objectives. Dr. Ewalt and Mr. Moberly also gave a presentation on the coordinated activities of the Strategic Planning and Financial Planning Councils which are now underway and which are building toward our next operating budget.

Debbie Newsom provided the Board with a financial update. On the revenue side, the university is on target, judging by a comparison to our status at this time last year. On the expenditure side, the university also seems to be in good shape. We have instituted some "expenditure check" procedures to track spending in areas of student employment, employee scholarships, and student scholarships. We have been able to maintain a fund balance of \$6.4 million, about the same level as last year. This is about right – much larger, and we'd be leaving unspent money that we could sorely use; much smaller, and we'd be leaving ourselves without a cushion to help meet unforeseen needs. All in all, while we all are watching the state and national economy with interest, ECU has positioned itself well financially.

In action items, the Board approved 17 curriculum changes – all were modifications to bring degree program requirements down to 120 hours. We also approved the official establishment of CRAFT (Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuels) and an updated organizational chart for the university (which you can see via the "administration" link on the ECU website). The Board approved the amendment to the Faculty Handbook that originated in the Senate, and which creates the Senate's Committee on Academic Quality. Upon the recommendation of VP Newsome, the Board eliminated the Drop/Add fee that was included in the 2009-10 budget. This is because the fee appears to be producing some unintended consequences. Financial Affairs will work with other university units to develop a policy that will discourage students from over-enrolling and then dropping classes after the add date has passed. The Board also set non-student housing rates back to 2008-09 levels in order to avoid increasing costs to employees in a year when no raises were given. On the policy front, the Board approved a revision of the Consumption and Serving of Alcoholic Beverages policy. It approved a new policy that will permit registered student organizations that meet certain criteria to fulfill some of their banking needs off campus. A proposed revision to the Hazing policy has been put in place on a temporary basis by the President while the revisions are considered by the Student Government Association. The Board expects to receive the proposed policy revision at its next meeting.

The Board will next convene for a regular quarterly meeting in January 2010.

Please feel free to contact me for further information about any of these items or to discuss topics of concern to you.

Respectfully submitted,
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