

TO: The Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: Senator Michael T. Benson
DATE: 2 December 2013
RE: November Campus Report

SOAR

Thanks to all those faculty and staff who have provided input as we prepare for next week's SOAR summit in Pikeville. A campus-wide meeting was held last week with over 50 in attendance. We appreciate the suggestions provided and intend to share these with those at the Summit and all involved with this effort. I will be participating in a panel discussion – along with Wayne Andrews of Morehead State – to discuss adult learning and what our respective institutions are doing to address these needs.

Capital Projects

Combs Hall – the first residence hall to be razed – will be demolished at the end of Spring Semester 2014. This is part of our overall housing replacement/renovation plan which will aggressively address the acute need to improve our residence hall inventory.

Also, plans are underway to create an Honors Quad as well as a plan to relocate those faculty and staff currently housed in Case Annex. We are also beginning exploratory work on where a multi-level parking deck might be located on campus. This deck would be based on hourly spots and would be self-funded.

We continue to press for state funding of our Science Building Phase Two project. Meetings with legislative leadership have already occurred and initial support for the project has been expressed from both the CPE and the Governor's Office. The original request of \$66 million has been increased to \$90 million so the Moore Building can be gutted and repurposed as a classroom/office facility.

Faculty and Staff Salaries

The respective groups addressing issues of faculty and staff issues are preparing recommendations to submit to my office. I received the documentation from the Faculty Compensation Advisory Group this morning. Our plan is to have everything in place so that salary equity adjustments can be in place by March 1, 2014. Thanks to all who have provided their input and perspective.

Athletics

I had the opportunity to attend the Cross Country National Championship in Terre Haute, IN, on November 23, 2013. Our men's team placed 15th overall and defeated such noted programs at Notre Dame, Stanford, North Carolina, Michigan, Princeton, and Columbia. We should all be incredibly proud of these student athletes as this is the highest placement for any ECU team competing at the national level in any Division One sport.

Campus Forum

A campus-wide forum was held on November 19th to report on the Administration's responses to those suggestions made to the Presidential Suggestion Box. We continue to address the issues raised.

Thanks for your continued service to ECU.