

TO: The Eastern Kentucky University Faculty Senate
FROM: Senator Michael T. Benson
DATE: 3 November 2013
RE: November Campus Report

SOAR

Along with 40 other community, government, higher education, and private sector leaders, I have been invited to participate in SOAR (Shaping Our Appalachian Region), a group convened by Governor Steve Beshear and Congressman Hal Rogers. Our first meeting was last Monday at Hazard Community College with subsequent gatherings occurring this month and next. The public meeting will be in Pikeville on December 9th. If any faculty members have specific suggestions as to what this group should discuss or might consider, please email me directly.

Faculty and Staff Salaries

Work continues with two groups continuing their efforts to provide input into the process. It is anticipated that both groups will submit their information on salary inequities to the President's Council by December 1, 2013.

Capital Projects

After a complete tour of the Science Building last Friday with the design team and facilities staff from Frankfort, I came away more convinced than ever that Phase II is our institutional priority and every effort must be made to secure funding for this project during the imminent legislative session. Our request of \$65 million from the state has been augmented by an additional \$25 million so we can completely renovate the Moore Building for classrooms and faculty offices.

This Tuesday, Dr. Lowe and I will be presenting initial renderings of a Model School replacement facility, together with a new College of Education building. Estimates of the cost for both replacements are approximately \$50 million.

Athletics

Recent graduation success rate data from the NCAA was released and ECU student-athletes did exceptionally well. According to the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR), Eastern Kentucky graduated 81 percent of its student-athletes who entered college in 2003-2006 on scholarship. All of Eastern's men's sports and four of the seven women's teams exceeded the GSR average compared to other Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) institutions.

In addition, ECU had five sports that had the highest GSR in the Commonwealth of Kentucky – men's cross country/track & field, men's golf, soccer, men's tennis and women's tennis. Men's golf, soccer, men's tennis and women's tennis all scored perfect scores of 100 percent.

This past Saturday, I attended the Ohio Valley Conference men's and women's cross country championships at Morehead State. Both teams won and Coach Rick Erdmann won his 20th and 27th OVC Coach of the Year award, respectively.

Campus Forum

A campus-wife forum will be held on November 19th to report on the Administration's responses to those suggestions made to the Presidential Suggestion Box as well outlining how the resources from the reallocation have been made and what is planned for the future.

Thanks for your continued service to EKU.