



EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

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Office of University Counsel & Compliance
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Coates Building Room 212, CPO 40A
521 Lancaster Avenue
Richmond, Kentucky 40475

July 8, 2025

Mr. Justin Smith
Legislative Financial Analyst
Legislative Research Commission
702 Capital Ave
Annex Room 136
Frankfort, KY 40601

SENT VIA EMAIL:
Justin.Smith@kylegislature.gov

RE: Eastern Kentucky University's HB4 Testimony for Interim Joint Budget Review Subcommittee on Education Meeting

Dear Mr. Smith,

Please allow this correspondence to serve as Eastern Kentucky University's ("University" or "EKU") response to your request dated June 16, 2025 and seeking six (6) components of information and testimony pertaining to the University's "efforts to comply with House Bill 4 from the 2025 Regular Session" in preparation for the Interim Joint Budget Review Subcommittee on Education Meeting scheduled for July 15, 2025. Please find below a listing of each portion of the request along with the University's response thereto.

1. Measures taken or planned to achieve compliance

Response: The University affirms its commitment to full compliance with the requirements set forth in House Bill 4.

The EKU Board of Regents ("Board") has fulfilled its requirement to ensure compliance with House Bill 4 requirements. On May 14, 2025 at the regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board issued a resolution detailing this confirmation (Exhibit A). Additionally, at the same meeting, the Board approved Policy 1.5.7, Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality Policy (Exhibit B). The policy protects the rights of faculty, staff, and students to engage in personal expression, in accordance with other policies such as Policy 9.3.3 Governing Time, Place and Manner of Demonstrations, Meetings and Other Assemblies and Regulation 8.3.10 Campaigning & Political Activity of Employees, and prohibits compelled ideological statements as a condition of employment, academic standing, or university affiliation. Policy 9.3.3 was also updated to reflect the new and explicit commitment to intellectual diversity: "Eastern Kentucky University is committed to protecting the right of free expression and academic freedom, upholding open

inquiry, and promoting lively debate and intellectual diversity. The University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint" (Exhibit C).

The Board approved an update to the 2022-2030 Experience Excellence Strategic Plan (Exhibit D). These updates are reflected in the draft minutes (Exhibit E) which will be brought forth for Board approval at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 17, 2025.

Additional reviews were undertaken of programs and initiatives that could be implicated by House Bill 4.

Finally, the University plans to fulfill its upcoming reporting requirements, including the Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity Survey, the Annual Certification Report, and the Certified Report of Activities. In alignment with the timelines and procedural directives specified in the legislation, the University will ensure that all mandated reports and surveys are completed, certified, and submitted by the due dates established therein. Appropriate administrative units have been tasked with coordinating these efforts to guarantee timely and accurate fulfillment of each reporting obligation in accordance with statutory requirements.

2. Whether full compliance has been achieved; if not, the anticipated date for full compliance

Response: While compliance with any state or federal law is an ongoing commitment to review and reassess activities, full compliance appears complete to the best of our knowledge.

The University has formally communicated to all institutional units their responsibility to comply with the provisions of House Bill 4. Each unit has been advised of the statutory obligations and procedural requirements set forth in the legislation and is expected to implement all necessary measures to ensure full adherence. Administrative leadership has been directed to oversee compliance efforts within their respective areas, thereby affirming the University's institutional commitment to fulfilling the mandates of House Bill 4 in a timely and comprehensive manner.

3. Whether any faculty or personnel have been terminated or reassigned as a result

Response: No faculty or personnel have been terminated or reassigned as a result.

4. Whether any programs or departments have been closed

Response: No programs or departments have been closed.

5. What savings have been achieved through compliance, and if there have been no savings, why not

Response: No material cost savings have been identified to date, as baseline expenditures on these initiatives were previously minimal.

6. Whether DEI-related measures are continuing under different names or programs

Response: No DEI-related measures are continuing under different names or programs.

Thank you for your consideration of the University's responses above. Should you have further questions or requests, please direct them to Amy Scarborough, the University's Chief Government, Community, and Corporate Relations Officer. Amy has been copied on this communication and can be reached by email (Amy.Scarborough@eku.edu) or phone (859-353-2104).

Sincerely,

/s/ Dana Daughetee Fohl

Dana Daughetee Fohl, J.D.
University Counsel
Eastern Kentucky University

Encl.

Cc: Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community, and Corporate Relations Officer

EXHIBIT A

Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents RESOLUTION

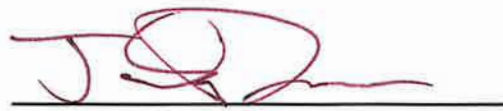
- WHEREAS,** the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky enacted House Bill 4, an Act relating to initiatives regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, in Regular Session 2025 (“House Bill 4”);
- WHEREAS,** House Bill 4 requires each governing board to ensure compliance with the House Bill 4 requirements no later than June 30, 2025;
- WHEREAS,** House Bill 4 will become law on Friday, June 27, 2025;
- WHEREAS,** the Eastern Kentucky University (“University”) Board of Regents (“Board”) has been briefed on the requirements of House Bill 4 and the University’s plan for compliance;
- WHEREAS,** May 14, 2025 is the last regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the Board prior to the compliance deadline of June 30, 2025;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents hereby officially records that the Board has read House Bill 4 or has otherwise been sufficiently advised regarding House Bill 4; that the Board hereby ensures compliance with House Bill 4; that the Board intends for the University to fully comply with House Bill 4; and that the Board hereby delegates to the President and the University Counsel the responsibility to continue to review University processes, procedures, and programs and make any remaining changes necessary to reach and to maintain full compliance on an ongoing basis.

Done this the 14th day of May 2025, by the Board of Regents of Eastern Kentucky University.



Mr. Mike Eaves
Chair, Board of Regents



Mr. Jeremiah Duerson
Secretary, Board of Regents

EXHIBIT B



Eastern Kentucky University

Policy and Regulation Library

University Policy: 1.5.7

Responsible Office(s): University Counsel

Effective: May 14, 2025

Next Review Date: Spring 2030

University Policy: 1.5.7 Institutional Viewpoint Neutrality

Statement

Eastern Kentucky University affirms its commitment to fostering an environment that promotes intellectual diversity and upholds the free exchange of ideas. The University does not discriminate against individuals or groups based on their social or political viewpoints and values the contributions of all community members to robust dialogue and the free exchange of viewpoints to contribute to an intellectually diverse campus community. Nothing herein restricts or limits the rights of students, faculty, or staff to engage in personal expression or advocacy, as provided for in EKU's [Policy Governing Time, Place, and Manner of Demonstrations, Meetings, and Other Assemblies \(9.3.3\)](#) and Administrative Regulation [8.3.10 Campaigning & Political Activity of Employees](#). EKU supports the rights of all individuals within its community to participate in civil discourse in their personal capacities, ensuring that the University remains a space where a wide range of perspectives can be expressed and debated freely.

In support of those rights, the University shall not require any individual to endorse or condemn a specific ideology, political viewpoint, or social viewpoint to be eligible for hiring, contract renewal, tenure, promotion, admission or graduation.

Procedures

I. Institutional Statements

The President has the sole authority and responsibility to issue Official Statements on behalf of Eastern Kentucky University. The President may select a designee, including the University Spokesperson, to issue Official Statements as appropriate. The President shall abide by the principle of Institutional Neutrality, and shall not make any Official Statement on political, social or cultural matters that are not directly related to the operations, mission or legal obligations of the University.

II. Statements on Behalf of the Board of Regents

As noted in the Bylaws of the University Board of Regents, all Official Statements on behalf of the Board shall be issued by the Board Chair. The Board and Board Chair shall abide by the principle of Institutional Neutrality, and shall not make any Official Statement on political, social or cultural matters that are not directly related to the operations, mission or legal obligations of the University.

Definitions

- **Official Statement:** A formal communication issued on behalf of Eastern Kentucky University or the Board of Regents, intended to represent the institution's or Board's official position on a matter.
- **Institutional Neutrality:** The principle that the University refrains from taking positions on political, social, or cultural matters not directly related to its operations, mission, or legal obligations.
- **University Spokesperson:** An individual designated by the President or their designee to speak or issue communications on behalf of the University in an official capacity.

Responsibilities

- **University President:**
 - Approves and issues official institutional statements; may designate spokespersons as appropriate.
- **Board of Regents Chair:**
 - Approves and issues official statements on behalf of the Board of Regents.

Violations of the Policy

Failure to comply with this Policy may be in violation of Laws, Regulations, and Policies and will be handled through the normal University processes.

Policy Adoption Review and Approval

Policy Issued

Date
May 14, 2025

Entity
Board of Regents

Action
Adopted

EXHIBIT C



Eastern Kentucky University

Policy and Regulation Library

University Policy: 9.3.3POL

Responsible Office(s): Public Safety and
University Counsel

Effective: February 22, 2019

Next Review Date: Spring 2030

University Policy: 9.3.3POL

Policy Governing Time, Place and Manner of Demonstrations, Meetings and Other Assemblies

Statement

Eastern Kentucky University recognizes that freedom of expression and academic freedom are fundamental values and foundations for the development of knowledge, transmission of learning, and the general well-being of society. Consistent with the United States and Commonwealth of Kentucky Constitutions, all members of the University community have a right to free expression, assembly, and advocacy in a peaceful manner. Eastern Kentucky University is committed to protecting the right of free expression and academic freedom, upholding open inquiry, and promoting lively debate and intellectual diversity. The University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's political or social viewpoint.

The University does not impose restrictions on speech except where such restrictions are:

- Content neutral;
- narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest; and
- leave open ample alternative channels of communication.

This policy is established to facilitate the effective use of University facilities and outdoor spaces for the exercise of free expression.

Entities Affected

Internal and External constituents.

Procedures

I. Demonstrations, Meetings or Assemblies

Individuals or groups who desire to use University areas for demonstrations, meetings or other assemblies are strongly encouraged to reserve a specific area(s) in advance to ensure the availability of space. Without a reservation, the University allows most University areas to be utilized on a first-come, first-served basis, in accordance with University Policy 7.1.1P, Scheduling of University Facilities and Outdoor Space.

Planned or spontaneous demonstrations, meetings or assemblies may be conducted in those appropriate areas of campus that are regularly available to the public, provided such demonstrations, meetings, or other assemblies meet the following non-exhaustive list of time, place and manner restrictions:

- Are conducted in a lawful manner.
- Do not prohibit or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- Do not interfere with the normal operations of the University, to include classes, other scheduled meetings, events, ceremonies, and other educational processes.
- Do not willfully, negligently or recklessly commit any act likely to create an imminent health or safety hazard.
- Do not utilize Sound Amplification equipment above an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 decibels and a not to exceed limit of 95 decibels at any time.
- Do not include expression that is threatening of physical harm; incites imminent lawless action; is obscene or defamatory; or that amounts to discriminatory harassment to the extent not entitled to protection as expression.
- Do not alter the physical appearance or litter the area.
- Are conducted only with specific authorization when held in areas described in Section III(B) of this policy.
- Are conducted in compliance with Sections V and VI of this policy.
- Are in compliance with University policies and regulations.

II. Time of Day Restrictions

Free expression in outdoor areas after 7:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. is limited to outdoor areas requiring a prior reservation, per Section III(B), subject to the provisions of Section I of this policy.

III. Reservation of University Facilities

Reservation of appropriate University grounds, areas, facilities, or other University Property for the purpose of conducting a demonstration, meeting, or other assembly shall be granted, subject to the restrictions contained in Section I. In all instances, the Organizer shall be present when the facility or area is being utilized pursuant to the reservation.

Reservations and scheduling of University facilities (all indoor and outdoor spaces outside of the designated time frame in Section II) should be made in accordance with University Policy 7.1.1.P, Scheduling of University Facilities and Outdoor Space.

A. Indoor Spaces

All indoor spaces must be reserved in advance in accordance with University Policy 7.1.1P, Scheduling of University Facilities and Outdoor Space.

B. Outdoor Spaces

The University shall not impose restrictions on the time, place, and manner of free expression that occurs in the outdoor areas of the University's campus and is protected by the United States and Commonwealth Constitutions unless the restrictions are content neutral, are narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, and leave open ample alternate channels for communication.

Free expression in outdoor areas between University buildings is subject to the following reasonable content-neutral restrictions:

- Speakers may not be in the streets, parking lots, or on sidewalks.
- Speakers may be in areas adjacent to the sidewalks provided the speaker and audience do not block or impede pedestrian traffic.
- Speech involving the use of tables, stationary displays, or the exhibition of images, or the amplification of sound is limited to areas designed by Conferencing and Events and requires a prior reservation.
- The University may temporarily restrict expressive activities in areas that are otherwise open for expressive activities when those areas have been reserved for a University-approved function.

C. Restricted Outdoor Areas Requiring a Reservation

The following restricted areas may be utilized on a reservation-only basis:

- All areas and buildings within athletic facilities;

- intramural fields and other recreational areas;
- amphitheaters;
- parking lots and parking structures; and
- residential areas on campus, including sidewalks and pedestrian walkways.

Necessary forms for completion and specific procedures regarding the use of such areas may be obtained from Conferencing and Events.

IV. Posters, Flyers, Handbills, Banners, and Chalking

- Any member of the University community is eligible to post materials on campus, in accordance with University Policy 11.1.1P, Bulletin Boards and Postings Places.
- Chalking is only permitted on campus concrete walkways at least 30 feet from the entrance of buildings, and only in areas that are open to the elements (i.e., can be washed away with rain). Steps or vertical surfaces are restricted. The chalk must be water-soluble “sidewalk” chalk, which wears away with water or foot traffic.
- Chalking on the exterior walls of any campus building (academic, administrative, or residential) is prohibited.
- If chalking in inappropriate locations or with the wrong type of material results in damage to University Property, restitution will be required from the responsible party.

V. Relocation of Individuals or Groups

The University reserves the right to relocate any individual or group on University grounds, areas, facilities, or other University Property for the purpose of conducting a demonstration, meeting or assembly if the Office of Public Safety or its representative believes there is a real or potential risk of unlawful activity, property damage, or safety concern.

Demonstrations, meetings, or assemblies whose numbers exceed 50 individuals may represent a reasonable concern for safety, security, or reasonable access to campus, and may be restricted in size and to specific locations.

VI. Unsponsored External Constituents

External Constituents not sponsored by any Internal Constituent, must complete and submit a Registration and Request Form to Conferencing and Events at least ten (10) Business Days prior to the date of the requested event, meeting or demonstration on campus.

Completion of the form does not ensure the University will approve the date, time, and location requested.

Conferencing and Events will respond to the requesting individual or organization within three (3) Business Days of receiving the required form. The University may either confirm the request as submitted, or may notify the requesting individual or organization that, based upon this policy and its need to assess and provide appropriate security, the request must be modified and/or cannot be approved as submitted. In order that a written record of all communication be maintained, email shall be the preferred form of communication between the University and requestor.

Definitions

- **Business Days:** Days and hours the University is open for business (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).
- **External Constituents:** Individuals, groups, or organizations not affiliated with Eastern Kentucky University.
- **Internal Constituents:** University Employees, Students, academic departments and colleges, administrative offices and units, and registered student organizations.
- **Organizer:** Individual, group or organization responsible for organizing, coordinating, and communicating all event logistics with the Office of Conferencing and Events. Organizer may be a Student, Faculty, Staff, Internal or External Constituent.
- **Sponsored External Constituents:** Individuals, groups, or organizations not affiliated with the University, sponsored by an Internal Constituent.
- **Sound Amplification:** Any device that is designed to make sound louder. This includes, but is not limited to, bull horns, microphones, etc.
- **Students:** Individuals currently enrolled at the University.
- **University:** Eastern Kentucky University, including all regional campuses.
- **University Employees:** Students, faculty and staff currently employed at the University.
- **University Property:** Any real property, buildings, and facilities under the primary control of the University through ownership, lease, or other means.
- **Un-sponsored External Constituent or Organizations:** Individuals, groups or organizations not affiliated with the University and not sponsored by any Internal Constituent.

Responsibilities

- Conferencing and Events

- Administration of the policy.
- Office of Public Safety
 - Enforcement of the policy.
- University
 - Ensure that all persons may exercise the constitutionally protected rights of free expression.
- University Counsel
 - Oversight of the policy. Serves as a resource to Conferencing and Events and the Office of Public Safety.

Violations of the Policy

Internal Constituents and Sponsored External Constituents

Failure to abide by the terms of this policy or other University policies may result in charges of violations of the Code of Student Conduct, or of other University regulations in the case of non-student members of the University community. Those failing to comply may also be found in violation of the law if so determined by a law enforcement official on the scene.

Un-sponsored External Constituents or Organizations

Failure to abide by the terms of this policy or other University policies will result in the Office of Public Safety directing the violating individual(s) or organizations(s) to leave campus. Those failing to comply may also be found in violation of the law if so determined by a law enforcement official on the scene.

Unregistered individuals or organizations speaking or distributing literature, who come to the attention of the University, will be removed from campus by law enforcement personnel. Such persons will be permitted to return to speak or distribute literature on campus only after complying with the terms of the registration procedure described herein.

Relevant Links

University Policy 1.4.1P, Non-Discrimination and Harassment

University Policy 7.1.1P, Scheduling of University Facilities and Outdoor Space

University Policy 9.3.2P, Deadly Weapons and Dangerous Materials/Instruments on Campus Interim Policy

University Policy 11.1.1P, Bulletin Boards and Postings Places

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard 29 CFR 1910.95

Policy Adoption Review and Approval

Policy Issued

<u>Date</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Action</u>
5/2/2025	University Counsel	Legal Revision
02/22/2019	Board of Regents	Approved and Adopted
12/03/18	Faculty Senate	Recommend Approval
09/05/18	Provost's Council	Recommend Approval
08/07/18	Staff Council	Recommend Approval
07/16/18	President	Approved Interim

EXHIBIT D

EKU Mission Revision May 2025

Vision

Eastern Kentucky University will be excellent in all that we choose to do.

Mission

Eastern Kentucky University is the School of Opportunity where everyone belongs. World-class faculty and staff create opportunities for personal growth through exceptional experiences, to ensure students realize their fullest potential and achieve excellence. ECU graduates shape the success and vitality of their professions and communities.

Strategic Priorities

- **Goal 1: Knowledge** – Knowledge is at the center of ECU’s commitment to serve as the School of Opportunity. From academic teaching and learning to experiential co- and extracurricular activities, ECU strategically advances academic and student success programs that support ECU’s learners.
- **Goal 2: Innovation** – Innovative thinking and bold action will elevate and differentiate ECU. Innovation will enhance organizational stewardship, intellectual and creative capacity, and economic vitality within ECU and the communities we serve.
- **Goal 3: Transformation** – ECU is dedicated to transforming lives and communities. ECU’s learning environments support intellectual growth, creativity, empowerment, and life-changing experiences by centering access, opportunity, dignity, and respect.

Guiding Values

- **Opportunity** – Community Engagement, Multiple Perspectives and Lived Experiences, Professional Growth, Hospitality, Celebration
- **Trust** – Consistency, Effective Communication, Accountability, Efficiency, Leadership

EXHIBIT E

Minutes of a Regularly Scheduled Meeting Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents

May 14, 2025
9:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents convened on May 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Chair Eaves called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.

Present

Mr. Mike Eaves
Mr. Jeremiah Duerson
Mr. William Lampert
Ms. Lynnette Noblitt
Mr. Edwin Orange
Mr. Ashley Ward
Mr. Garth Bustle
Ms. Lori Cooksey
Ms. Teresa Hail

Absent

Mr. Alan Long

II. Swearing In

Regent Lynnette Noblitt was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl.

III. Election of Officers (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Chair)

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to nominate Regent Ashley Ward as Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to nominate Mr. Brian Mullins as Board Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to nominate Regent Alan Long as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Regent Ward. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Information Items

A. Kevin Kerswick, Audit Plan by Crowe Horwath, LLP

Mr. Kevin Kerswick, Partner at Crowe, LLP, gave a brief presentation regarding the audit approach for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, which detailed amongst other things, the audit process timeline, and new accounting and auditing pronouncements, a copy of which is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

B. University Reports

1. Brian Mullins, Financial Update

Mr. Brian Mullins, Interim Vice President for Finance / Chief Financial Officer, presented a financial update as of March 31, 2025. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

2. Mr. Brad Hall, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Program Initiative Update

Mr. Brad Hall, Executive-in-Residence and Presidential Fellow for Strategic Initiatives, offered a presentation that included, amongst other topics, an anticipated timeline of activities regarding the Proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine initiative. The presentation is incorporated herein and will be included with the official copy of the minutes.

3. Committee Reports

In the absence of Vice Chair Long, who serves as the Finance Committee Chair, Chair Eaves gave a summary of the general activities of the March 27, 2025 and April 30, 2025 Finance Committee meetings.

C. Additional Reports to the Board

1. Written Reports

i. Dr. Sara Zeigler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Zeigler submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

ii. Dr. John Brent, Chair of Faculty Senate

Dr. Brent submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

iii. Dr. Caelin Scott, Chair of Staff Council

Dr. Scott submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

iv. Mr. William Lampert, Student Government Association President

Mr. Lampert submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

v. Ms. Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations Officer

Ms. Scarborough submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

vi. Ms. Dana Fohl, University Counsel

Ms. Fohl submitted a written report to the board, which was included in the agenda.

2. Dr. David T. McFaddin, President

President David McFaddin delivered the following report:

As we conclude another academic year, I am pleased with the immense amount of progress we made this year in a variety of areas. From the great work during the legislative session, the hard work during the budget season, the exceptional work in enrollment growth, and the gratifying work of watching our faculty and staff support our students in every way imaginable, there is no doubt we had a great year. While there is much work to do, the 2024/2025 academic year has provided many reasons to celebrate.

Largest Regional University in the Commonwealth

In the most recent Council on Postsecondary Education annual enrollment report, Eastern Kentucky University ranked as the largest enrolled comprehensive university for degree-seeking students, beating out WKU, NKU, Murray, Morehead and KSU. This is the result of a team effort from across campus. ECU has the largest full-time student enrollment of

any regional institution in the Commonwealth with 14,463 students (a 5.1% increase). Traditional students are up 2.8% and online students are up 10.5% to 4,448. As we refine our strategy with 8K by 28, I anticipate continuing this progress next year with increased overall enrollments. In addition, our freshman retention rate is up 2.6%, higher than our benchmark year.

Successful 2025 General Session

I want to take a moment to thank Chief Government, Community and Corporate Relations Officer Amy Scarborough. I know Amy has worked with many of you throughout the session. She tracked more than 230 bills for ECU. Her tireless efforts in Frankfort led to significant victories for ECU.

- **EKU College of Osteopathic Medicine (EQU-COM)**

SB 77 eliminated the restriction on comprehensive universities offering PhD and doctoral programs for professional licensure and created a pathway for CPE approval of doctoral. The bill also creates a CPE process to make funding recommendations for new doctoral programs as part of the biennial budget process. The bill passed the House and the Senate unanimously and has been signed into law by the Governor. ECU will now move to the next stage of the process to open a DO school on ECU's campus.

- **HB 306 Fire Protection Engineering Path to Licensure**

House Bill 306 removed the statutory prohibition for fire protection engineer graduates to begin the licensure process in Kentucky. Before passage, ECU graduates had to seek licensure in other states and many never returned to Kentucky. ECU Fire Protection graduates will now pursue licensure in Kentucky by passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exams and by working under a licensed engineer for 6 years. HB 306 will enable ECU to recruit and attract more students into this specialized, high-impact program.

- **SB 87 Air Traffic Control and Air Traffic Safety**

The bill will enhance and expand air traffic control education in Kentucky. It directs CPE, in collaboration with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, to assess the capacity of public universities to offer programs that lead to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-recognized credentials in air traffic control safety, submit a report to the LRC and notify institutions identified as capable by December 1, 2025. By January 1, 2026, the institution(s) will submit requests to CPE for approval and by June 30, 2026 CPE will approve the program(s). Air Traffic Control and Air Traffic Safety are a natural fit to join ECU's Aviation Program and we are excited

to work with the State to identify how we can continue to enhance workforce opportunities for Kentucky in the Commonwealth.

Giving Day

Congratulations to the Development Team and all of their campus partners who made the 2025 Giving Day a very successful day. Vice President Mary Beth Neiser proudly announced that yet again, ECU met our donor goal—this year of 2,425 donors, representing the 2024-25 academic year. In addition, we raised nearly \$1 million in less than 24 hours. The total gifts continue to be calculated and we will announce the final Giving Day totals in the coming weeks.

Groundbreaking of Model Lab School and Announcement of School of Education

It was with great anticipation that Superintendent John Williamson, Dean Elizabeth Smith, and I celebrated with our campus community and ECU family the groundbreaking of the Model Laboratory School last week. The event featured House Postsecondary Education Chair James Tipton, Sen. Jared Carpenter, and Rep. Deanna Frazier along with faculty and students from both ECU and Model. In addition, we formally announced the creation of the School of Education—solidifying the focus between the two programs. We are excited to finally begin construction on this generational investment that will improve and transform education in the Commonwealth.

President's Excellence Awards

A tenet of our strategic plan is being an Employer of Choice. Celebrating our best and brightest is one of the best ways to highlight the great work being done around our campus by faculty and staff. This year's President's Excellence Award Recipients encapsulate all that is great about our One Eastern. Congratulations once again to our winners:

- Excellence in Community and Belonging - Dr. Clint Stivers - Noel Studio for Academic Creativity
- Excellence in Engagement and Hospitality - Dr. Brenda Caudill - Student Health Services
- Excellence in Innovation - Kyle Willis - Facilities Services
- Excellence in Student Support - Dr. Rae Loftis - Student Affairs
- Emerging Leader Award - Heather Brent - Enrollment Management
- Excellence in Leadership - Dr. Judy Jenkins - Center for STEM Excellence

ECU in the News

- **April in the News**
 - ECU Students host Needs Fair - Public Health Program
 - ECU Homeland Security program feature
 - ECU Giving Day

- ECU celebrates increased enrollment, high retention rate
- ECU Faculty Receives Continuation Patent for Cancer Research
- ECU Faculty Honored for Excellence
- ECU Scholars Showcase highlights Alumni Spotlight with Chris Hacker
- Kentucky public universities are reviewing how to implement anti-DEI law
- ECU Clinical Closet Initiative - College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
- Experts discuss DNA evidence as arrest is made months after hit-and-run
- WKYT Investigates: Crucial role of arson investigators
- More KY universities could award advanced degrees under new program
- Prior Learning Credit
- Physiology Friday: Managing Stress and Performance for Tactical Populations w/ Dr. Mike Lane, Anders Varner, Doug Larson, and Travis Mash - ECU Expert on Podcast
- ECU nursing program receives \$150,000 for home simulation and student support
- **March in the News**
 - CPE, colleges and universities launch new initiative to expand credit for prior learning
 - KATS Soil Properties Workshop at Meadowbrook Farm
 - Largest Regional University in KY
 - Kentucky Guard enters agreement with ECU
 - Dr. Geri Polvino
 - ECU hosts career fair for aviation program
 - Classroom in a box
 - ECU and Kentucky National Guard sign MOU to benefit service members and their dependents
 - Cow Wearables Help America's Dairy Farmers Detect Bird Flu and Other Illnesses - ECU Expert
 - ECU x Republic Airways
 - "Go to bed at least an hour earlier..."; Ways to combat Daylight Saving Time
 - ECU nursing students inspired by care, driven to serve
 - Electric outage
 - Grad/Dean/Presidents List/Awards:
 - ECU Med Lab Science cultivating careers, one sample at a time
 - Scholarships available to attend Foster Music Camp at ECU
 - Encouraging Women in Stem: ECU hosts annual STEM Goes Red event for young women

- EKU students among campus groups protesting against proposed anti-DEI legislation
- Rescue squad members recognized by First Lady Britainy Beshear

Upcoming Events

May 15-16, 2025 – Commencement

May 19, 2025 – EKU Summer Advantage Schedule Begins

August 11-15, 2025 – Big E Welcome Week

August 12, 2025 – Employee Convocation

Commencement

No better exclamation point can be put at the end of our academic year than to gather together and celebrate the success of our students at commencement. I am looking forward to being back home in Alumni Coliseum to welcome our graduating class of 2025. This commencement will feature performances by many in the School of Music including vocalists and a specially composed recessional music piece by our own former Faculty Senate Chair Dr. Richard Crosby. We will be celebrating nearly 220 graduates and I want to personally thank our faculty and staff for all of this hard work this year and look forward to a great day of celebration and joy.

Reminder of times for ceremonies starting tomorrow:

- Thursday, May 15, 2025
 - 6:00 pm: Master's and Doctoral Graduates from all Colleges
- Friday, May 16, 2025
 - 9:00 am: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences and the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences
 - 1:00 pm: College of Health Sciences and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - 4:00 pm: College of Business and the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science

3. Mr. Mike Eaves, Chair of the Board

Chair Eaves communicated that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on July 9, 2025. Additionally, he communicated that the Board would begin the process of the Board self-evaluation, as well as the evaluation of the president this upcoming July.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 9:57 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m.]

V. Action Items

A. Consent Agenda

Items i. and viii., Approval of Updates for House Bill 4 Compliance and Report from the Council on Academic Affairs

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve items i. and viii. The motion was seconded by Regent Cooksey. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item ii. Approval of the Minutes for the Full Board Meeting on Feb. 19, 2025

A motion was made by Regent Duerson to approve item ii. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item iv. Approval of Six Year Plan amendment

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item iv. The motion was seconded by Regent Lampert. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item v. Approval of the Personnel Actions

A motion was made by Regent Ward to approve item v. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item vi. Approval of Degree Candidates for Summer 2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item vi. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Item vii. Recommendations for Faculty Emeritus for 2024-2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item vii. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. Recommendations for Model Promotion and Tenure for 2025-26

A motion was made by Regent Ward to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. Recommendations for Promotion and Tenure for 2025-26

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Approval of FY26 Asset Preservation Pool Allocations

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

E. Approval of Surplus of Lancaster Campus property

A motion was made by Regent Cooksey to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Discussion / Action of the Full-Time Plus Proposal and Fee Schedule

A brief presentation was offered by Dr. Bethany Miller, Chief Data and Reporting Officer, to summarize the proposal originally presented at the Finance Committee meeting on April 30, 2025 and to announce the Full-Time Plus Transition Scholarship.

Regents Cooksey, Ward, and Babbage discussed the proposal's impact on student affordability. They also sought clarification on the eligibility requirements of the transition scholarship and the current number of students who would qualify for it; additionally, they discussed the impact of financial aid packages and cost of attendance.

Regent Noblitt sought clarification on several implementation concerns, particularly the practical implications for students, the timing of the scholarship, curriculum planning / advising, and anticipated communication strategies. She also inquired about the university's competitive market position.

Chair Eaves asked Dr. Tanlee Wasson, Vice President for Student Success, Engagement, and Opportunity, if she believed this proposal – if approved – would have a significant impact on future enrollment. Dr. Wasson stated that she did not anticipate the proposal to have an overall significant impact on future enrollment.

Regent Ward thanked Dr. Miller and other administrators for being available to answer questions. He emphasized that the Board had received a substantial amount of data, including input from students (via SGA survey), faculty, and others. He affirmed that these perspectives received thorough consideration throughout their deliberations.

A motion was made by Regent Ward to approve the proposal. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The roll was called. The following members voted “aye”: Laura Babbage, Garth Bustle, Lori Cooksey, Jeremiah Duerson, Mike Eaves, Teresa Hail, Edwin Orange, Ashley Ward. The following members voted “nay”: William Lampert, Lynnette Noblitt. The motion passed.

[The Chair adjourned for a recess at 11:34 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:58 p.m.]

G. Proposed Tuition and Fees, Residence Hall, and Dining Rates for 2025-2026

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Duerson. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

H. Approval of Annual Operating Budget

A motion was made by Regent Bustle to approve. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The roll was called, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

I. Approval of Resolutions of Recognition

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve the three resolutions. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

J. Consent Agenda (iii)

Item iii., Approval of the Minutes for the Finance Committee on April 30, 2025

A motion was made by Regent Babbage to approve item iii. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Executive Session

The Board required a closed session for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition or sale of property in accordance with KRS 61.810(1)(b). Chair Eaves entertained a motion to

enter a closed session. A motion was made by Regent Babbage. The motion was seconded by Regent Bustle. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The Board entered closed session at 1:25 p.m.

VII. New Business

The Chair called for a motion to end the closed session and re-enter the open session. A motion was made by Regent Bustle. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The Board reconvened in an open session at 2:16 p.m.

Regent Ward motioned to amend University Policy 1.5.5 POL Delegation of Authority section 4(i) dealing with the purchase of real estate, so that the new version as amended would read: “Approve of the sale or purchase of any EKU owned real estate over \$500,000, and any sale or purchase of such real estate under that amount is authorized to be conducted by the President with concurrence of the Board Chair;” The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

VIII. Swearing In

Regent Aaron Barker was formally administered the oath of office by University Counsel, Dana Fohl for a term beginning July 1, 2025.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Eaves called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Regent Cooksey. The motion was seconded by Regent Babbage. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Ashley Ward, Board Secretary

Date