



Baseball preview
Sports, B 6

New music organization
on campus
Features, B 1



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\$23 million to be reallocated for next administration

By KYLE WOOSLEY
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Eastern is preparing for a serious belt-tightening in the next few months.

The university will be reallocating \$23 million to the next administration in order to reach a goal set by the Board of Regents by July 1.

The reallocations would be used to increase the quality of Eastern's growing programs and to provide raises and better salaries for faculty and staff within those programs.

Eastern President Doug Whitlock said enrollment decreases over the last couple of years are responsible for the necessary reallocation.

"The failure to reach our enrollment projections each of the last two years has also

caused a shortfall for each of the last two years to reach our tuition revenue," Whitlock said.

Whitlock said the university has watched its enrollment drop by about 400 students over the last two years.

The \$23 million is made up of 10 percent of the university's combined general education fund and auxiliary budgets, he said.

Whitlock said he wanted to make sure people understood the difference between reallocated money and the budget cuts the university has been facing.

"This exercise is not like the budget cuts that we've been through in the last several years because nobody's taking our money," Whitlock said. "The money is all going to stay right here with Eastern Kentucky University,

but we're going to have an opportunity to make a real strategic difference in the future of the institution."

Whitlock said the reallocated money is to be used particularly for faculty pay and increasing quality of growing programs and opportunities at Eastern.

He said it costs approximately \$1.5 million to give a 1-percent raise across the board at Eastern.

The growing programs, Whitlock said, are important to the strategic development for Eastern.

"An institution like Eastern can't stay the same," Whitlock said. "It's got to have the ability to change and redirect our sources to programs that have the potential for growth. We don't enable ourselves to serve students with programs they're looking for

now, somebody else will and this institution would just wither away."

Whitlock said he hopes the money will be useful to Eastern's next president once he or she takes office.

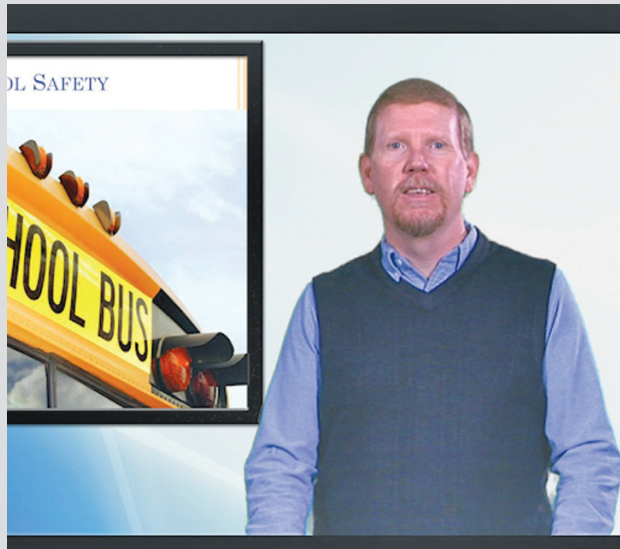
"Over the years, there are new things that present themselves and ECU needs to be enabled to do that too," Whitlock said. "This will help my successor deal with this institution's future in a very strategic and positive, positive way."

The reallocation process could also result in layoffs of faculty and staff throughout the university.

Because 75 percent of Eastern's current budget goes to employee salaries and benefits, Whitlock doesn't think it's possible to reach the goal without layoffs.

➤ SEE REALLOCATIONS, PAGE A3

Online enrollment grows despite overall decrease



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

New online courses use augmented reality to enhance learning experience for students taking classes off campus. (LEFT) Example of a lecture shot in front of a green screen. (RIGHT) Example of what augmented reality will look like to student.

By WESLEY ROBINSON
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Overall enrollment may be down slightly at Eastern this year, but there has been one bright spot: students are turning to online courses in record numbers.

As of the spring semester, 22,275 hours or about 12.5 percent of the total hours taken by Eastern students were taken online, school officials said.

"The success that we are having with the current students is really beginning to resonate with the prospective students," said Tim Matthews, director of E-Campus Learning. "People are seeing that these degrees provide a pathway for advancement or a new career."

The department of E-Campus Learning, which Matthews directs, is responsible for 12,287 of the hours students take online or about 7 percent of the overall enrollment total. This number has nearly doubled each of the past three years since the spring of 2011, when online classes accounted for 4,335 credit hours or about 2 percent

of the total credit hours earned by students that year.

"That's a pretty significant increase over a three year period," Matthews said. "We've done a better job at marketing our successes and programs and spreading the ECU brand."

Another 10,000 online hours have been logged by students in classes not under the E-Campus umbrella—a sign that signals students prefer to learn in different methods, say officials.

While both regular online classes and E-Campus classes are administered in a similar fashion, online E-Campus courses are designed more for non-traditional students or students looking to find entire programs rather than merely class a department decides to offer online, Matthews said.

He added that E-Campus courses also must meet Quality Matters standards, an inter-institutional quality assurance program that certifies online learning outcomes are being met.

Currently, Eastern offers 20 online undergraduate degrees and 11 master's degrees that can be obtained entirely online through the E-Campus program. The university works to ensure

that traditional students take classes in the classrooms, but it's likewise competing with other neighboring and online universities to provide students from the area with options to learn at home in an online setting, Matthews said.

"If we don't provide them with those educational opportunities, they are going to go somewhere else," Matthews said. "You lose that interaction that you can only get with the instructor in front of you however what you gain is more of that instructor's personal time."

Last year, the E-Campus program generated \$8.3 million in revenue with \$7.2 million in expenses for a \$1.1 million profit, Matthews said.

Online classes do cost more than their on-campus counterparts. The cost per credit hour for online classes is \$390 compared to \$305 for on-campus classes. But Matthews said overall it may be cheaper for some students to take online classes, once they calculate in the money saved on gas, food, childcare or lost work wages. He added that

➤ SEE ONLINE, PAGE A3

Student drops rape charges

By KYLE WOOSLEY
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A student who reported she was raped has chosen not to file charges, said ECU Police Chief Brian Mullins.

According to the report, the student "does not want this investigation to go any further by this department and does not want to prosecute."

The report states the student had been raped at approximately 2 a.m. Jan. 19 in Keene Hall.

The student said she was having alcoholic drinks with the accused at the Cherry Pit earlier that evening. The two then went to Taco Bell for some food and to his room in Keene Hall.

In the room, the student said she woke up to find the accused raping her. After a verbal warning, he stopped.

The student said she does not remember much, but said the accused proceeded to rape her again.

Once it was finished, she left his room and went back to her room and told someone what happened. Housing staff then called to report the alleged sexual assault.

Following the report, ECU Police gave the student a sexual assault information sheet.

To report any kind of sexual assault, please contact ECU Police at 859-622-1111.

Phase II of Campus Rec expansion fails Senate

By ZEYNAB DAY
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The proposed Phase II expansion of the Fitness and Wellness and Center did not pass in the Student Senate vote Tuesday evening. The necessary 16 votes fell short by one.

Madelyn Street, student body president, said the vote would have passed under standard protocol, but the Council of Post-Secondary Education requires referendums of this type to have a larger marginal vote of 75 percent in order to pass to the Board of Regents because its effect on the student body as a whole.

Street said under the Council of Post-Secondary Education protocol a campus wide vote with 25 percent of approval from the student body could have been permissible as well but votes of that type in the past have had poor turn and may not have been a clear representation of student opinion.

Street said the legislation was brought before the council last week but was tabled for one week after extensive debate. She said she encouraged senate representatives to talk to students preceding this week's vote to gain a clearer picture of how students felt about the expansion.

Senate members offered feedback Tuesday during an open discussion of the referendum, voicing both

concerns about the expansion as well as points supporting the expansion.

Topics such as the \$25 recreational fee, impact commuter parking, improvements to current recreational facilities and date of completion were mentioned as opposition.

Other members proposed the expansion could be beneficial by serving as a recruiting tool for incoming students thus improving the overall appeal of the university.

When asked about the vote Nichole Arbino, executive vice president of Student Senate, said it was a hard call.

"I honestly was really torn on it," Arbino said. "Everyone made such good arguments."

Arbino said she hoped the expansion would eventually be a reality but for now there are many other areas of the campus which could benefit from improvements as well.

Street said one of the biggest challenges the Student Government Association (SGA) faces when voting on anything effecting the overall student population is formulating an idea of what is representative of the majority of student opinion.

"It's hard to get a full assessment of what students want," Street said.

Street said polls, as well as student body votes, have had a low turnout in the

➤ SEE FITNESS, PAGE A3

SGA constitution revisions approved

By KYLE WOOSLEY
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All three branches of the Student Government Association (SGA) unanimously approved revisions made to the constitution.

The proposed changes will require all candidates for student body president and executive vice president of any of SGA's three branches to have at least 24-credit hours at Eastern and serve or currently be serving one term in the SGA in some capacity.

Also, disciplinary processes and the role of the attorney general, previously called the ethics administrator, have

been changed and approved by SGA.

"I'm very relieved and excited that the branches and the student body are ready to move in a direction to improve the constitution, which in turn will improve Eastern Kentucky University students as a whole," said Cari Tretina, chair of the Constitutional Review Committee.

Tretina said a large section was added to the constitution to incorporate bylaws from the Residence Life Council (RLC) branch of SGA.

"They change their representation to fit the larger campus," Tretina said.

Tretina said the RLC additions were included to allow Student Senate to better address student housing issues with-

out strictly going through University Housing.

Before this addition, Tretina said Student Senate was unable to pass any referendums or legislation to housing-specific issues.

Tretina said the only other changes made to the original revisions were strictly grammatical and specifications.

"We're just making it simplified and less complicated so people can understand what's written," Tretina said.

Madelyn Street, student body president, said she is excited to make progress and move forward with the changes.

➤ SEE CONSTITUTION, PAGE A3

