\$23 million to be reallocated for next administration

Whitlock

By KYLE WOOSLEY

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Eastern is preparing for a serious belttightening 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

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 reallo-

"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 stu-

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

dents over the last two years.

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 Universi-

ty, 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 East-

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 EKU 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, posi-

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.

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Online enrollment grows despite overall decrease





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 EKU 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 de-

cides 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

"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 per-

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

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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 EKU 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

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, EKU Police gave the student a

sexual assault information sheet. To report any kind of sexual assault, please contact

Phase II of Campus Rec expansion fails Senate

By ZEYNAB DAY

EKU Police at 859-622-1111.

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 expanzeynab_day@mymail.eku.edu sion as well as points sup-

porting 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

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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 housingspecific issues. Tretina said the only other chang-

es 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 chang-

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FAFSA now available to students

By ALIXZANDRA DOYLE

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Every year students fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive financial assistance needed to attend the college.

Beverly Wilks, a financial aid counselor, said students are encouraged to apply for financial assistance as quickly as they can.

"The priority deadline was established to encourage students to complete their FAFSA as early as possible so that they can receive maximum aid," Wilks said.

Certain grants run out early due to limited funds, some state grants ran out as early as Jan. 31. Students can fill out their FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Students can fill out a PDF version of the FAF-SA or you can request a paper copy by calling Federal Student Aid.

The PDF version of the FAFSA can be printed

and filled out manually before being sent in.

Jonathan Young, 18, English major from Williamsburg, said he didn't waste any time filling out his FAFSA.

"After break ended and classes started up again I feel as if I have no time to sit down and actually fill out my FAFSA for next year," Young said.

On the other hand, some students are unsure of how to fill out a FAFSA application altogether.

"My High School college adviser actually filled most of my FAFSA out for me," said Beth Dixon, 20, history and music industry major. "When it came to filling out the FAFSA this year I had no idea how to fill it out at all."

Help is available in the Financial Aid Office in the Student Success Building (SSB) for those students who need assistance in filling out their FAF-SA

For more information you can contact Eastern's Financial Aid Office at 622-2361.

CONSTITUTION

CONTINUED FROM A1

"I think it's a great thing, especially since we worked on them so hard and early enough to have them presented at the next Advisory Board meeting," Street said.

Though the exact date of the next Board of Regents meeting has yet to be determined, Tretina said these changes could potentially impact the upcoming student government elections.

tion does not need to be changed every time it's reviewed, she thinks it's a good habit to review it regularly.

Though Street said the constitu-

"I don't think they really need to

FITNESS

be changed every year," Street said. "Things are constantly changing and they need to be assessed based on the current times."

If the changes do not pass the Advisory Board, it is possible they will have to restart the entire process Tretina said.

However, if approved by the Advisory Board the constitutional revisions will be presented for approval by Eastern's Board of Regents at their next meeting in April.

(Editor's Note: Cari Tretina serves as copy editor of our publication. However, she will not be permitted to read stories involving the constitutional revisions to prevent bias.)

REALLOCATIONS

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Ultimately, this could result in some layoffs, which we've been fortunate to be perhaps the only institution in the state to avoid those at this point," Whitlock said. "But to use a phrase that you hear in Washington a lot, we may have kicked the can as far down the road as we can."

Bethany Miller, director of Institutional Research, said the student to faculty ratio in the 2011-2012 year at Eastern was 15.7-to-1, which improved from 16.8-to-1 from the 2010-2011 year.

"You want as few students to one faculty member as possible," Miller said.

Janna Vice, university provost, said the university is currently collecting data on different departments.

"Right now, we're in the process of finding data to look at the effectiveness of departments and a lot of things have to be taken into account," Vice said. "We're looking for programs that do not have as much student interest as they once did or don't have as much faculty to run the programs as they once did."

Any program that does not meet the requirements, Vice said, would still allow current students to complete their degree.

"The immediate impact on the students should not be severe," Vice said. Although the university would have less majors

Although the university would have less majors to offer after the possible cuts, Vice said she thinks it will be beneficial to Eastern's overall future.

Malcolm Frisbie, faculty chair on the Board of Regents, said he sees the layoffs as inevitable but necessary for the university.

"That's a hard reality," Frisbie said. "Personnel costs make a large portion of the university's costs in our overall budgets. If you do any kind of sizable

budget reallocation, it is going to impact personnel somehow."

Whitlock said some portion of the overall budget could also be achieved through early retirement programs.

"Hopefully, to the largest degree possible, that [\$23 million] can be achieved through retirements, perhaps some incentive programs to cause people to retire earlier than they might," Whitlock said.

In a statement released to the university, Whit-lock said he is committed to make the process as fair and humane as possible.

Although no official decisions have been made, Whitlock said the university will stick with its core mission, which is to provide Eastern's students with high quality instruction and service.

Whitlock has created a Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force in hopes of finding options to reach this goal.

"I've asked them to look at everything that's on the table, to look at how we can achieve that \$23 million figure," Whitlock said. "When they've come up with their list of possibilities, then I'm going to ask the Strategic Planning and Finance Council to look at it, evaluate it and give me their recommendations."

The task force is comprised of the Dean's Council, the President's cabinet and representatives from Budgeting, Faculty Senate, Fiscal Management and the Strategic Planning and Finance Council.

"This effort will touch us all so everyone needs to

have involvement," Whitlock said.

Though reallocation is a tough situation to deal

Though reallocation is a tough situation to deal with, Frisbie said the process would be more beneficial to Eastern in the long run.

"It's going to be difficult to do this but we can do it together," Frisbie said. "The university will be in a much more strategic position when we get it done."

CONTINUED FROM A1

past. Street hopes to improve communication between the SGA and student body and encourages students to voice their opinions on sub-

jects of importance to them, which would in turn enable SGA to better serve the student body.

Street said the SGA is currently examining future considerations regarding the Phase II expansion of the Fitness and Wellness Center as it is an on-going process.

Members of the Strategic Budget Reallocation Task Force

Deans Council President's Cabinet

Allen Ault
Betina Gardner
Charles Hickox
Bill Phillips
Jerry Pogatshnik
Robert Rogow
John Wade
Deborah Whitehouse
Sara Zeigler

Skip Daugherty Claire Good David McFaddin Barry Poynter Mark Sandy James Street Virginia Underwood Janna Vice Libby Wachtel

Additional members:

James Clark
Director of Fiscal Management
Karen Neubauer
Exec. Director of Budgeting
Sheila Pressley
Faculty Senate Chair
Pam Schlomann
Chair of the Strategic & Financial
Planning Council

ONLINE CONTINUED FROM A1

the cost of online classes is higher than traditional classes because the university has to invest heavily in technology and other support services to maintain the online courses.

Robert Brubaker, chair of the Department of Psychology, said he has taught on campus and online classes and finds value in both.

"The only difference I can think of is the class composition." Brubaker said. "That diversity among the E-Campus students brings a certain richness and variety of perspectives to class discussions that might not be there in non-E-Campus classes made up of traditional students."

Wanju Huang works as an instructional designer for online classes and said she works as a bridge between instructors and students to make sure all learning outcomes are achieved. She said technology is constantly evolving and it's the job of instructional designers to figure out how to adapt it to online classes.

"If you provide something that's going to help students learn they will use it, you just have to show them why," Huang said.

Huang has taught in classrooms an online and said she works to ensure the instructor is teaching clearly so that students are learning as if they are in the classroom.

"It's all about the quality of learning experience and how we can best serve the students," Huang said.

He said within the psychology department

the quality standards are the same as with E-Campus.

Scotty Dunlap, an assistant professor in the college of Justice and Safety uses discussion board dialogue in Blackboard, video lectures filmed and edited by E-Campus Instructional Designers, video conferences for group projects, dialogue in the virtual office hours, augmented reality videos to depict three-dimensional models of things covered in class, and standard communication through e-mail

to communicate with students.

"Each of these tools have helped to lessen the "technological divide" that was an issue in online education in past years," Dunlap said.

Lowell Hanson, 52, from Buffalo recently graduated from Eastern's E-Campus program and is looking to pursue a master's degree in the future from the university. Hanson said

technology was something he struggled with, but the quality of courses and instructors has helped him improve his learning after starting classes in 2008.

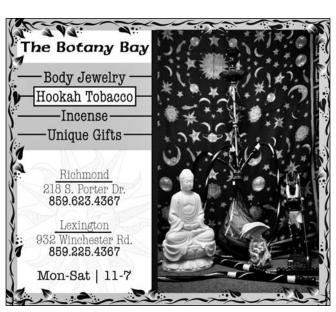
"They would take time and talk to you online or on the phone or over email." Hanson said. "They wanted you to understand what was going on and actually learn."

More than the personal attention in the

More than the personal attention in the classroom, Hanson said he really was touched in his online learning experience after his son was killed in Afghanistan while serving the U.S. Armed Forces.

"I was at the funeral home and I looked up and there was staff from the college that [were at the services]." Hanson said. "It meant a lot. I was pretty impressed."



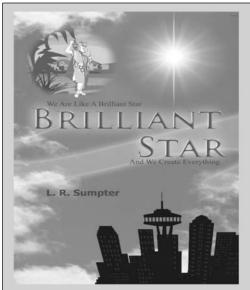




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