

EARN Meeting Notes

August 18, 2021

- I. **Opening Remarks** – Welcome to Fall 2021!

- II. **Retention Update** – Dr. Gill Hunter (Gill.Hunter@EKU.edu) provided the latest update to the 2020 Freshman Retention Report, tracking retention of those students who are now entering their sophomore year. The Fall-to-Fall retention rate as of August 16 is 65.2%.
The retention rate for the GRS cohort of first-time, full-time, Baccalaureate students is at 75%, down 4.9% from last year. Among those students, the retention of those who self-identify as under-represented minorities (URM) is currently 72.2%, and retention of low-income students is 71.4%, a decrease of 6.9% and 3.5%, respectively. The total retention rate of under-represented minority students, not limited to the GRS cohort, is down 11.4% from this time last year.
The Honors, NOVA, and Freshman Academy programs have all seen increases in retention compared to last year. Students who maintained a GPA of 2.5 or higher in their first year at EKU have a retention rate of 85.9%, while students who fell under the 1.5 GPA threshold for Academic Probation have a retention rate of just 17.7%.

- III. **Enrollment Report** – Dr. Jill Page (Jill.Paige@EKU.edu) presented the 2021 Freshman Enrollment Update. EKU enrolled 2,580 new freshmen this year! That is 214 more students than last year, and 180 more students than the projected goal for Fall 2021. Enrollment of URM freshmen is lower than last year, however overall URM enrollment for all undergraduates has increased.
Lisa Cox (Lisa.Cox@EKU.edu) followed this up with the 2021 Transfer Enrollment Update. EKU enrolled 510 on-campus transfer students so far this year; an increase of 40 students from last year! While the growth in freshman enrollment was primarily with in-state students, transfer student enrollment has seen significant growth from out of state students. Enrollment of URM transfer students has also increased, with 36 more students enrolled compared to last year.

- IV. **Freshman Class Profile** – Matt Schumacher (Matt.Schumacher@EKU.edu) reported on the profile of the EKU Class of 2025. As of August 16th, 2,531 of the new first-time freshmen have confirmed their enrollment, which is a 7.4% increase compared to the same time last year. 62% of new freshmen are female and 38% are male. 16% are self-identified as URM.
Of those students who took the ACT, the average overall ACT composite scores have decrease approximately 0.5 a point compared to incoming students last year. While the average high school GPA of all new first-time freshmen has remained relatively steady for the last few years, the incoming AGS student population has shown a decrease from 2.84 to 2.51 in the last year. 46% of the 2025 class are coming in with one or more corequisite needs.

When broken down by college, there were fewer students enrolled in Academic Affairs than last year, at least partially due to the change in academic readiness requirements that allowed students to place out of the reading corequisite based on their high school GPA, rather than their test scores. This has enabled over 400 students who would have previously been enrolled as AGS to declare a major upon admission, and their enrollment has been distributed throughout the colleges.

V. Orientation Update – Allison Bullins (Allison.Bullins@EKU.edu) gave a final update on summer orientation sessions. There were 18 orientation events: 13 in-person and 5 virtual. The in-person orientation show rate was 89% this year, which is a new ECU record! The overall show rate was 87%. The enrollment confirmation rate for the in-person sessions was 98%! Thank you to everyone who made this summer's orientation a huge success. Allison will be sending out a Google form sometime this fall in order to ask for staff/faculty feedback.

VI. Degree Works Planner – Bethany Warner (Bethany.Warner@EKU.edu) went through a brief demonstration of the updated Degree Works Planner. Key updates to the planner included:

- Courses can now be “dragged” between semesters
- If you want to add a semester, click the plus symbol at the top right
- Notes can be added to each term by clicking the paper icon on the right within the block for that term
- If you are someone who uses the audit function of the planner, you can select “Audit” from the drop-down menu labeled “View”
- If you want to email or print the planner with the notes included, select “Notes” from the drop-down menu labeled “View”, then select “Print” on the bottom right
- If a student changes their major, the plan should no longer disappear

If you are having issues viewing the planner, please first try switching browsers to Firefox. If you continue to have access issues, please contact reg.dgw@EKU.EDU

VII. Duplicate Course and AP and Dual Credit – Tiffany Hampton (Tiffany.Hampton@EKU.edu) spoke about students who have enrolled in duplicate courses resulting from credits coming in from AP scores and dual credit. Throughout the summer, we have been monitoring students who reported on the pre-advising survey that they expected to get dual credit and notifying them about how to get their transcripts recorded. Tiffany sent the college advisors a report of students who have recorded previous AP credit or dual credit for courses they are currently enrolled in. The report did not include those students who have not yet had their transcripts sent in. If you have any questions about students enrolled in duplicate credits, please contact Tiffany.

VIII. OMVA Updates – Jaime Roberts (Jaime.Roberts@EKU.edu) announced new programs this year in the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs. The Service to Scholars Peer Sponsorship Program is a volunteer program designed to provide assistance and support to incoming student veterans who are transitioning to from the military. Students can go to the webpage (found here: <https://va.eku.edu/service-scholars-peer-sponsorship-program>) to sign up to either become a Peer Sponsor or be assigned to a Peer Sponsor. Student veterans and servicemembers must have earned a minimum of 24 credit hours at EKU and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA in order to qualify to serve as a Peer Sponsor. However, any newly admitted service member or separated veteran, online or on-campus, can request to be assigned a Peer Sponsor.

Additionally, OMVA has partnered with the EKU Counseling Center to offer a new stress management series, called the “Leave It” Series, for veterans and servicemembers. The series will begin in the first week of September and consists of two expression activities and two physical activities for students to choose from. The expression activities include painting and journaling, where students are encouraged to “Leave It” on the canvas or on the lines, and the physical activities will include yoga and rock climbing, where students will be able to “Leave it” on the mat or on the wall. Students will be able to register for the series events on Engage.

There is also a new Veterans Support Group hosted through the EKU Counseling Center that will meet virtually every Friday at 1pm. Students who are interested in joining the group should contact the group leader, Dr. Paul Morgan, at Paul.Morgan@EKU.edu, or by calling (859) 622-1303.

Finally, Jaime announced the launch of the VETS|Ready Opportunity Portal, a new web tool dedicated to finding course credit equivalencies for veterans and servicemembers based on evaluations of military credits and transcripts. The student will only need to provide their military branch, training/occupation MOS code, rank, and training dates, then the portal will automatically generate all of the equivalencies that they may be eligible to receive credit for through EKU. The portal can be found on the OMVA home page, or at this link: <https://application.eku.edu/portal/vetsreadyportal?tab=army>.

IX. Probation Recovery – Becky Auman (Becky.Auman@EKU.edu) gave an update on Probation Recovery. Colonel’s Now and continuing students who took classes this summer and had their GPA fall below 1.5 have now been placed on Academic Probation. They will need to complete the Student Success Agreement and Academic Recovery Workshop, and they are limited to 15 credit hours or less for the fall term. The Recovery Workshop is still taking place on Blackboard.

If you’d like to view the communication these students are receiving regarding their probation, you can view the message in their SLATE Timeline titled “IMPORTANT-Your Academic Standing”. If students finish the fall term with a semester GPA of 2.0 or above, complete at least 67% of the credit hours that they are registered for, and complete the Success Agreement and Recovery Workshop, they will return to Good Standing.

X. Good of the Order, Other Updates – There have been several different seat changes throughout the colleges.

- Dr. Tim Ross (Tim.Ross@EKU.edu) spoke about the new College of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), which has been formed from the College of Science and the Agriculture and Applied Engineering & Technology departments from the previous College of Business & Technology.

Military Science has now joined Justice & Safety to make the College of Justice, Safety, & Military Science.

Physics & Astronomy has merged with Geosciences to make the department of Physics, Geosciences, & Astronomy.

The Computer Science department is now known as Computer Science & Information Technology, consisting of Computer Science, Cyber Systems Technology, and Digital Forensics & Cybersecurity, with plans to eventually include Computer Information Systems as well.

Within the College of STEM, the current Chairperson of each department is listed as:

Biology – Dr. Malcolm Frisbee (Malcolm.Frisbee@EKU.edu)

Chemistry – Dr. Tanea Reed (Tanea.Reed@EKU.edu)

Mathematics – Dr. Shane Redmond (Shane.Redmond@EKU.edu)

Physics, Geosciences & Astronomy – Dr. Alice Jones (Alice.Jones@EKU.edu)

Computer Science & Information Technology – Dr. Kuang-Nan Chang (Kuangnan.Chang@EKU.edu)

Agriculture – Dr. Ed Davis (Ed.Davis@EKU.edu)

Applied Engineering & Technology – Dr. Dennis Field (Dennis.Field@EKU.edu)

- Dr. Stacey Korson (Stacey.Korson@EKU.edu) spoke about the College of Education, which has merged with the department of Applied Human Sciences (previously in the College of Health Sciences) and is now known as the College of Education & Applied Human Sciences.

The departments of Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Leadership, and School Counseling have merged to become is now known as the department of Teaching, Learning & Educational Leadership.

The former Communication Sciences department is now the department of Clinical & Therapeutic Programs.

Dr. Diana Porter (Diana.Porter@EKU.edu) will be retiring, so Dr. Korson is now the Director of Professional Education Services and Dr. Marie Manning (Marie.Manning@EKU.edu) is now the undergraduate coordinator for the department of Teaching, Learning & Educational Leadership. Dr. Sonja Yow (Sonja.Yow@EKU.edu) is also now the Associate Chair of the department of Teaching, Learning & Educational Leadership.

Dr. Faye Deters (Faye.Deters@EKU.edu) is retiring as the Associate Dean of Accreditation, so Dr. Todd McCardle (Todd.McCardle@EKU.edu) is now the Director of EPP Accreditation.

- Julie Spease (Julie.Spease@EKU.edu) spoke about what is now known as the College of Business. The College of Business now consists of only business programs, as Applied Engineering & Technology has moved to the College of STEM.

In addition to Julie, there are currently only two advisors for College of Business, so they are asking that you please refer questions to the BTAdvising@EKU.edu email address, rather than specific advisors.

- Dan Royalty (Dan.Royalty@EKU.edu) spoke about the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS). Dr. John Bowes (John.Bowes@EKU.edu) is now the Interim Dean and Dr. Michael Chen (Michael.Chen@EKU.edu) is now the Interim Associate Dean of CLASS. The new Academic Program Coordinator is now Glenda McCoy (Glenda.McCoy@EKU.edu).

The departments of Communication, Art & Design, and the School of Music have all merged into the Institute of Collaborative & Creative Arts: Art, Communication, Music, & Design. The Executive Director of the new Institute is Professor Ida Kumoji -Ankrah (Ida.Kumoji@EKU.edu). Points of contact for the three branches of the Institute are:

Communication – Dr. Ginny Whitehouse (Ginny.Whitehouse@EKU.edu)

Music – Dr. Joe Carucci (Joseph.Carucci@EKU.edu)

Art & Design – Professor Ida Kumoji (Ida.Kumoji@EKU.edu)

The department of Social Work is now a stand-alone department, with Professor Stephanie Saulnier (Stephanie.Saulnier@EKU.edu) as the Chair, and the Anthropology and Sociology departments have now been placed into the department of Language and Cultural Studies: Anthropology, Sociology, with Dr. Abbey Poffenberger (Abbey.Poffenberger@EKU.edu) as the Chair.

Dr. Jackie Jay (Jackie.Jay@EKU.edu) is now Interim Chair of the History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies department, with Samantha Smith (Samantha.Smith@EKU.edu) serving as the Academic Coordinator.

Finally, Dr. Jonathan Gore (Jonathan.Gore@EKU.edu) is now the Associate Chair of the Psychology department.

- Dr. Michael Ballard (Michael.Ballard@EKU.edu) spoke about the College of Health Sciences, which has a new Interim Director of the Master of Public Health program, Dr. Michilyn Bhandari (Michelyn.Bhandari@EKU.edu).
- Felecia Ballard (Felecia.Ballard@EKU.edu) gave an update about the Student Outreach & Transition Office (SOTO). Hunter Howard's last day at EKU is Friday,

August 20. If you have any requests for equivalencies, please send them to Transfer@EKU.edu.

- Dr. Ashley Sweat (Ashley.Sweat@EKU.edu) is the new Director of the Student Success Center.
- Tiffany Hampton (Tiffany.Hampton@EKU.edu) also mentioned that, given all of the program changes across departments, many advisor assignment changes have been recently made. If you notice any problems with your student's advisor assignment, please send them to AdvisingRequests@EKU.edu and we will work to get them fixed.

XI. Meeting concluded at 11:06am

Next Meeting: Sept 8, 2021