

Hello Colleagues,

The Board of Regents met on December 15th resulting in a new group of new emeritus faculty and staff. We welcome them to our association.

Our Executive Board wishes each one of you a wonderful holiday with friends and family.

I have included President Smith's report in pdf format and the additional materials provided to the university community.

Geoff Larcom's Media Release:

At today's (Friday, Dec. 15) regular meeting of the EMU Board of Regents, the board approved a [new academic program in information technology](#) in the College of Technology.

In other action, the Regents:

- Approved [plans for major improvements](#) for Sill Hall, home of the College of Technology, and the Rec/IM Building, along with a new sports medicine and training facility.
- Approved a [35-year agreement to monetize EMU's parking operations](#) that provides a \$55 million upfront payment to the University.
- Approved a [\\$160 increase in residence hall rates](#), the University's lowest rate increase in the last five years.
- Heard [a presentation](#) from professor Ronald Woods, chair of the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, and associate professor Devika Choudhuri, vice chair of the commission.

In his [regular report to the board](#), President James Smith also noted Saturday's annual milestone event, when more than 1,700 graduates will walk across the stage at EMU's winter commencement ceremony in the Convocation Center. President Smith also highlighted Eastern's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, to take place Jan. 11-16.

In addition, [Regent James Webb](#) was appointed board chair, succeeding Mike Morris after his three-year term as chair. Morris has one year left in his appointment to serve on the board. Regents [Michelle Crumm](#) and [Mary Treder Lang](#) were appointed vice chairs of the board.

You can read all of the [documents from today's Board of Regents meeting](#) on the Regents' website.

Please let me know if you want further information on any of these items.

Geoff Larcom

The President's report is attached below:

All the Best,

Sally McCracken, President on Behalf of the Executive Board

Emeritus (Faculty and Staff) Association

President's Report

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Board of Regents Meeting

December 15, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board of Regents:

Tomorrow morning, one of the annual milestone events at Eastern Michigan University will

take place at our Convocation Center. More than 1,700 new graduates will walk across the

stage at our winter Commencement ceremony. The graduates include students from all walks

of life and all backgrounds. This is always a great day and I speak for our faculty, staff, administrators and alumni in celebrating Eastern's newest graduates. We are pleased to welcome DTE Energy Vice President, Legal and Chief Tax Officer JoAnn Chávez as our commencement speaker.

The new parking agreement provides Eastern with \$55 million in exchange for the 35-year

operation of our parking system. It is an innovative partnership that will benefit our University

for decades, and Eastern is the first university in Michigan to implement such a partnership.

The partnership provides Eastern with a new level of parking services by a top operator in the

nation, one that manages more than 2,500 parking systems, including The Ohio State University.

It is important to note that Eastern's core business is not parking operations, nor should it be.

The new operator will bring enhancements to our operations, including capital investments to

upgrade parking lots, and technology that brings faster, easier and more seamless entry, exit

and payment. Full details about the agreement will be posted on the University's website

following this meeting.

Funds from this agreement will help the University in our investment in the renovation and building plans approved today for Sill Hall, the Rec/IM and the sports medicine and performance training facility. This is the next step in the building, renovation and updating of campus facilities over the last five years, a process that has included the new and expanded Science Complex; upgrades to the Rackham Building to accommodate expansion in the health sciences; the comprehensive renovation of Pray-Harrold, Eastern's largest classroom building; the new Honors College building; and, major upgrades to student housing including Wise, Best and Hoyt halls.

At the same time, we have made significant investments in sustainability and in reducing our carbon footprint with the installation of the new 55-ton co-generation turbine that will generate more than 90 percent of the heat and electricity that our campus uses. The new unit is scheduled to begin operating next month and is projected to reduce the University's energy costs by nearly \$3 million annually.

We continue to introduce new academic programs in high demand fields. The new degree in Information Technology will help meet the growing demand for skilled IT talent. Analysts project a 22 percent growth in IT jobs by 2020, including a 20 percent increase in the healthcare field. No other university in Southeast Michigan offers a bachelor's degree in Information Technology.

The new Information Technology program continues our plans to create programs that meet the needs of today's students and employers. Last February, we announced a new degree

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program in Mechanical Engineering that began this fall. In October, we announced a new

program in Electrical and Computer Engineering that will begin next fall.

The Commission on Diversity and Inclusion issued its preliminary recommendations that set

a plan for increased support of institutional diversity, equity and inclusion at Eastern. I would

like to acknowledge the fine work of Commission Chair, Professor Ronald Woods and Vice-

Chair, Associate Professor Devika Dibya Choudhuri, as well as all of the Commission members. The preliminary recommendations and a mechanism for providing input can be

found on the [President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion website](#). The site also includes further information about the Commission and a full list of members.

We are pleased to host our 32nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration from January 11th

to the 16th. We are excited to welcome Joy-Ann Reid, political analyst and correspondent for

MSNBC, who is our keynote speaker for the President's Luncheon on Monday, January 15.

A few other accomplishments to note:

- Eastern's Dietetics program was ranked fourth in the nation by AffordableColleges.com.

- Eastern's Music Therapy program, one of two programs in Michigan, was named one of

the 10 best in the nation by TheBestSchools.org.

- For the 14th consecutive year, the College of Business was ranked as one of nation's best

business schools by The Princeton Review.

- The EMU Foundation raised more than \$468,000 during its #GivingTRUEDay campaign

on Tuesday, November 28, eclipsing the previous single-day record by nearly \$200,000.

Other accomplishments are listed in the Appendix to this report on the University website. As I

conclude, I would like to wish everyone a happy, restful and peaceful holiday season. I also would

like to personally acknowledge the outstanding work of our Board Chair, Mike Morris. Chairman

Morris has served with great accomplishment and distinction as Board Chair since January 2015.

And, though he will no longer be Board Chair, it is uplifting to know he will remain on the Board

through the end of next year.

Thank you, Chairman Morris.

James M. Smith, Ph.D.

President

Eastern Michigan University

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