

Navigating Navigate

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Emporia State launched the Navigate app for students and faculty on Jan. 30th as part of a broader effort by the Kansas Board of Regents to use data to adjust objectives which public universities may not be reaching.

The current launch of the app is intended as a pilot launch for students.

“For spring, we’re piloting it to learn where the gaps are, what we need to emphasize more, emphasize less. The focus for spring is to get faculty on board and for fall to get students to use it,” said Cass

Coughlin, Dean of Students and Executive Director of Engagement & Auxiliaries.

Currently, the app’s functionality is limited. Students can schedule appointments with their advisor, view their class schedule, and view a directory. Each of these features are either available through other means, such as scheduling advisor appointments and viewing class schedules on Hornet 365, or are more limited than their alternatives. The current directory does not allow students to view faculty which are not an advisor or one which they have a current class with.

Other minor features in-

clude a to-do list, the ability to ask classmates for a study group, and indicating holds the student may have.

Beyond these features the driving force behind the app is to collect data on students’ success at ESU.

“If there’s a course that many students are enrolling in and then getting a D, F, or W, we’ll be able to get that info,” Coughlin said.

When asked why that information couldn’t be pulled from Canvas, Coughlin clarified that the app’s strength is that it’s “nimble” to extract useful data from.

“D, F, and W could be pulled easily from Banner. One of

the facets where Navigate is better equipped is more live data depending on what information faculty are entering in. Some faculty take attendance: Banner doesn’t really allow for that and Canvas you have to make it able to,” he said. “Navigate, faculty could use to easily report. It’s more nimble. Navigate can be navigated without someone mining particular data sets.”

In the email sent to undergraduate students on Jan. 30, Navigate is explained as “a data-driven platform that interoperates with Canvas for metrics and analytics. The more data available in Canvas, the more capable Navigate

will be at empowering students to track their success.”

It is unclear at the moment how the data Navigate obtains from Canvas will aid students and in what way that information will be made available to them.

Navigate currently averages reviews of 2.4 on the Apple App Store and 3.3 on the Google Play Store.

ESU Mobile is the current companion app for students which contains a full directory, course search, Hornet Announcements, and course view functionality.

“I believe the current plan is to phase out ESU Mobile,” Coughlin said.

Athletic Bands Scholarships to increase 200-500 percent beginning Fall 2024

Isabel Ayala

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Scholarships for Emporia State Athletic Bands are set to increase in the fall of 2024. Through Together Forward Campaign fundraising, ESU secured the funds needed to significantly increase the scholarship money awarded to Athletic Bands members: the Marching Hornets, Colorguard, the Stingers Dance Team, Hornet Cheer, Hornet Revue, and Elegante Independent.

“This all began when President Hush came and watched the marching band during a rehearsal and I invited him to the top of our band tower to watch,” said Dr. William Woodworth, Director of Athletic Bands.

After a runthrough of the show, Hush and Woodworth began a conversation about the needs of the program in regards to enrollment. Naturally, scholarship money was discussed as a driving force in participation. \$500 per semester was the previous stipend offered to Athletic Bands members.

“Often, once students see how many hours are involved in the fall semester on top of work and other classes, it becomes too much work for such a small scholarship,” Woodworth said.

President Hush announced the increased funding for Athletic Bands scholarships in January. In the fall semester, Athletic Bands scholarships will start at \$2,000 for first year students and

increase each year to a cap of \$3,000 for members of 4 or more years. Auditioned members of the new VolleyBand will also receive an additional \$500. For the spring semester, scholarships will begin at \$1,500 for first year students and increase to \$2,250 for 4 year members.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Emporia State Marching Hornets had roughly 125 members. Like many music programs across the country, enrollment dropped drastically following lockdowns. Even though it has been more than three years since then, the Marching Hornets have not been able to achieve pre-pandemic numbers and currently sit around 90. It is the hope of the department

that these new scholarships will drive enrollment back to previous enrollment rates and even surpass them.

“The Marching Hornets winds and percussion has a cap of 200 members,” Woodworth said. “If we get past that, we would have to start looking at some sort of audition process.”

As of now, there is no audition required to be a part of the Marching Hornets because the number of interested persons does not exceed the cap.

“We would love to have a situation where we have more people interested than we have space,” he said. “[An audition process] would also drive our quality up.”

Part of the scholarship money comes from line-item funding

and the remaining amount will come from the ESU Foundation, which has benefited greatly from the Together Forward Campaign’s fundraising efforts.

“One of the reasons the Emporia State Athletic Bands is being chosen for this scholarship fund is that well over half of our ensembles are non-music majors,” Woodworth said. “Having these funds for these ensembles is benefitting the entire university.”

The results of the Together Forward Campaign, including scholarship efforts, will be announced at a celebration event on Feb. 17.