

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REGENTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

January 22, 1983

Required statutory notice having been given, a special meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held on Saturday, January 22, 1983, in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building. The meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m., CST. Mr. Joe Bill Campbell, Chairman, presided.

AGENDA ITEM 1 - The meeting opened with a prayer of invocation by Dr. John D. Minton, Vice President for Student Affairs.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Roll Call. The following members were present:

Dr. William G. Buckman
Mr. Joe Bill Campbell
Mr. Ronald W. Clark
Mr. J. David Cole
Mr. Joseph Iracane
Mrs. Patsy Judd

Absent were Mr. J. Anthony Page, Mr. Julius E. Price, Sr., Miss Margaret Ragan, and Mr. Ronald G. Sheffer.

Also present, in addition to Dr. Minton, were Dr. James L. Davis, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Harry K. Largen, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer; Mrs. Liz Esters, Secretary; Dr. Paul B. Cook, Assistant to the President for Resources Management and Director of the Budget; Mr. William E. Bivin, University Attorney; and Mr. Fred Hensley, Director of Public Information.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Evaluation of the performance of President Donald Zacharias. Chairman Campbell explained that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct an evaluation of the performance of Donald W. Zacharias since he became President in 1979. Mr. Campbell stated that the meeting was called at the request of President Zacharias who asked the Board to conduct the evaluation. Chairman Campbell pointed out that under the bylaws of the Board of Regents, the Board has the sole responsibility of evaluating the President of the University. The special meeting of the Board, Mr. Campbell explained, was an effort on the part of the Board to get input from the various groups on the campus who work with Dr. Zacharias on a day-to-day basis.

Before introducing a motion, Mr. Cole requested, with the Chairman's permission, the minutes indicate that "today the Washington Red Skins defeated the Dallas Cowboys by a score of 34-17." He felt it was a wonderful day!

Mr. Cole moved that the Board go into closed session for discussions which might lead to the appointment of an individual to a position. The reason for a closed session discussion was to protect the reputation of individual persons being considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. Iracane and carried by voice vote.

Mrs. Esters, Secretary to the Board, was asked to remain for the closed-session hearings.

The Board returned from closed session at approximately 6:38 p.m. after hearing from members of the Administrative Council, the Organizational Presidents Round Table, the Presidential Advisory Committee and Chair, Faculty Senate, and the Alumni Presidents (current and past). Chairman Campbell reported that during the closed session the Board took no formal action, made no decisions, but rather had discussions pursuant to the purpose of the meeting which was to evaluate the performance of the President.

Chairman Campbell thanked the members of the press for being patient during the closed session and expressed appreciation to them for the support they provide the University. He noted that the members of the press play an important role in so far as how the University is perceived and how the Board of Regents and its actions are perceived.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, each Board member was given an opportunity to make whatever statement they desired to make. The following comments were heard:

Dr. Buckman - "I appreciated the opportunity to listen to the opinions of the administrators, the faculty, and the students; and by and large the evaluation of President Zacharias was very, very positive. I think we are very fortunate to have an individual leading the University who has the support of the various groups. We heard both positive and negative comments, but it was overwhelmingly positive. We are fortunate at Western Kentucky University to have him as President."

Mr. Clark - "I was very pleased to have participated in the session this afternoon and to hear the comments that were made concerning the perception of Don Zacharias. I had no surprises. He came on like Solomon in the Bible—a very wise man, a knowledgeable man, a man of compassion, and certainly a person with extreme capabilities of leadership. He delegates authority well, and he is perceived to be respected by faculty members, students, and alumni. It was a very rewarding experience; and, having been on the Board when he was selected as President, it is gratifying to see that we did our job well. I congratulate Dr. Zacharias, and I want you

all to know that I am very, very proud of that man. It makes our job as a Board easier to have a person of his capabilities as President. I hope that I have the privilege of working with him for the next five or six years when my term expires."

Mr. Iracane - "It was extremely exciting to me the way the faculty and students looked at Dr. Zacharias and to think that through a time of cutbacks and financial strife that the University has been through, he led us in such a positive way. I look forward to the time when we aren't in a cutback situation and when we ever have the money—there is no telling how far this University can go under his leadership. I think it is amazing that people see him in such a light under the circumstances that he has just led us through. I commend him for a job well done. The three and one-half hours that we spent listening to the faculty, students, and others were a very pleasant three and one-half hours."

Mr. Cole - "Mr. President, I'm very proud of you."

Mrs. Judd - "I think that our conversations today with the faculty and students were very interesting, and the comments were very positive. I particularly enjoyed the conversations with the students, and we learned a lot of things about different subjects. I hope that in the future we can have further conversations with the students on an informal basis."

Mr. Campbell - "My comment would be that if Bo Derek is a 10, Don Zacharias is a 12. From the evaluation of the input that we have had here today, I think I could say that it is the consensus of the people that have been in this room today and have had an opportunity to participate in this evaluation that without any question or any reservation, we have the best President of any university in the state of Kentucky. Don Zacharias has touched this University in such a positive way that whenever, if ever, he leaves this University, the things that he has put in place will remain as a monument to him. We listened to people from all walks of this University—from the vice presidents to the faculty members to people who work in the physical plant to students—sit and praise this man; and, believe me, there was some criticism, but it was like a pebble or grain in the ocean compared to the positive comments that we heard today. This evaluation has recharged my battery and gotten me excited about Western Kentucky University. If we ever do get some money to work with, if we get out of this recession so the universities can be funded the way they should be funded, with the leadership we have in Don Zacharias, I see nothing but great things for this University. I appreciate very much all that he has done for this University."

Mr. Cole moved that the evaluation of the performance of Dr. Zacharias be concluded and that he be given an outstanding rating. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and carried by voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in its special meeting held on January 22, 1983, in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2,3,4, and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Session, General Assembly).

Elizabeth W. Esters
Elizabeth W. Esters, Secretary

Joe Bill Campbell
Joe Bill Campbell, Chairman

Elizabeth W. Esters
Elizabeth W. Esters, Secretary