

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD
OF REGENTS AND THE ALUMNI ADVISORY COMMITTEE, JULY 16, 1969

The Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University met with the Board of Directors of the Western Alumni Association on Wednesday, July 16, at 3:00 p. m. in the Regents Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Present for the meeting were the following members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. W. R. McCormack
Dr. J. T. Gilbert

Mr. Douglas Keen, Chairman, was absent because of illness.

All members of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association were present; namely.

Mr. Bobby McGuire, President
Mr. William Birdwell
Mr. Patrick McNeil
Mrs. Edna Cashman
Dr. Coy E. Ball

Also present was Miss Georgia Bates, secretary to the Board.

Dr. McCormack presided.

In his preliminary remarks, Dr. McCormack expressed appreciation to the Alumni Board of Directors for its willingness to serve the University in an advisory capacity by representing Western alumni.

Mr. McGuire, after acknowledging the appreciation of the Board of Directors, read the following report, copies of which were then distributed to all present:

July 16, 1969

Executive Committee
Board of Regents
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association is honored that the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University considers the opinion of its graduates important in the arduous task of selecting the successor to President Kelly Thompson.

We consider President Thompson the ideal university president, and his success and Western's unequalled achievements over the past years, serve to magnify the problem of selecting a new president with the unique talents necessary to guide the University in the years ahead.

We, of the Alumni Board, then would over simplify the matter of listing qualifications by recommending that the qualities possessed by Dr. Kelly Thompson be defined, and that the Nation be searched for a man with equal qualities.

We realize, of course, that this distinguished committee is interested in a more specific elaboration, accordingly the following is submitted.

1. The "Spirit Makes the Master" is a quality that we are very much interested in preserving. Our first recommendation is that the man possess the ability to define that quality.
2. The appointee should obviously be a man of vision, integrity, and courage, but he should also exemplify a calmness in a time of National campus unrest.
3. Acquiring adequate revenue from all available sources is more important today to an ongoing university program than ever before. The president of Western Kentucky University must be articulate in expressing the needs of the institution.
4. The man selected must be a strong leader, and must have proven leadership ability.
5. A strong administrator is necessary. He must have had extensive experience in higher education.
6. An understanding of Western's past and present, and a working knowledge of the Master Plan for the future is an imperative characteristic.

7. He must be morally sound, academically well founded, and at the same time have that quality of the common man.
8. He must be able to identify with, and be sensitive to, the needs of students, faculty, and all other segments of the academic community.

No attempt has been made to list all qualities--many are important. Our effort has been to define imperatives.

We are most emphatic in our recommendation that the new president be a Westerner. We recognize the fact that there are several capable individuals on Western's campus, but when we profile a man with all the qualities mentioned, the vision of Dero Downing is most prominent.

We, therefore, believe and recommend to this committee that Dero Downing be given serious consideration as the appointee of the Board of Regents for President of Western Kentucky University.

The recommendations of this board are presented with all sincerity and the directors were unanimous in this decision.

We do, however, recognize that the final responsibility for making the selection is the duty of the Board of Regents. We pledge our full support to you in whatever action you take. We have every confidence in the Board of Regents and are sure that your decision will be in the best interest of Western.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESTERN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Bobby McGuire, President
William Birdwell, Board Member
Patrick McNeil, Board Member
Edna Cashman, Board Member
Coy E. Ball, Board Member

A discussion of the report followed. Mr. McGuire reiterated that the Board of Directors was unanimous in its recommendation and stated that the overwhelming majority of alumni with whom his Board had talked were strong in their endorsement of Dero Downing. Members of the Board elaborated on their personal feelings in the matter and reviewed their nominee's qualifications and attributes which, in their opinion, eminently qualify him for the position.

The alumni advisory group went on record as recommending to the Executive Committee that, in their opinion, it would be to the best interest of Western that a final decision be made as soon as possible, precluding any interim type of operation.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Mr. Bobby McGuire, President
Mr. William Birdwell
Mr. Patrick McNell
Mrs. Edna Cashman
Dr. Coy E. Hall

Also present was Miss Georgia Bates, secretary to the Board.

Dr. McCormack presided.

In his preliminary remarks, Dr. McCormack expressed appreciation to the Alumni Board of Directors for its willingness to serve the University in an advisory capacity by representing Western alumni.

Mr. McGuire, after acknowledging the appreciation of the Board of Directors, read the following report; copies of which were then distributed to all present: