

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
July 2, 1997

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Call to Order

Required statutory notice having been given, a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held via teleconference from Grise Hall, Room 137 and KET Studios, 600 Cooper Drive, Lexington, KY. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m., CDT, by Ms. Peggy Loafman, Chair. The specific purpose of the meeting was to discuss follow up to the motion approved at the June 5, 1997, meeting of the Board to *“give authority to the Executive Committee of the Board to gather further information regarding the desirability of contracting for an institutional review, evaluate the references of various contractors, and award the contract to a firm if the Executive Committee determines that is a desirable course of action.”*

AGENDA ITEM - Roll Call

Mr. C.C. Howard Gray (Lexington)
Ms. Peggy W. Loafman
Mr. Fred A. Mudge (Lexington)

Mr. Fischer and Mr. Martin were absent.

Regent Mendel was in attendance.

Interim President Barbara Burch, Mrs. Liz Esters, Staff Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Regents and Mrs. Deborah T. Wilkins were also present.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Consideration of an institutional review

Ms. Loafman noted that the full Board, at its last meeting, granted authority to the Executive Committee to make a decision whether or not to move forward with an institutional review. Committee members had been provided with a draft of a Request for Proposals on the institutional review. (Attached to the minutes)

In discussion that followed, it was suggested that an institutional review should include athletics, and the appropriateness of including athletics in the review was discussed. It was felt that an independent study of athletics is perhaps in order; however, the comprehensive institutional review should include a broad, general overview of the athletics program.

Dr. Burch noted that sometime back, the Board asked that the President begin to look at carrying out a study that was essentially an economic issues study on athletics. Dr. Burch stated that, "I really do believe in the interest of our athletic program, the University, the academic program, the constituencies out there, our athletes,---the whole piece, I think we need a very comprehensive study on athletics. I'm not sure it wouldn't be more meaningful to do a separate and maybe simultaneous study of athletics trying to integrate it back to the kinds of things that have to do with the institutional missions and strengths, and where we are going. We've got a lot of things to look at. I ended up with a twelve-point item that I am preparing to send on to the Board at our July meeting proposing that we could do a very thorough externally driven comprehensive study of athletics looking at every aspect of it so that we would have a better fix on where we want to go and how it fits into everything else. A preliminary figure from Dr. Ramsey on the cost to do that is somewhere between \$6,000-\$10,000 to contract externally for a very extensive study of athletics and how it connects back into all aspects of the University working with an internal task group. I have a hunch, though, adding athletics on to the degree that we need it looked at to this study would slow it down considerably, probably is not something taken into account by most people who do these studies, and I'm not sure we still wouldn't end up having a need for some external study of athletics because you couldn't do that much detail within this and still get to where you need to go in the time that you're looking at."

Dr. Burch further noted that there are athletic items on the horizon that will require some decision making prior to the time that this study is finished and another one is started, such as conference decisions. The time line will not permit waiting to complete the institutional review and then look at the other, and to make those decisions without the additional information on athletics would be making it only partially informed.

Ms. Loafman commented that the full Board would need to vote on a decision to hire a consultant for an athletic study. There would not be a problem preparing an RFP; and with the Board's approval in July, no time would be wasted.

Mr. Gray made a motion to take action on the RFP with athletics added to Item #2 in the draft Request for Proposals for the institutional review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mudge and carried.

Mr. Mudge stated, "This discussion is not heightening certainly my concern, and I sense from the discussion our concern about where we are with athletics, but just acknowledging that it's been an issue we've been concerned about for some time and have every intention of addressing it at the proper time frame. With Dr. Burch's comments, now that she's got some decisions to make on conferences, etc. it's time to get on with that analysis."

The receipt date for the bids is July 17; and the Executive Committee would need to come together again to award the contract to the consultant unless the Committee delegates that responsibility.

Mr. Gray made a motion to give authority to Ms. Loafman, in consultation with Dr. Burch, Ms. Wilkins, and Mr. Carter, to award the motion. The motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Committee, motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Mudge and seconded by Mr. Gray. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.