

MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

August 24, 1997

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Call to Order

Required statutory notice having been given, a special meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in Salon C of the University Plaza Hotel for the purpose of (1) administering the oath of office to two new Board members and (2) to conduct candidate interviews and discussions related to the appointment of President. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:40 p.m, CDT, by Ms. Peggy Loafman, Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Oath of Office

The Constitutional Oath of Office was administered to Ms. Lois W. Gray of Vine Grove, KY, and Ms. Sara W. Hulse of Owensboro. The Oath was administered by Ms. Liz Esters. Ms. Gray and Ms. Hulse were appointed by Governor Patton to six-year terms expiring June 30, 2003, replacing Mr. Mudge and Mr. Preston.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - Roll Call

Ms. Kristen T. Bale
Mr. Keith Coffman
Mr. Robert Earl Fischer
Ms. N. Joy Gramling
Mr. C.C. Howard Gray
Ms. Lois W. Gray
Ms. Sara L. Hulse
Ms. Peggy W. Loafman
Mr. Cornelius A. Martin
Dr. Ray M. Mendel
Mr. Burns E. Mercer

Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer, that the Board of Regents go into closed session on the following dates and times, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1) (f), for the purpose of conducting candidate interviews and discussions that might lead to the appointment of an individual:

Monday, August 25, 1997	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 26, 1997	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 27, 1997	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 3, 1997	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously. The Board accompanied by Ms. Esters went into closed session at approximately 6:40 p.m.

The Board of Regents reconvened to come out of closed session Friday, September 12, 1997, at 8:30 a.m. in the Regents Conference Room of Wetherby Administration Building.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:40 a.m. by Ms. Loafman, Chair.

Dr. John Long, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, gave the invocation.

The following members were present:

Ms. Kristen T. Bale
Mr. Keith Coffman
Mr. Robert Earl Fischer
Ms. N. Joy Gramling
Mr. C.C. Howard Gray
Ms. Lois W. Gray
Ms. Sara L. Hulse
Ms. Peggy W. Loafman
Mr. Cornelius A. Martin
Dr. Ray M. Mendel
Mr. Burns E. Mercer

Chair Loafman made the following statement,

“Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f), the Board of Regents went into closed session at 6:40 p.m., on August 24, 1997, for the purpose of conducting candidate interviews and discussions that might lead to the appointment of an individual. During the closed session, only matters within the scope of the motion were discussed. The Board has now concluded the interviews and deliberations. We appreciate your patience through this process.

“As all of you know, on February 8, 1997, this Board of Regents faced the awesome responsibility of selecting the best person available to lead Western Kentucky University forward into the twenty-first century as its ninth President. This, without a doubt, is the most important duty that we, as members of the Board of Regents, have been presented. This responsibility has not been taken lightly by any member of this Board.

“The Presidential Search Committee appointed by the Board of Regents interviewed ten individuals and recommended four unranked candidates to the Board of Regents on July 28, 1997. The Search Committee worked diligently through this process

and are to be commended for their professionalism and dedication to providing the Board of Regents with unranked names of individuals best qualified for the Presidency.

“On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank those who served on the Presidential Search Committee and Mr. Cornelius Martin, who chaired that Committee.

“The input of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of this University has been an important and significant part of this process and has assisted us in reaching the final decision. We appreciate and thank all who participated in this process. We have listened and observed. All of this has taken time. Again, we appreciate your patience through this process.

“The Board ranked 18 items on the criteria list for this position; and topping the list were the following expectations:

- A person of vision;
- Ability to provide responsible academic and administrative direction;
- Demonstrated commitment to and willingness to support academic excellence in teaching and learning.

“This Board has endorsed and embraced Governor Patton’s Plan for Postsecondary Education Reform since its conception, and we are committed to ensuring that Western Kentucky University is the leader in implementing this plan.”

Mr. Martin stated, “The Board of Regents has interviewed and considered four highly qualified individuals, all of whom were excellent candidates for this position. The person selected brings a vision that reflects the goals and mission of this great University along with the goals of the Governor’s Postsecondary Education Improvement Act.

Madam Chair, I would like to move that this Board of Regents name Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, Vice President for Administration and Advancement at Clemson University, as the ninth President of Western Kentucky University.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray, and the roll call vote follows:

Aye: Bale, Coffman, Fischer, Gramling, Gray, Gray, Hulse, Loafman, Martin, Mendel, Mercer

Nay: None

Ms. Loafman stated, I would like to now introduce to you President Gary Ransdell, his wife Julie, and their sons, Patrick and Matthew. Dr. Ransdell brings our

University the vision, the experience, the passion, and the commitment to lead us forward to a higher level.

“Gary and Julie, we welcome you home to the “Hill” where “The Spirit Makes the Master.” It is on this “Hill” where that spirit was instilled which has inspired and driven you to become the ninth President of our great University. We are indeed excited about your Presidency. This Board challenges you to chart the course that will elevate Western Kentucky University to new heights in this community, our Commonwealth, and the nation. The Board joins hands with you, the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of this University as we work united to make this University the best it can be. We invite all our constituencies to join this effort. Ladies and gentlemen, President Gary Ransdell.”

President Ransdell commented as follows:

“Thank you very much. I must start with additional introduction of Julie, Patrick, and Matthew. They’re my life; they’re everything to me, and this has been a fascinating process for us, and I have thoroughly enjoyed sharing every moment of the process with them. I am proud that they can be here to share in this moment. It is meaningful to our entire family, and we are looking forward to all four of us being a part of this community.

“I am honored to accept this appointment from the Board of Regents. Julie and I are honored to return to the place we met, dated, married, and began our personal and professional lives together.

“I must tell you how impressed I am with this Board of Regents. This Board is thorough, diligent, thoughtful, focused, and passionate about improving this University; and to the person, I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to get acquainted. I thoroughly look forward to the opportunity to work with each and every one of you on our mutual goals. We share an ambitious vision for this University, a vision of strength at the national, state, and local levels. We have an opportunity to achieve a national reputation for teaching and strength of selected academic programs. We will reinforce our state-wide reputation for a strong faculty across our curriculum, technical innovation and character of this unique campus, and we will fulfill our local responsibility for meaningful research and public service to enhance the economic development and quality of life in this

community. We will think national, but we will certainly act regional.

“We will dedicate resources to those priorities which will ensure value for cost and transform Western into a university worthy of national recognition. We want Western to be the university of choice for students and faculty. We want to help ensure value for the investment which this state and our students make in a Western education. We want to ensure a meaningful Western experience for those who study and work and live on and around this campus and those whose exposure to Western is transmitted electronically.

We will nurture those things which are distinctively Western and build new things, tangible and intangible, which enhance our mutual love for this place, its people, and our history.

“I want to specifically recognize four of my eight predecessors--four men who shaped my values, my career, and my devotion to Western: Kelly Thompson, who I never worked for, but with whom I shared countless conversations when I was a young employee who hung onto every word from a beloved President Emeritus; Dero Downing, with whom I had a chance to speak just a moment ago, who by his actions embodied integrity and an impenetrable bond with his fellow Westerners; John Minton, my mentor, few career decisions including this one did I make without counsel from Dr. Minton, and Don Zacharias, with whom I spoke yesterday afternoon, who helped me understand the immense scope of higher education in this nation and the need for bold leadership to ensure its meaningful future.

“Finally, let me recognize a few people who loom large in our immediate future. I want to thank Barbara Burch for her service during this interim period. I look forward to working with you, Barbara, with the vice presidents and with our deans and faculty in the years ahead. I want to specifically acknowledge Governor Patton and the dramatic legislation he has championed for higher education. I pledge to the Governor my full capacity as President and our collective energy to ensure optimum realization of the goals outlined in the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act, and I pledge to each of you our best effort to ensure Western’s rightful place as a leader in fulfillment of the goals outlined in that act.

“I want to acknowledge our local Bowling Green-Warren County legislative delegation. I’m not sure who might be among us today; certainly Senator Nick Kafoglis, Representatives Jody Richards, the Speaker of the House, Representative Stephen Nunn, Representative Roger Thomas, and Representative Roger Wilkey. I look forward to working with each of you to enhance the quality of life in our community.

“Julie and I are anxious to become reacquainted with Bowling Green. This is a wonderful city, and we’re honored to once again be home.

“Finally, I want to ask, some of you are already standing, every Western student in the room if you will stand or raise your hand, please. Folks, this is why we’re here.

These students lined up over here, others in the room, it is to you that I commit my tenure as Western’s ninth President.

“One more thing, beat Eastern tomorrow night.”

With no further business to come before the Board, motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Fischer, seconded by Mr. Gray, and carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 a.m.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in a special meeting held on August 24, 1997, at the University Plaza Hotel (reconvened in the in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus on September 12, 1997) and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.815, 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
Secretary

Peggy W. Loafman
Chair
October 31, 1997

Elizabeth W. Esters
Secretary
October 31, 1997

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in a regular meeting held on July 28, 1997, 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, 61.815, 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
Secretary

Peggy W. Loafman
Chair
October 31, 1997

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