

MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

January 30, 1998

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Call to Order

Required statutory notice having been given, the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m., CST, by Ms. Peggy Loafman, Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Richard Greer, Director, Counseling Services Center.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Roll Call

Mr. Keith Coffman
Mr. Earl Fischer
Ms. N. Joy Gramling
Mr. 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

Ms. Kristen Bale was absent.

Others present were President Gary A. Ransdell; Dr. Barbara G. Burch; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mrs. Liz Esters, Staff Assistant and Secretary to the Board of Regents; Dr. Charles Anderson, Vice President for Information Technology; Mr. Fred Hensley, Executive Assistant to the President for Public Affairs and Governmental Relations; Dr. Jerry W. Wilder, Vice President for

Student Affairs; Ms. Ann Mead, Chief Financial Officer; and Ms. Deborah Wilkins, General Counsel.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - Disposition of minutes of the regular meeting of October 31, 1997

The minutes of the meeting of October 31, 1997, were mailed prior to the meeting and were presented by Chair Loafman. Motion for approval was made by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Martin, and carried unanimously.

In keeping with the policy of the Board, the agenda for the meeting and information and materials pertinent to items thereon had been mailed in advance of the meeting to members of the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - Plan for Property

Mr. Martin moved that “the Board go into closed session, for two purposes pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b):

- discussion and deliberation on acquisition and sale of real property by the University. The reason for closed session is that public discussion and publicity would be likely to affect the value of the specific piece(s) of property to be acquired for use or sold by the University, and
- to discuss specific individuals serving as officers of the Board, pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f). The general nature of the business to be discussed will be the specific individuals serving as officers of the Board; the reason for the closed session will be the privacy considerations with respect to the individuals serving as officers of the Board; and the specific provision of the KRS.61.810 authorizing the closed session is KRS 61.810(1)(f).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray and carried unanimously.

The Board, accompanied by President Ransdell and Ms. Esters went into closed session at approximately 9:11 a.m. President Ransdell asked members of the Administrative Council to remain for the closed session, specifically Dr. Charles Anderson, Vice President for Information Technology; Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Fred Hensley, Executive Assistant to

the President for Public Affairs and Governmental Relations; Ms. Ann Mead, Chief Financial Officer; Mr. Lewis Mills, Athletics Director; Dr. Jerry Wilder, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Ms. Deborah Wilkins, General Counsel.

Ms. Esters and members of the Administrative Council were asked to leave the closed session at approximately 10:20 a.m.

The Board returned from closed session at approximately 11:10 a.m. Chair Loafman stated, "The subject of the discussions and deliberations during the closed session were restricted to those in the motion, and no formal action was taken by the Board in closed session."

AGENDA ITEM 6 - Committee Reports

6.1 - Finance Committee, Mr. Burns E. Mercer, Chair

The Committee met as a committee of the whole with the following items on the agenda:

6.1.1 President Gary Ransdell recommends that the Board of Regents accept the Quarterly Financial Report which includes previously approved budget revisions for the first quarter of 1997-98.

Background:

Total realized Educational and General (E&G) revenue, as a percentage of the budget, is down slightly from this time last year. The decrease is due, in part, to budgeting revenue and expenditure less conservatively; therefore, what might have typically come in later in the fiscal year is now budgeted. Tuition and fees are down for the fall, and expenditures in scholarships and fellowships are slightly less than anticipated. Also, the posting of fee payments was postponed to January because of the HOPE legislation which enables qualified taxpayers to receive a tax credit for fees paid in calendar year 1998.

Revenue and expenditures for grants and contracts, as a percentage of the budget, are down slightly due to better estimating of anticipated receipts. In addition, private gift scholarships were reclassified from unrestricted to restricted as part of the 1997-98 budget.

Auxiliary Enterprises revenue declined also due to the postponing of housing fee payments until January to permit a tax credit for the fees paid in

calendar year 1998.

In regard to the revised budget through the Second Quarter of 1997-98, Board approved budget revisions and several fund balance allocations have been posted.

The Quarterly Financial Report for the first quarter of 1997-98 was accepted as presented by Chief Financial Officer Ann Mead.

6.1.2 - President Gary Ransdell recommends that revisions to the Western Kentucky University 1997-98 Combined Budget, totaling \$5,142,000, for Educational and General, be approved.

Background:

The proposed revisions to the Western Kentucky University 1997-98 Combined Budget are listed below and a narrative explaining the revisions follows:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Revisions</u>	
Educational and General	
Governmental Grants and Contracts, Federal	\$5,000,000
Other Sales & Services	60,000
Other Sources	134,000
Total	\$5,194,000
<u>Use</u>	
Sponsored Programs - Research	\$2,000,000
Sponsored Programs - Public Service	3,000,000
Special Events	60,000
Agriculture Student Group	40,000
ETV Proposed Programming	42,000
Insurance Claims Reimbursable	52,000
Total	\$5,194,000

The funding for each of these revisions is revenue dependent (i.e., supported 100% by revenue generated by the unit) and will not be expended unless the revenue is received. Each unit has exceeded the budgeted revenue estimated for this fiscal year and, therefore, needs additional expenditure authority. The funding for the federal share of sponsored programs is also treated like the revenue dependent budgets and will not be expended unless the revenue is actually received. During the year, insurance claims are processed for various equipment items that have been stolen or damaged and need to be replaced. This is revenue that is not budgeted; and therefore, requires expenditure authority.

Motion for approval was made by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Ms. Hulse and carried unanimously.

6.1.3 Recommendation that \$100,000 in the Educational and General (E&G) Fund Balance be allocated for the painting project, in the amount of \$25,000, and for University matching on grants in the amount of \$75,000.

Background:

At the October 30, 1997 Board of Regents meeting, the Administration presented an allocation of the E&G Fund Balance including \$100,000 for acquisition of property. The decision was made to not acquire the property. Thus, \$100,000 remains available for allocation.

It is recommended that \$25,000 be allocated for the painting project. In 1995, the Board of Regents approved the allocation of \$135,000 to paint building interiors. The original allocation will be completely spent by the end of January; however, numerous painting needs remain unfunded. The Administration has been asked to allocate an additional \$25,000 to address additional painting needs.

The University has three accounts budgeted which are called University Share of Sponsored Programs and which total \$185,000. These funds are used for matching opportunities on grants. Federal grants such as those awarded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) typically require a university match of 50 percent. Western faculty has become increasingly successful in receiving NSF grants for equipment. This success has created the need for additional funds for matching opportunities anticipated in the second half of the fiscal year. An additional \$75,000 is being recommended by the Administration.

Motion for approval was made by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Mr. Fischer, and carried unanimously.

6.1.4 Recommendation for approval from the Auxiliary fund balance \$114,000 and additional current year revenue of \$202,000 to be used to support capital construction and improvement projects.

Background:

Since May 1, 1996, the Board of Regents has authorized the allocation of \$2,924,706 from the Auxiliary Reserve for needed fire safety, deferred maintenance, and other related auxiliary facility capital improvements. The allocation of \$316,000 will continue to address the \$11 million in accumulated deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs of the University's residence halls and student center buildings. In so doing, these improvements will enhance the ability of Student Services to support the University's mission and goals. A \$600,000 Auxiliary Reserve will remain after this allocation.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>Revisions</u>	
Auxiliary Enterprises	
Investment Earnings Retirement of Indebtedness	\$202,000
Fund Balance	114,000
Total	316,000
<u>Use</u>	
Repair fan coil units in Barnes-Campbell Hall	\$145,000
Replace boiler in McCormack Hall	85,000
Replace lobby equipment in Barnes-Campbell and Bemis Lawrence Halls	60,000
Miscellaneous repairs and improvements in Downing University Center	21,000
Replace window covering in four residence halls multipurpose rooms	5,000
Total	\$316,000

Motion for approval was made by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Mr. Gray, and carried unanimously.

6.1.5 Recommendation that the Board of Regents accept the accountants' report and financial statements for WKYU-TV and WKYU-FM Radio for the year ended June 30, 1997.

Background:

On an annual basis, Western Kentucky University contracts with Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (BKD) to provide an audit of the financial statements for WKYU-TV and WKYU-FM Radio. The separate audits are required under the contractual funding arrangements of Western with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Both of the audits of the financial statements are "clean."

Note: Reports were mailed as separate documents to the Board, and a copy is filed in the Board's official files.

Motion for approval was made by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Mr. Gray, and carried unanimously.

6.1.6 DEVELOPMENT OF 1998-99 OPERATING BUDGET

Development of the 1998-99 Operating Budget was discussed by Ms. Ann

Mead, Chief Financial Officer. An outline of that discussion follows:

Discussion:

Budget development is a process of allocating financial resources in a manner which will enhance Western Kentucky University's ability to achieve its short-term and long-term goals. Thus, Western's priorities, which are drawn from these goals, will guide the allocation of new financial resources and the reallocation of existing budgeted funds, as necessary. Western Kentucky University's 1998-99 budget priorities will take into consideration the external and internal expectations of the University including the following:

- The *Postsecondary Education Reform Act of 1997* sets forth long-term expectations for Western such as improving educational attainment of the citizens of the Commonwealth and ensuring a high level of quality in our instructional programs.
- The "Institutional Review Report" calls for numerous changes to ensure greater institutional efficiency and effectiveness.
- Although Western is in the process of consolidating its planning documents, the goals, as set forth in the "1997-98 Operational Plan," are likely to remain as high priorities. These priorities include improving recruitment and retention of students; increase quality of learning, learning effectiveness, and resource efficiency; increase effective use of technology; and enhance our institutional assets - - recruit and retain quality faculty and staff and improve our physical resources.

1998-99 INSTITUTIONAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Through the allocation of new financial resources and the reallocation of existing budgeted funds, Western's 1998-99 Operating Budget will take into consideration the following institutional priorities:

- **Recruit and retain quality faculty and staff.** Funds are needed to provide cost-of-living salary adjustments, salary increases in recognition of outstanding merit, and benchmark or market salary adjustments, as appropriate.
- **Improve our physical resources.** Funds are needed on an ongoing basis to address campus maintenance and protect the University's investment in plant. Western needs to take full advantage of the funding opportunity being advanced by the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE). These include a new technology and communications building and a requirement for WKU to identify approximately \$2.1 million in matching dollars in order to qualify for state deferred maintenance funding of \$2.1 million.

Western also seeks to create new facilities in Glasgow and Elizabethtown and collaborate with the tech and community college systems in a regional postsecondary program.

- **Fully qualify for funding available for Western from CPE Investment and Incentive Trust funds.** Funds are needed to meet the dollar-for-dollar matching (external funds or reallocation of 1997/98 budget) requirements for Programs of Distinction and Commonwealth Virtual University technology initiatives and for the capital construction access plan (i.e., institutional funding commitment for Glasgow Campus addition project).
- **Continue to implement initiatives in the “1997-98 Operational Plan.”** After costing out the 1997-98 Operational Plan,” the Administration found it necessary to commit to a phased-in implementation plan. Additional “Operational Plan” initiatives, which are consistent with the Postsecondary Education Reform Act and current institutional priorities, should be considered for funding.
- **Identify permanent funding for items routinely funded by nonrecurring sources such as fund balances.** Funds are needed for selected items which are consistent with the University’s priorities and for which no permanent funding has been identified in previous budgets.
- **Begin modifying the budget to accommodate greater empowerment at the appropriate organizational level.** Funds should be allocated in a manner which supports the creation of incentives for greater efficiency and effectiveness at the unit level.

A draft budget development calendar was included with this agenda item.

6.1.7 President Gary Ransdell recommends that the \$5.00 fee that has been collected from WKU students since the Fall of 1991 be extended permanently and redefined as a “Student Activity Fee.”

Background:

This fee was initially approved, as recommended by SGA, for four years (1990-94) to assist in supporting Western’s contribution to the first one-half year debt service on the Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center. Sub-sequently, Western’s Board of Regents, as recommended by SGA, approved a four-year extension (1994-98) of the \$5.00 fee for the purpose of funding the Outdoor Intramural-Recreational Project now under construction on Campbell Lane. This project is scheduled to be completed in August, 1998, at a cost of approximately \$750,000. It should be noted that the revenue collected from the fee for fiscal year 1998-99 will be dedicated to reimbursing the University for funds advanced for completion of the Outdoor Intramural-Recreational Facility.

The purpose of continuing the \$5.00 fee is to provide Western's Student Government Association with the funding necessary to meet the significant recreational and student life programming needs of Western's nearly 15,000 students. Current funding of the programming budget is appr

oximately \$70,000. This budget has not increased during the past nine years.

Western's student life programming budget is woefully inadequate and does not compare favorably with the other four-year public institutions in the

Commonwealth. The Student Activity Fee will be administered by SGA and will be added to the current \$2.50 fee defined as the Student Government Association/Lecturer Program Fee.

The Student Government will be submitting recommendations, which will go through Academics and Student Affairs Committee of the Board, for use of these funds. The Committee will review and make recommendations on the budget to the Board for approval.

Motion for approval was made by Mr. Mercer, seconded by Mr. Fischer, and carried unanimously.

6.2 Ad hoc Committee on Institutional Review, Mr. Howard Gray, Chair

Mr. Gray reported the Committee had met twice, on December 15 and January 12, to review and consider amendments to the Bylaws and the existing Code of Conduct. The Committee's recommendations were shared with the Board and were summarized as follows:

Bylaws: (in order of appearance in document)

- The Ad Hoc Committee believes that the Bylaws should contain the duties and responsibilities conferred on the Board by Kentucky law.
- Agendas for Board meetings will be developed by the Chair and the President, and after consultation with the Executive Committee.
- A Secretary to the Board will be elected annually and will report to the Board; in his/her absence, the Chair of the Board will have the authority to appoint an individual to act as Secretary temporarily.
- The standing committee structure which was proposed by Chair Loafman at the most recent regular meeting was incorporated. The proposed committees and composition were not changed.
- Language was added to the Finance and Budget Committee which would permit the annual operating budget of the University to be adjusted between meetings of the Committee if the University deems it necessary, with a provision for post review and evaluation of those results.
- Language was added to the Academics and Student Affairs Committee to provide that this committee, like the Finance and Budget Committee, will also evaluate facilities, construction and renovation issues related to students and/or academics. Their input is important on those matters.
- Following Jim Fisher's recommendation, the responsibilities of both the Board members and the President have been outlined in detail.
- The full Board will evaluate the President and approve his/her compensation. The Executive Committee will be responsible for compensation recommendations to the full Board.

Code of Ethics

- The Ad Hoc Committee renamed the existing “Code of Conduct” to “Code of Ethics.”
- Some items in the original code were incorporated into the Bylaws as part of the duties and responsibilities of the Board, and others were then combined with those suggested by Dr. Fisher into the proposed Code.

Mr. Gray placed these items on the table for consideration and vote at the April meeting.

6.3 Recommendation to amend the Bylaws of the Board of Regents

Two amendments to the standing committee structure were discussed and tabled at the Board’s October, 1997 meeting. At that time, Mrs. Loafman proposed amending the Bylaws to restructure the standing committees. An alternate to the proposed amendment was brought forward by Dr. Ray Mendel regarding committee membership specifically as it related to the elected Regents.

Discussion at the December Board Retreat relative to the alternate proposal to the amendment resulted in an agreement that this change in the Bylaws would not be necessary but rather the Minutes would reflect the Board’s desire to include representation of the elected members on the various committees of the Board.

Dr. Mendel withdrew his amendment to the amendment to the Bylaws as moved at the October 31, 1997, meeting of the Board; Mr. Mercer withdrew his second. The motion to withdraw carried unanimously.

Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the amendments proposed by Chair Loafman concerning the standing committees and their membership.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Loafman assigned Board members to committees as follows:

**WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF REGENTS**

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1998-99

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Peggy W. Loafman, Chair
Mr. Cornelius A. Martin, Vice Chair
Mr. Howard Gray
Dr. Raymond Mendel
Mr. Burns E. Mercer

ACADEMICS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dr. Raymond Mendel, Chair
Mr. Keith Coffman
Ms. Lois W. Gray
Ms. Sara Hulse

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Burns E. Mercer, Chair
Ms. Kristen T. Bale
Mr. Earl Fischer
Ms. Joy Gramling

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Howard Gray, Chair
Mr. Cornelius Martin
Mr. Earl Fischer
Ms. Sara Hulse

AGENDA ITEM 7 - Recommended personnel actions

The recommended personnel actions found on pages 14-31 of the agenda materials were presented by Chair Loafman. Those items are listed on the next 14 pages.

Motion for approval was made Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Martin and carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - President's Report

- 8.1 Institutional Review Recommendations** - Follow up on each recommendation in the Institutional Review can be found on pages 32-48 of the agenda packet. A university officer has been assigned to each recommendation, and accountability is expected from that individual(s) to address the recommendation and determine feasibility, scope, action, and a time line. All actions will continue to be addressed; action will come through the respective Board committees for discussion and formal action if necessary. *A report will be presented at each Board meeting.*

Mr. Gray reported that most of the recommendations in the Institutional Review that related directly to the Board were addressed in the recommended changes to the Bylaws. The Committee agreed with Dr. Fisher that there should be a detailed orientation session for new Board members, and it is President Ransdell's objective to accomplish this with the next group of new regents. The Committee also agreed with the need for a new Board Policy Manual as expressed by Dr. Fisher. The President was charged with this.

- 8.2 Vision/Mission Statements** - The following draft was presented to the Board:

VISION

Western Kentucky University aspires to be the best comprehensive public teaching institution in Kentucky and among the best in the land.

DEFINING CHARACTER

Western Kentucky University shall be the University of choice for students and faculty who are dedicated to academic excellence. True to the Western Spirit, the University shall offer an inviting, nurturing, and challenging environment which is responsive to the intellectual, social, and cultural needs of a diverse learning community.

MISSION

Western Kentucky University provides rigorous academic programs in the liberal arts and sciences, traditional and emerging professional programs, with particular emphasis at the baccalaureate level and complemented by relevant associate and graduate level programs

The University engages in diverse scholarship, including basic and applied research and creative activity, designed to expand knowledge, improve instruction, increase learning, and provide optimum service to the state and

nation. The University directly supports its constituents in the twenty-seven county area of South Central Kentucky with professional and technical expertise, cultural enrichment, and educational assistance. The University promotes meaningful research and public service in support of economic development, quality of life, and improvement of education at all levels.

Western maintains a campus of distinct history and character which sustains a student population of increasing quality. It fulfills its responsibility for access through its community college, extended campus programs and distance education.

Western's commitment is to ensure value in a holistic learning experience through high standards for student achievement and conduct, a strong faculty, technological innovation, personalized attention, broad access, and public accountability for actions and outcomes. Western's success is reflected in the success of its graduates who are known for their loyalty, leadership, and adaptability.

Western Kentucky University recognizes that its mission continues to evolve in response to regional, national and global changes, and needs for life-long learning.

1-30-98

The above Mission/Vision statement was approved in concept by the Board.

The President will continue to refine the document that will be used to shape the planning process over the next five months.

8.3 Legislative Update - Fred Hensley, Executive Assistant to the President for Public Affairs and Governmental Relations, noted that 16 of the 60 days of the legislative calendar had been completed for this session of the General Assembly. Higher education is enjoying, at this moment, a recommitment and a reemphasis in Frankfort. The seven institutional legislative priorities that have been identified for this session are included in the Governor's budget proposal and in the appropriations bills that have been introduced in the House and Senate. Three of these initiatives will require an institutional match from university funds or private funds that the institution will need to raise, so there's still work to be done internally and in Frankfort before the funds can be accessed. The new weekly *Legislative Update* outlines where Western is with legislative activities.

President Ransdell referenced page 52 in the agenda book, which outlines language from the Governor's budget; lines 10-20 contain language which specifically refers to the regional postsecondary education centers. This is an important concept which was shaped literally in recent weeks. Dr. Ransdell stated, "We were able to get

from really not being anywhere on the radar screen to getting two regional postsecondary education centers funded through this budget in Glasgow and Elizabethtown. We would like to have gotten Owensboro, but it simply wasn't in the cards for a lot of reasons; that will be our first priority in the next legislative session."

Dr. Ransdell commended two people, specifically, for embracing this concept that accesses the technical system pool of resources and incorporates the community college and the technical system with the primary comprehensive institutions in that part of the state. He complimented the Governor and Dr. Jim Ramsey for their particular help and assistance in furthering this concept in which Western fared very well. Dr. Ransdell further noted that the five centers are Elizabethtown and Glasgow with Western; Prestonsburg with Morehead; London-Corbin with Eastern, and Hopkinsville with Murray. Western is the institution that is the coordinating institution in two of those five--Glasgow and Elizabethtown. Conversations are being initiated with the President of the Elizabethtown Community College and the Chief Executive of Kentucky Tech-Elizabethtown; Dr. Burch will work with those individuals in shaping the academic program. Western will have a major presence as the coordinating institution for that center and Western has been the only provider in the past in Glasgow. By inviting the Technical System in to share space and have a presence in Glasgow, we were able to be included in this concept of regional postsecondary education centers and expand the scope of our campus in Glasgow and get something done that was not in the cards before this concept was embraced. The people in Glasgow are very pleased that the University has made a commitment of \$1.5 million which will be performed through debt service at \$150,000 a year. People in Glasgow know that commitment exists which means we have to raise about \$1.3 million dollars in Glasgow in private money to complete the funding of that project.

- 8.4 President's Advisory Council** - President Ransdell stated that the concept of a President's Advisory Council is something that was discussed at the Board Retreat in December. He reported that since that time he discussed this topic with a number of faculty and had a lengthy discussion regarding the topic with the WKU Foundation Board. If this concept is endorsed by the Board, people will be invited to serve on this council in February with the first meeting to be in May. Dr. Ransdell encouraged the Board members' comments and asked that they endorse the concept which would then be communicated to those who would be invited to serve on this council.

A motion was made to endorse the concept by Dr. Mendel, seconded by Ms. Gramling and carried unanimously.

- 8.5 Programs of Distinction** - President Ransdell called on Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to discuss

Western's programs of distinction. She reported that currently five programs are under consideration. It is not likely that all of these will be submitted. In the early discussions at the state, one submittal was suggested; and at this point in time, it would seem feasible that three might be acceptable. Drafts of each program under consideration were presented to the Board, and copies are filed in the Board's official files.

Dr. Burch elaborated on the five areas:

- The first one in applied science and technology gives us the capacity to do what nationally many institutions are trying to do and that is to bring a closer bridge between our research and our instructional experience for our students. We happen to be very fortunate in having a number of major centers on this campus already in place that are doing some fairly significant things and are getting national and international recognition. One of the uniqueness that many do not know is how many of our undergraduate students are involved in research as a result of that, so this would expand that involvement and would bring all those centers together in a more impactful way.
- The second proposal is one that perhaps is unique in that it is something that nationally is a priority, working in the development of the full potential of children, and recognizing many campuses don't often bring together experiences and readiness on the part of people prepared on those campuses to work in meaningful ways for that benefit so this is a multi-college, three-college, eight departments and a couple of centers involved in this one.
- Folk Studies is a very small program but one that already enjoys national distinction and we have one of a kind in this area—again, very special unique kind of program in what it does.
- Our industrial organizational psychology again is the only one in the state at the master's level, and it has a lot to contribute to the personnel/human resources needs of business and industries.
- Journalism and communications is one that again we think has already attained national distinction. In fact, our accrediting team just left this week and agreed with that. We want to build on that to take it as far as we can take it in a more expansive way.

Dr. Burch that it is unrealistic to think that we can submit five and asked to be allowed to move forward in the development with the understanding that probably three at the most will go.

Following the discussion, Howard Gray made a motion to approve the five programs of distinction with the final decision given to the Academic and

Student Affairs Committee on the number and which programs to submit.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Gramling and carried unanimously.

8.6 Update on Search for Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations - Dr. Ransdell reported that at this point in time, 24 applications have been received. The Search Committee, will meet on February 16 for the first time to narrow the field to a select group and will begin getting references and setting an interview process. That committee is chaired by Katherine Ward, representing the faculty, and includes Alex Downing, representing the College Heights Foundation; Lee Robertson, representing the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, Don Vitale representing the WKU Foundation; and Rick Wilson, representing the WKU Alumni Association

8.7 Creation of an Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee - Dr. Ransdell asked Dr. Burch to comment on the creation of an Honorary Doctorate Degree Committee; she shared with the Board members a letter that has gone out to create a committee to work on the development of this Honorary Degree. The President expressed an interest in Western having an opportunity to award honorary doctorates to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to improving and enriching life in Kentucky, United States, and internationally. Dr. Burch stated that there are many campuses who award honorary doctorates; and felt it a very important thing to do because it brings prestige and status to the institution in recognizing significant individuals. It also opens the door to new opportunities. The committee will meet soon to put together criteria according to the time line.

Dr. Ransdell added that only the Board can award degrees, so the awarding of an honorary degree will require Board action. If this concept is approved, then the Board will act on each recommendation from this Committee. Dr. Ransdell hopes to have approximately two at each commencement ceremony; by and large, at least one representing contributions to society, to science, to scholarly endeavor or to civic, social good and the other to individuals who have significantly added to the quality of the Western experience in some immeasurable fashion.

Motion was made to endorse the concept by Earl Fischer and seconded by Burns

Mercer. Motion was carried unanimously.

Ms. Loafman appointed Ms. Lois Gray as a Board representative on this committee.

8.8 Update on Athletics Review - Debbie Wilkins reported that the consultant met with the subcommittees and steering committee in December and last week with each of the subcommittees individually. They are moving forward under the specified timeline; a more detailed report will be presented at the April meeting. The consultant's report should be ready by the July meeting.

8.9 Update on inauguration - Dr. Julia Roberts, Chair of the Inauguration Committee, asked each of the Board members to mark their calendar for May 8 for the inauguration of President Ransdell. That day will conclude a week of inaugural events planned as a *Celebration of Excellence* for Western Kentucky University. Although all plans have not been finalized, events during that week will be sponsored by students, the community, the university faculty and staff, and they will be sponsored by various colleges and units throughout the university. On May 8, there will be a luncheon for out-of-town guests, the inaugural ceremony, a reception, and an evening event. The inaugural ceremony will be held at the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Amphitheatre. The Inaugural Committee includes 23 individuals representing the community, the students, the faculty and staff. It will be looking for assistance with underwriting this significant event in the history of Western. She asked the Board members to feel free to offer suggestions for celebrating excellence at Western as President Ransdell is inaugurated as Western's ninth President.

Dr. Ransdell commented that the main thing he wants to accomplish is total participation from the university community—faculty, staff, students, and our constituencies—alumni, parents, and friends.

9. AGENDA ITEM 9 - Other Business

President Ransdell distributed a list of 26 universities which the Council on Postsecondary Education has identified as a peer group for the six comprehensive universities in Kentucky. He explained that the CPE has a different peer group for U.K. for land grant research institutions, and a different peer group for U of L for urban research institutions. He asked the Board to take the sheet of paper and act instinctively and impulsively and circle five campuses—five that they determined to be the strongest, the best. He plans to do a similar exercise with faculty groups, and some constituent groups, and come back to the Board with a list of ten that will be the peer group with which we will compare ourselves with key data analysis. This group

of ten will be surveyed on faculty salaries, on deferred maintenance, on enrollment policies, enrollment guidelines, utility efficiency, etc. Dr. Ransdell stated, “There are hundreds of data sets and we won’t want to be a clone of any one on the group in the list of ten but we will aspire to equal the best in any particular program of any on our group of ten. This is the start of a process to try to identify those ten institutions as our peer group.”

Dr. Ransdell acknowledged a gift of \$25,000 from Western Kentucky Gas to support a series of lectures, and thanked Mr. Fischer for that support from his company. Dr. Ransdell also called attention the most recent annual report from Atmos Energy Corporation which displays Big Red as a symbol of efficient and environmentally friendly figure. He thanked Atmos for the promotional opportunity.

Chair Loafman opened discussion of dates for Board committee meetings.

Following discussion, the following dates and times were decided upon for the committee meetings:

Finance and Budget Committee	February 20, 1 p.m.
Academics and Student Affairs Committee	February 20, 3 p.m.
Academics and Student Affairs Committee	March 10, 3 p.m.
Institutional Advancement Committee	February 23, 3 p.m.

With no further business to come before the Board, motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Mercer and seconded by Mr. Gray.

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 January 30, 1998, 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
May 15, 1998

Elizabeth W. Esters
Secretary
May 15, 1998

