



Western Kentucky University
UA2 Board of Regents
Series 2 Biographical / Correspondence File

Contact information:

WKU Archives

1906 College Heights Blvd.#11092

Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

Phone: 270-745-4793

Email: archives@wku.edu

Home page: <https://wku.edu/library/archive>

© 2010 WKU Archives, Western Kentucky University. All rights reserved.

Administrative History: Western Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky State Normal Schools were created by legislation signed March 21, 1906. In May the Locating Commission selected Bowling Green and Richmond as sites for the schools. On May 9 Governor J.C.W. Beckham appointed the four regents for each school.

These boards were overseen by the State Superintendent of Education acting as ex officio chair. They elected vice presidents and secretaries from the membership. Treasurers were added to the board bringing the total to six. Early meetings were held jointly in Frankfort.

The first act of the regents was the creation of the office of president for the respective schools. Faculty members were to be hired by the President. Western's Regents formed an Insurance Committee and a Building Committee and set to work preparing for the opening of the normal school in 1907.

Regents are sworn in by the following oath:

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, so long as I continue a citizen thereof, and that I will faithfully execute, to the best of my ability, the office of Regent of [Western Kentucky University], according to the law; and I do furthermore swear that since the adoption of the present Constitution, I, being a citizen of this state, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons within this state, nor out of it, nor have I sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel with deadly weapons, nor have I acted as second in carrying a challenge, nor aided or assisted any person thus offending, so help me God. [Board of Regents Meeting Minutes, April 14, 1932]

Chairs of the Board of Regents have been:

James Fuqua 1906-08

John Crabbe 1908-10

Ellsworth Regenstein 1910-12

Barksdale Hamlett 1912-16

V.O. Gilbert 1916-20

George Colvin 1920-24

McHenry Rhoads 1924-28

W.C. Bell 1928-32

James Richmond 1932-36

Harry Peters 1936-40
John Brooker 1940-44
John Williams 1944-48
Boswell Hodgkin 1948-52
Wendell Butler 1952-56
Robert Martin 1956-60
Wendell Butler 1960-64
Harry Sparks 1964-72
W.R. McCormack 1972-74
Albert Ross 1974-75
Gerald Edds 1975-76
David Cole 1976-81
Joe Campbell 1982-84
Joseph Iracane 1984-92
Burns Mercer 1992-94
Robert Fischer 1994-96
Peggy Loafman 1996-98
Cornelius Martin 1998-2000
Kristen Bale 2000-02
Lois Gray 2002-04
Cornelius Martin 2004-06
Earl Fischer 2006-2008
Lois Gray 2008-09
Jim Meyer 2009-11
Frederick Higdon 2011-13
David Porter 2013-15
Frederick Higdon 2016-17
Phillip Bale 2018-

Through 1972 these individuals were Chairmen ex officio by virtue of their four-year office as State Superintendents of Public Instruction. The Superintendent took office on the first Monday in January following the November election. The Regents' minutes do not make special note of a change in Chairmen, and often he was not present. In most cases, therefore, the official January date of taking office has been used to indicate his term as Chairman.

Description: Biographical and correspondence file created for individual regents. The files contain biographical data, resolutions in honor of individuals and copies of executive orders from the Governor's Office instating them as regents.

Dates: 1906-present

Extent: .5 cu. ft.

Subject Analytics:

Regents (WKU)
Thompson, Kelly, 1909-1993

Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Higher Education Administration

Accession Information: These records transferred to WKU Archives upon its creation.

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials: none

Preferred Citation: UA2/3 Board of Regents Biographical / Correspondence File, WKU Archives, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA.

Processing Information: Records processed and collection inventory created 2010, revised 2019.

Finding Aid Report

04/08/2019

UA2.2	Records	Date
Level	Series	Linked toUA2
Title	UA2 WKU Board of Regents	
Collection	Series 2 Biographical/Correspondence File	
Scope & Content	WKU Archives	
	Biographical and correspondence file created for individual regents. The files contain biographical data, resolutions in honor of individuals and copies of executive orders from the Governor's Office instating them as regents.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Box 1	1-51	Regents (WKU)		Biographical / Correspondence File A-L
Description	Bale, Kristen T. Ball, Coy E. Barnes, Sheridan Bartley, Bobby R. Bedo, Leslie R. Borrone, B.J. Bradley, John Bush, Marcel Butler, Danny Butler, Wendell Campbell, Don Campbell, Joe Bill Catron, Stephen Chambless, Robert L. Clark, Ronald W. Coates, Amanda Coffman, Keith Cole, J. David Cook, Joseph A., II Cosby, Stephanie Dawson, Katherine C. Denhardt, Henry Drake, Louise Carson Edds, W. Gerald Emberton, Tom Embry, Chalmer Evans, Robert Ezelle, Sam Fischer, Robert Earl Fuller, Steven J. Gilbert, James T. Ginger, Lyman V. Gott, Amos Gray, C.C. Howard Gray, Lois Hammons, Owen C. Hankins, Monnie L. Hargrove, James E. Harlin, Maxey			

Harreld, Michael L.
 Henry, Stephen L.
 Higdon, Tara
 Hulse, Sara Lyle
 Iracane, Joseph
 Johnson, Jim
 Johnson, Patti
 Judd, Patsy
 Keen, Douglas
 Knicely, Carroll
 Kuegel, William M. aka Bill
 Lawrence, H. Bemis
 Loafman, Peggy W.

Box 2	1	Regents (WKU)		Correspondence
Description	Ransdell Hall (WKU) University Status			Subjects Invitations Correspondence Dedications
Box 2	2	Regents (WKU)	1932-1973	Correspondence
Description	D1847 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/bor/1973/exh/1 Bates, Georgia The Bond Buyer Largen, Harry Louisville Courier-Journal Proctor, Benjamin, D4729 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/5177			Subjects Bonds (Negotiable instruments) Newspapers Advertisements Real property
Box 2	3	Regents (WKU)	1969	Correspondence
Description	Correspondence re: Kelly Thompson's resignation and president selection committee. See https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/bor/1969/ Bailey, Donald Bates, Georgia Cravens, Raymond Downing, Dero Duncan, Wand Executive Committee Meeting, 6/9/1969, 6/27/1969 Faculty Gerard, Paul Gibson, Raymond Gilbert, Ted Keen, Douglas Kentucky Council on Public Higher Education Lawrence, Ronald McGuire, Bobby Questionnaires Regents (WKU) Regents' Faculty Advisory Committe (WKU) Shadowen, Herbert Straffer, William Student Advisory Committee (WKU) Student Government Association (WKU) Thompson, Kelly Zielke, Laurence			Subjects Correspondence Resignations Resolutions Telegrams

Box 2	4	Regents (WKU)	nd	Elections
Description	Anna Highland for Staff Regent, nd			
Box 3	1-40	Regents (WKU)		Biographical / Correspondence File M-Y
Description	<p> Martin, Cassie F. Martin, Cornelius A. Masters, John P. McCormack, William R. McKinney, Gregory McKinney, Mitchell S. Mercer, Burns E. Miller, Kristen Moore, Robert Earl Moss, W.S. Mudge, Fred Norfleet, Sandra Kay Page, J. Anthony Palmore, Judge John S. Patterson, Bob aka W. R. Poland, Hugh Potter, J. Whit Preston, Raymond B. Price, Julius E. Sr. Ragan, Margaret Katherine Rains, Joe Ramsey, John L. Richardson, H.R. Ross, Mr. Albert G. Sears, Jamie L. Sheffer, Ronald Smith, Donald Smith, Jack D. Sparks, Harry M. Strobe, Wendell K. Tennill, James B. Jr. Thornton, Steve Todd, Nick Travis, Frederick, L. Travis, Joe Lane Wathan, Beverly H. - available online at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/bor/2003/bio/1 Watkins, Robert Wedge, Paul Denny Whitehouse, Scott Wilson, Hughlyne P. Yater, Steven D. </p>			
OS Box 55	4	Regents (WKU)	1993	Resolution
Description	Resolution in honor of Kelly Thompson, 10/15/1993			Subjects Resolutions