

Minutes of Board Meeting

October 17, 1955

The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College met in executive session in the office of Acting President Kelly Thompson Monday morning, October 17, 1955, at 11 o'clock. The roll call showed the following to be present: Mr. Bemis Lawrence, Mr. Sheridan Barnes, Mr. Don Campbell, Mr. J. P. Masters, and Mr. Wendell P. Butler, Chairman.

Upon motion of Mr. Lawrence with a second from Mr. Barnes the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on October 3, 1955, were approved and adopted.

The Chairman stated the purpose of the meeting was to elect a President of Western Kentucky State College.

The first item on the agenda was the opening of the meeting for nominations. Mr. Lawrence at this point suggested that all applications be considered and discussed.

After due consideration of all applications the Chairman stated the floor was open for nominations for the position of President of Western Kentucky State College. Whereupon Mr. Masters nominated Mr. Wendell Butler and Mr. Campbell nominated Mr. Kelly Thompson.

After a discussion the Chairman called for a vote and asked that those in favor of Mr. Thompson answer as the roll was called. The result was as follows: Mr. Campbell, aye; Mr. Lawrence, aye; Mr. Barnes, aye; Mr. Masters, nay; Mr. Butler passed since he was a candidate. The Chairman declared Mr. Thompson elected President of Western Kentucky State College by a vote of three to one.

The length of the term of office and the salary for the President was discussed after which Mr. Barnes moved with a second by Mr. Lawrence that Mr. Thompson be given a contract for four years beginning October 17, 1955, at an annual salary of \$9,000.00, subject to change "if and when the Board deems it advisable and the statutes permit." The roll call resulted as follows: Mr. Campbell, aye; Mr. Lawrence, aye; Mr. Barnes, aye; Mr. Masters and Mr. Butler passed. The motion was declared adopted.

Mr. Lawrence read and moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS since the death of President Paul L. Garrett on February 28, 1955, Mr. Kelly Thompson has been charged with the full responsibility of the duties of the President of Western Kentucky State College, and

WHEREAS prior to his being appointed Acting President he, by virtue of his position as Assistant to the President, carried the major portion of this responsibility during President Garrett's long illness, and

WHEREAS during this extended period, as well as during the entire twenty-six years which he has served Western, he has conclusively proved his love and devotion for the College, his unquestioned honesty and his belief in the highest standards for the institution in all of its phases, and

WHEREAS during the nearly two years since the late President was stricken, Mr. Thompson has demonstrated superior judgment and leadership in heading the administration of this College.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Regents in executive session this day of October 17, 1955, as follows:

The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College does hereby express complete confidence in the administrative program which Kelly Thompson has carried out and expresses appreciation on behalf of the faculty, students, and alumni, as well as the members of this Board for a job faithfully done in a dignified, conscientious, highly effective and completely satisfactory manner.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Barnes and carried.

Mr. Campbell moved the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS Wendell P. Butler, by virtue of his office as Superintendent of Public Instruction, has served as Chairman of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College since 1952, and

WHEREAS in the performance of his duties especially connected with the Administration at Western Kentucky State College he has displayed extreme loyalty, wisdom and outstanding administrative ability in so far as the best interest of the College is concerned, and

WHEREAS since the death of President Garrett, February 28, 1955, the task of selecting a successor to Dr. Garrett has been one of the main responsibilities of the Board of Regents, including Mr. Butler, and

WHEREAS from February 28, 1955, to this date Mr. Butler has exemplified a completely unselfish policy in so far as he himself is concerned and his attitude has been overwhelmingly demonstrative time after time that he has the best interest of the College at heart,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Regents in executive session October 17, 1955, as follows:

The Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College does hereby express its heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the integrity, unselfishness, honesty, ability and fairness which he has demonstrated in carrying out the best interests of the College.

With a second by Mr. Lawrence the resolution was adopted.

At this point the reporters were called into the meeting and the Chairman called Mr. Thompson in and advised him of the action of the Board. President Thompson was congratulated by the members of the Board.

At the end of the press conference Mr. Thompson was asked whether or not he cared to make any remarks. He responded by saying: "No one has ever accepted such an honor more humbly. I love this college with a passion. I have been employed here 26 years and all that I have I owe to Western. I pledge to you men that you will never have any reason to regret your action. I shall never allow myself to be a part of anything that will reflect discredit on this institution. With humility and sincerity in my heart I will do everything within my power to guard the trust and faith you have placed in me."

The next order of business was a request by the newly elected President concerning an audit. President Thompson requested that a complete audit of all funds directly or indirectly under Western's supervision be made by the same firm previously employed, Eskew, Gresham & Diersen of Louisville. Mr. Barnes moved that the President be authorized to have this audit made and to employ the firm recommended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lawrence and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Lawrence moved that President Thompson be authorized to make a survey of the needed repairs to put the President's Home in

first-class condition and to explore the possibility of getting an appropriation for this purpose from the State Property and Buildings Commission. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion which was adopted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Barnes. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which was adopted.

Wendell P. Butler
Chairman

Etta Rimmer
Secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting

December 3, 1955

A called meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky State College was held in Room 1110, Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky, 10:0 p.m., Saturday, December 3, 1955.

Mr. W. R. Patterson having been appointed by Governor Lawrence W. Wetherby, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. J. P. Masters resigned, qualified as a Member of the Board of Regents by taking the Constitutional Oath which was administered by Jefferson County Judge B. C. Van Arsdale.

Oath

I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the 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 Member of Board of Regents of the Western Kentucky State College according to law; and I do further solemnly 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 the State, nor out of it, nor have I