

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

NOTE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR.....1

COMMENTARY: MEREDITH REQUESTS ACTION THAT COULD PUT
MENDEL OFF BOARD.....2

WKU'S BIG ATHLETIC LOSSES.....4

NEW LEVEL: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FINAL OCTOBER 13
REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDENT.....5

YUM-YUM: FACULTY DINING ROOM OPEN ON THURSDAYS.....7

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

XIX NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER, 1995

Committee Members:

Bart White, Chair
Marv Leavy
Glenn Lohr
Richard Patterson
Charles Smith



FACULTY SENATE
communications committee
NEWSLETTER

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIR

Chair Arvin Vos has had surgery and is presently recuperating nicely, hoping to return to the classroom sometime this month. He will not be returning to the chairmanship of Senate XIX in the near future, so I will be keeping his seat warm until his return.

Your six Faculty Senate committees are actively pursuing a number of agenda items germane to their assigned duties. Several committees have divided into sub-committees so that several items can be researched, discussed, and recommended for your consideration.

The matter of a screening committee for the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Board of Regent's consideration of New Level are of continuing concern to the academic community at Western. I hope that you will discuss these matters with your colleagues and bring their concerns and wishes to the November meeting.

Carl Kell

**MEREDITH REQUESTS ACTION THAT COULD PUT MENDEL
OFF BOARD BUT REAL INTEREST CONFLICT NOT WITH FACULTY REGENT**

Faculty Regent Ray Mendel, running unopposed for his second term as faculty regent, was recently reelected when well over 200 faculty voted in the campuswide reaffirmation of his candidacy. Almost concurrently with this election, the university attorney, Deborah Wilkins, requested an opinion from the attorney general's office on KRS 164.360, which states that no person shall be employed at an institution where a relative serves on the Board for that institution.

It is currently unclear whether this law applies to elected members of the board (Ray Mendel, Joy Gramling and the student regent) as well as to the remainder of the board, which all are appointed positions. Also existing is an obvious inherent conflict since Mendel and Gramling are, by definition, state employees of the institution when they are elected to the board.

This statute, which was originally intended to prevent conflicts of interest within public school boards, has never been applied to higher education - until now. Currently, the University of Kentucky and Morehead University are in conflict with this statute. In fact, UK at one time requested an attorney general's ruling but withdrew its request under the realization that an unfavorable ruling would cause internal problems. Morehead recently withdrew its request for a ruling, leaving Western the only state university concerned about the implications of a statute meant for secondary schools.

The major question here is, why is our administration pursuing this at Western when other state schools no longer seem to be concerned about this statute? And why now, since this statute has been on the books since 1992? The administration did not seem concerned when Bob Chambliss was elected to the board when his wife was (and still is) the Director of Admissions.

Since WKU has requested an opinion, an unfavorable ruling would technically mean that Mendel would either 1) have to resign from the board to protect his wife, 2) have his wife, Colleen, agree to resign from her position or 3) agree to divorce his wife thus legally removing the conflict of interest.

The motives behind this measure seem to have only one logical interpretation, that being the removal of a highly visible and vocal faculty representative from a board who is beginning to understand that his opinions, by and large, do represent the faculty and often are counter to what the president tells the board.

This conclusion flows from the fact that Mendel's wife, Colleen, has been a Western employee for over 20 years (she did not come on board because he was a regent) and has been and always will be on "soft money." Her salary is totally self-generated via grant writing, with no state money involved. If her grant requests fall on deaf ears, her job is gone. No tenure. No job security. Hardly a conflict of interest that a "hard money" employee with a faculty or administrative title could generate.

All of this is particularly ironic given the fact that the Daily News recently reported the appointment of Tom Meredith to the Board of Directors of Atmos Energy, a private company in Texas which is the parent company of Western Kentucky Gas. WKU Board chairman Earl Fisher is president of Western Kentucky Gas. In a sense, this now makes Tom Meredith Earl Fisher's "boss" while Fisher remains Meredith's "boss" as head of WKU's board of regents.

Questions of ethics involving the board are really nothing new, however. Forget the fact that the past three student regents received university administrative appointments; two stepped from the board to new jobs, one of which began before the regent term was concluded. The third was appointed two years after his term expired. More troubling is the recent fact that current regent Ray Preston's son received an administrative appointment to the Academic Advising Center in the area of student retention **after** Preston was appointed to the board. Since he only recently resigned to work for his father, the door is now open for statute 164.360 to be applied to Mendel since it can no longer affect Regent Preston.

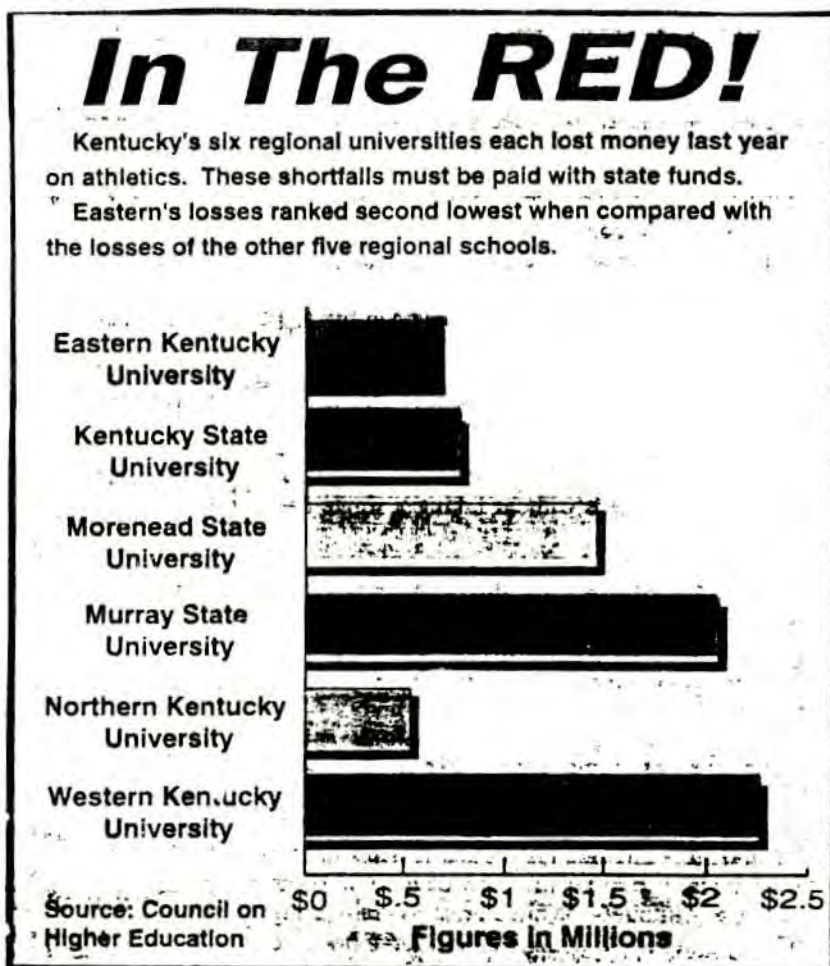
By no means, then, is the real conflict of interest with our elected faculty regent. Let us hope that the board has read the Herald and understands that "the statute is meant to keep regents from abusing their authority by getting relatives jobs, not to make good regents and employees resign."

---- Bart White

ATHLETIC NEWS

In each of the last two fiscal years, intercollegiate athletics cost Kentucky's regional universities collectively over seven million dollars more than was earned from athletic event and sales revenues. That is the gist of two recent Council of Higher Education reports, as reported in the Louisville Courier Journal (May 13, 1995) and EKV's Eastern Progress (September 7, 1995). Guess who led the pack? Murray State University and Western vied for top honors in each fiscal year. Western "lost" \$1.8 million in 1994 and about \$2.25 million in 1995. We don't recall seeing any news story on this in local media.

It is to be expected that state funds and student fees would underwrite Western's athletics programs to some extent, even above and beyond overhead costs (like electricity) borne in the university's budget. The difference between revenues and budgeted expenses is paid with public monies, or so each of the news stories cited above concluded. Our Hilltopper Athletic Foundation does bring in donations to enhance the intercollegiate athletic program, e.g., to light the baseball field (a capital improvement) and to pay for travel expenses to recruit athletes. (College Heights Herald, October 26). These are not line items in the University budget, however. Did you know that Eastern, Kentucky State, Morehead, and Northern are spending less than we do to "cover" their athletics programs? Can you think of other ways that Western could have spent most of that \$2 million each year...or how much tuition increases might have been reduced?



MOVING TO A NEW LEVEL WHILE MAINTAINING OLD TRADITIONS

Executive Summary

Action Item	Recommendations
1	Changes in the admissions requirements and guidelines are suggested that will generally work to increase the academic quality of incoming students.
2	A University College will be created as the academic home for all beginning freshmen, undeclared sophomores, and selected transfer students pursuing a baccalaureate degree. These students will transfer to undergraduate degree-granting colleges only after demonstrating academic proficiency in the University College.
3	The role and mission of the Community College will become more clearly focused, and it will assume a larger role within the University's overall educational mission.
4.	Faculty will be provided training in and encouraged to use innovative, instructional techniques and technology to enhance the learning opportunities of their students.
5.	To maintain and to enhance a faculty of high quality, the University will clearly assess its programmatic needs; to retain such a faculty, the University will implement a variety of programs.
6.	Maximum enrollment limits suited to the demands of particular courses will be established.
7	The University will provide adequate resources to both allow and encourage all faculty to explore diverse teaching methods and strategies.
8	The goal of quality teaching will receive renewed attention and support; scholarly activity, linked to instruction where appropriate, will likewise be supported.
9	The University will incorporate a multidimensional evaluation system of teaching, including but not limited to student evaluations.
10/32	Faculty and staff evaluations will drive all personnel decisions and should be a continuous on-going process focusing on areas for improvement as well as existing strengths.
11	Student advisement will become a top priority conducted by individuals who are properly trained and motivated to provide advising.
12	All units will formalize annual and long-term unit goals and the means for their assessment. All members of a unit will be evaluated on their contribution to unit success.
13	The University will establish an appropriate level of support for faculty alternate assignment time and review such assignments for consistency with established priorities.
14	Appropriate discipline-related public service will be clearly defined.

- 15 Reward systems will reflect appropriate consideration of long term involvement of faculty and staff in their professional responsibilities.
- 16 New program proposals will be thoroughly justified and existing programs will be periodically reviewed to ensure need.
- 17 The University will develop and field test a general education assessment process that reflects the diversity of the University's general education program.
- 18 A comprehensive assessment will be conducted in all programs during the senior year in order to permit necessary remediation.
- 19 Academic departments will identify essential skills competencies for graduates and a method for their assessment.
- 20 The University will encourage student study abroad in a variety of ways.
- 21 The University will adopt several activities to encourage interaction between native and foreign students.
- 22 The University will evaluate and perhaps revise its minority student, faculty, and staff recruitment, retention, and advancement goals to reach levels consistent with the diversity of the Commonwealth.
- 23 The University will implement a system for requiring and verifying an unpaid public service requirement for graduation.
- 24/25 The University will employ various strategies to enhance its academic culture.
- 26 Continuing education opportunities will be enhanced through the auspices of a self-sufficient Office of Continuing Education.
- 27 All units will establish advisory councils and monitor the contributions of the councils.
- 28 There are no recommendations regarding institutional advancement.
- 29 A variety of recommendations are suggested to enhance the intellectual atmosphere on campus.
- 30 The University will improve operational effectiveness and efficiency by providing effective feedback in decision making and regularly reviewing and evaluating the organizational structure as responsive to changing roles and responsibilities.
- 31 The University will develop and implement an innovative program to recruit, retain, and support staff.
- 33 The recruitment and retention of students will be enhanced through better advising, improved articulation with area community colleges, and enhanced communication with potential students regarding requirements and services.

Faculty and Staff Luncheons

The Catering and Beverage Management Class in the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management Program will be presenting seven faculty/staff luncheons throughout the Fall semester. These luncheons are completely designed and managed by the students in the class and are totally self-supporting. This means that the money collected for the meals covers all of our costs--except labor cost which is not built into the price. We try to set a price which will allow us to break even.

This year we are asking that you purchase a ticket in advance for the meals. This will help us to keep our meal costs down since we will not have to build in an extra amount for "no-shows." Tickets can be purchased in the Department of Consumer and Family Sciences Office [AC-302], from any student in the class or from, Rich Patterson, the instructor. Tickets will also be sold at each luncheon for the next luncheon. The cost for each meal will vary depending on the menu. We realize that this procedure is a bit more cumbersome than the previous reservation system, but we hope that it will allow us to provide a lower overall price for those who wish to attend.

Luncheons will be served, restaurant style, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. in our Dining Room [AC-213] on the dates indicated below:

October 3
October 19
October 26
November 2
November 9
November 16
November 30

Ticket can be purchase from any of the following students:

Esam Al-Sarraf	Kelly Holt
Tareq Al-Sharhan	Tim McMullen
Danielle Barker	Talisha Moon
Toni Bartolotta	Lee Moore
Anndee Beams	Sherry Murphy
Michelle Bideau	Neal Parrish
Adam Bratcher	Jennifer Pawley
Rebecca Crouch	Lynn Payne
Will Curtis	Matt Raymond
Anwar Dashti	Kelly Rockhold
Kyle DePeppe	Denise Thomas
Michelle Glorie	Myra Wardlow

We thank you for your interest and support of our program.