

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REGENTS  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY  
June 11, 1969

A special meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in the Regents Conference Room, Administration Building, on the University campus on Wednesday, June 11, 1969, at 10 a.m., CDT. Chairman Wendell P. Butler was in the chair presiding.

The meeting opened with a prayer of invocation by Dr. Kelly Thompson, President of the University.

Upon call of the roll, it was ascertained that all members of the Board were present; namely,

Mr. Wendell P. Butler, Chairman  
Mr. Douglas Keen  
Mr. Hugh Poland  
Dr. Chalmer P. Embry  
Dr. J. T. Gilbert  
Dr. W. R. McCormack  
Mr. Albert G. Ross  
Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen  
Mr. Paul E. Gerard, III

Also present, in addition to Dr. Thompson, were Mr. Dero G. Downing, Vice President for Administrative Affairs and Treasurer; Dr. Raymond L. Cravens, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties; and Miss Georgia Bates, Assistant to the President and Secretary of the Board.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on May 21, 1969, were presented by Chairman Butler. Dr. Gilbert moved that the minutes be adopted without a reading inasmuch as each member has previously received a copy and they were found to be in order. The motion was seconded by Dr. McCormack and carried unanimously.

Mr. Keen, acting as chairman of the Executive Committee, read the following report:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY, JUNE 11, 1969

At a meeting of the Board of Regents on May 21, 1969, the Executive Committee was instructed as follows:

"Mr. Poland moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to represent the Board for the purpose of considering any and all matters brought about by the president's resignation--for recommending an appropriate response and for recommending a plan for future actions of the Board relative to the resignation--and that the Executive Committee be requested to report to the Board at its next meeting the result of its deliberations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Embry and carried unanimously."

In compliance with this directive, the Executive Committee presents

- (1) a resolution relative to President Thompson's resignation, (2) recommendations regarding his future services to the University, and (3) recommendations relative to procedures for appointment of president.

1. Resolution Relative to President Thompson's Resignation

WHEREAS, President Kelly Thompson, with forty years of service to Western Kentucky University, the last fourteen as president, submitted his resignation as president of the University to the Board of Regents on May 21, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the University during the presidency of Dr. Thompson has made unprecedented growth from a small college of 1,684 students to more than 10,500 students, and from a full-time faculty of 98, including 22 with the doctoral degree, to a full-time faculty of 502, including 206 with the doctoral degree; and

WHEREAS, the physical plant has grown from 20 buildings, valued at \$10 million, to 60 buildings--including those under construction or in final plans--valued at approximately \$94 million; and

WHEREAS, the University enjoys a reputation for its excellence as an institution of learning comparable with that of the best in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thompson, through his dynamic leadership, through his untiring devotion to the interests of the students, the faculty and staff, and the alumni of Western Kentucky University, and through his vision and his designs for the continued growth and development of the University has left an imprint which can never be effaced; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Dr. Thompson has been recognized by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as one of its most distinguished citizens;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in special session assembled on this June 11, 1969, that the resignation of Dr. Thompson be accepted with profound regret, and that it is the unanimous opinion of the members of this Board that we and the academic community, as well as thousands of Western alumni across the nation and in foreign lands, owe to Dr. Thompson a deep debt of gratitude for his dedication to the interests of Western Kentucky University throughout his tenure; that we extend our congratulations to him for the tremendous growth of the University under his wise guidance, both in the improvement and development of the physical plant and in the expansion and strengthening of the academic program; and that we commend him for the goals he has attained and for the plans and purposes he has set forth for Western.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we extend to President and to Mrs. Thompson our best wishes for good health, for good fortune, and for many years of peace and contentment, and for success in all of their endeavors.

We direct that this resolution be entered on the records of this Board of Regents and that an attested copy or copies thereof be furnished to President and Mrs. Thompson, to the Governor of the Commonwealth, to the Kentucky Council on Public Higher Education, and to the news media.

At this point in the report, Mr. Keen moved the adoption of the resolution relative to President Thompson's resignation. Dr. McCormack stated that it was with deep regret that he would second the motion. In the discussion which followed, Chairman Butler spoke in support of the resolution and said that he was "happy, both personally and professionally, to add

another flower to the bouquet of testimonials which has already been presented to President Thompson by the faculty and staff, students, citizens of the community, and by the Board of Regents." The motion carried unanimously.

In his response, the president said that he and Mrs. Thompson would cherish the beautiful statement for so long as they lived. He expressed to the Board his deep gratitude for a resolution that forever would mean so much to him and his wife.

Mr. Keen then presented the second part of the report:

2. Recommendations Regarding Future Services of President Thompson

The following is quoted from President Thompson's statement of resignation:

"I wish to mention one important agency within the University which needs attention. The College Heights Foundation since 1923 has been most valuable in the life of Western through its student loan program, its custodianship of scholarship funds, and its administration of other gifts for Western's benefit. While it continues to serve well, it is very much in need of redesign and updating so that it may render an even greater service in the future. The officers and Directors of the Foundation Board, of which I am chairman, fully recognize this need.

"During the unexpired portion of my present term, I would be happy to remain active on a part-time basis for this purpose, if you should so desire. At the same time, should you so direct, I would try to complete a project that would enable Western to be prepared for orderly expansion beyond its present Master Plan. You will recall that such a project is a recommendation in the President's Report of 1965. I regret that since 1965 I have not had the time to develop this additional long-range planning. Before undertaking these responsibilities, however, we would want to be away for a sufficient period of time to have a complete rest."

a. It is recommended that the president's services as proposed in his statement be accepted. (The Board of Directors of the College Heights Foundation on May 28, 1969, resolved as follows:

"Be It Therefore Resolved by the Board of Directors of the College Heights Foundation in a meeting on May 28, 1969, that the Board of Regents be made fully aware of the high esteem in which Dr. Thompson is held by the Board of Directors; and should the Board accept Dr. Thompson's resignation as president, the Board of Directors pledges support to the cooperative plan including the appointment of

Dr. Thompson to a leadership role designed to strengthen, reorganize, and improve the College Heights Foundation so that it may render greater service to Western Kentucky University and particularly to its student body.")

b. It is recommended that the president during his work with the Foundation, and with the concurrence of the Board of Directors of said Foundation, retain the position of president of the College Heights Foundation.

c. It is recommended that the Board of Regents authorize a year's sabbatical leave for President Thompson to become effective this fall at such time as is appropriate. In connection with the leave, it is further recommended that the president be authorized to take the sabbatical in such a manner that will enable him to most effectively inaugurate the work with the Foundation and with the Master Plan project.

d. It is recommended that the Executive Committee be empowered to work out such other arrangements and details as may become necessary relative to the change of duties of the president.

Mr. Keen moved for acceptance and approval of the recommendations regarding future services of President Thompson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poland and, following discussion, carried unanimously.

The third and final part of the report, as presented by Mr. Keen, follows:

3. Recommendations Relative to Procedures for Appointment of President

a. It is recommended that the Board of Regents appoint a committee of the Board for the purpose of reviewing applications, recommendations, and suggestions regarding the appointment of a new president, and that this committee provide the Board members with such information as might be helpful to the Board in preparation for a final decision.

b. It is recommended that the secretary of the Board be designated as the person to disseminate pertinent information to Board

members, and that applications and recommendations received by individual Board members be channeled to her for distribution to the entire Board.

c. It is recommended that the Academic Council at Western be requested to select a committee of its members to assist the committee of the Board of Regents in an advisory capacity. The Academic Council has already expressed its willingness to assist in this capacity.

d. It is recommended that the Board of Directors of the Western Alumni Association be requested to serve as a committee of alumni to assist the committee of the Board of Regents in an advisory capacity. The Alumni Association has already expressed its willingness to assist in this capacity.

e. It is recommended that the 1968-69 president of Associated Students, the 1969-70 president of Associated Students, and the student regent, who is also president of the Senior Class, be requested to serve as a committee of students to assist the committee of the Board of Regents in an advisory capacity.

f. It is recommended that the Board of Regents schedule special meetings for the months of July and August.

Mr. Keen moved for acceptance of the recommendations relative to procedures for the appointment of a new president. The motion was seconded by Dr. Embry and, following discussion, carried unanimously.

With reference to Subparagraph a of the above recommendations, Mr. Poland moved that the Board request the Executive Committee to serve in the capacity outlined. The motion was seconded by Dr. Embry. Following discussion, it carried unanimously.

In other business, President Thompson requested that in addition to the five sabbaticals approved on April 23, 1969, that a sabbatical leave for Dr. Wayne Dobson, Head of the Department of Economics, be approved for the

spring semester of the 1969-70 school year. Mr. Keen moved for approval of the sabbatical leave for Dr. Dobson, as recommended by President Thompson. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gilbert and carried unanimously.

There being no further business, upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned; and the group proceeded to the Executive Room of the Paul L. Garrett Student Center for luncheon.

Wendell P. Butler  
Chairman

Georgia Bates  
Secretary