



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

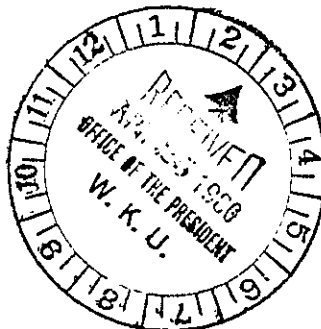
*Distributed to all  
Bd. members at  
April 20, 1980,  
meeting*

Office of the Dean of Public Service  
and International Programs

April 23, 1980

Dr. Donald W. Zacharias  
President  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Dr. James L. Davis  
Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101



Dear Dr. Zacharias and Dr. Davis:

The article about the international programs function in Tuesday's Herald prompts me to write this letter. While I am flattered that Gayle Waggoner feels the way that she does about the accomplishments of my office, I certainly would have asked her not to send her article to the Herald had I known that she had written it. I know that you recognize that I am trying to move from this position to my new faculty responsibilities in a professional manner. I am looking forward to my teaching assignment, and I believe that the Government Department has a genuine need for my services. My efforts will be directed to making a positive contribution toward the growth of the departmental programs. Also, I hope to see the current Humanities Council Project through to completion in January and to continue to contribute to the international programs and public service activities at Western, especially on special projects and our study abroad programs.

I regret that there have been negative implications in the press and rumors of various kinds on campus which might tend to detract from the positive achievements of this office during the last three years. I am personally disappointed that some in the University community do not seem to appreciate what we have been trying to do in the promotion of opportunities which are only for the educational enrichment and benefit of our students and faculty.

I have found the last three years of administrative responsibility to have been among the most challenging of my twenty-two year tenure at Western, and I appreciate the opportunity given to me to work in the two major areas of assignment. The charge and the objectives set forth for the Dean of Public Service and International Programs have been achieved in a manner and at a level which I believe are distinctive. With energetic leadership I see no reason why the progress cannot be continued.

When the Board of Regents approved my appointment to this position, Chairman David Cole expressed the Board's desire that attention be given to increasing the opportunities available to Western students and faculty for significant international experience. In 1977 only five students participated in our study abroad program. This school year about 148 students will study in six separate study abroad programs. In like manner the opportunities for faculty experiences abroad have expanded. Ten faculty are accompanying students in our study abroad programs this year, and five faculty have now received travel grants to Argentina (and one more is pending) as a direct result of the WKU-Argentine Becarios Program. Moreover, we are sending at least two faculty to Central America this summer with the Group Project Abroad, and a faculty exchange between a Western faculty member and a British University counterpart seems to have promise of coming to fruition this fall, if approved by both institutions.

In addition to this, prospects for new international projects could provide significant international experiences for faculty and students in future years. This is an area which needs to be pursued with vigor. For example, a team of Nigerian educational administrators will be visiting the campus in early May to discuss ways and means for educational cooperation, technical assistance, and faculty exchange. Also, the Director of an institution of higher education in Colombia, South America, the Corporación para el Desarrollo Educativo, will visit the campus in May to explore cooperative programs between Western and CIDE. Many other opportunities of this kind can be promoted in future years.

There has been substantial progress in the Latin American and Asian Studies programs during the last three years, but considerable development in these and other interdisciplinary programs is possible in future years. A new minor in international studies and a masters degree option in development administration are two examples of possible expansion of international studies. I hope to lend my assistance in such developmental activities as I am able to do so.

As you may know, I will be continuing as President of the Kentucky Council for International Education for the coming year. I am proud to say that this organization is finally coming of age. This is important since we are entering a phase of higher education which requires more and better cooperation among institutions. The KCIE has a promising future in this regard. It provides an especially effective vehicle for state-wide project proposals and for networking of resources and special programs. It is probable that the headquarters of KCIE will move to one of the other member institutions after this coming year.

In the public service area of responsibility the principal thrust of the last two years has been in the refinement of a university-wide approach to the delivery of public service and has further focused on the development of a more favorable public image for the University among potential clients.

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A number of specific examples could be given of our having served as a broker--matching university expertise with requests for services. Beyond this, we have begun a representational effort with four area development districts in the region served by the University; have developed and manned a promotional display representing the breadth of public service capability at Western; have made important contacts with a number of agencies and organizations such as TVA, the Council of Rural Electric Coops, state agencies, etc.; have coordinated a public opinion research project for the Green River Rural Electric Cooperative; and have assisted a few departments in the establishment of student intern positions with agencies.

Among the other public service activities of my office have been the organization of a university speakers and program service, the publication of a newsletter, and the inauguration of the Distinguished Contribution to the University Award for Contributions in Public Service. This year two new publications, a promotional brochure and an inventory of university expertise have been priority projects. The support which I have received from the Public Service Advisory Committee in the conduct of these and other university-wide programs has been outstanding.

I can testify that the staff of this office has been hard working and highly productive. The work in both public service and international programs is very time consuming requiring a great deal of evening and weekend work, a fact that may be surprising to some. I am proud that we have achieved some considerable success in these three years, and I personally pledge my continuing efforts to future University endeavors in public service and international programs.

Permit me to request that this letter be submitted individually to appropriate members of the Board of Regents. I want them to know of the progress which has been made in the last three years, and I also want to assure them that I consider my new faculty assignment to be a unique professional challenge.

Sincerely,



Raymond L. Cravens  
Dean of Public Service  
and International Programs

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