

MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING OF BOARDS OF REGENTS  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY AND MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

November 21, 1981

Required statutory notice having been timely and properly given, a joint special meeting of the Boards of Regents of Western Kentucky University and Murray State University was held on Saturday, November 21, 1981, at 10 a.m., CST, in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus. Mr. John David Cole, Chairman of Western's Board of Regents, presided.

The meeting opened with a prayer of invocation by Dr. John D. Minton, Vice President for Student Affairs.

The following members of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents were present:

Dr. William G. Buckman  
Miss Marcel E. Bush  
Mr. Joe Bill Campbell  
Mr. Ronald W. Clark  
Mr. John David Cole  
Mr. Joseph Iracane  
Mrs. Patsy Judd

Absent were Mr. Michael N. Harreld, Mr. Julius E. Price, Sr., and Mr. Ronald G. Sheffer.

Also present, representing Western Kentucky University, in addition to Dr. Minton, were Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, President; Dr. James L. Davis, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Harry K. Largen, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer; Mrs. Mary Sample, Secretary; Dr. Paul B. Cook, Assistant to the President for Resources Management and Director of the Budget; Dr. Randall Capps, Assistant to the President and Parliamentarian; Mr. William E. Bivin, University Attorney; and Mr. Fred Hensley, Director of Public Information.

The following members of the Murray State University Board of Regents were present:

Mr. Ronald Christopher, Chairman  
Dr. Charles Howard  
Mr. Mark McClure  
Mr. Jere McCuiston  
Mr. Bill Morgan  
Mrs. Sara Page  
Mr. Steve West  
Mr. Jerry Woodall

Absent were Mr. J. W. Carneal and Dr. Ed Settle.

Also present, representing Murray State University, were Dr. Constantine Curris, President; Dr. Richard Butwell, Vice President for Academic Programs;

Dr. Marshall Gordon, Vice President for University Services; Mr. Jim Hall, Vice President for Administrative Services; Dr. Frank Julian, Vice President for Student Development; Mrs. Patsy Dyer, Secretary; Dr. Rick Stinchfield, Administrative Assistant to the President; and Mr. James Overby, University Attorney.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on October 17 and the special meeting held on October 31, 1981, were presented by the Chairman for disposition by the Western Board of Regents. Motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Miss Bush that the minutes be approved as submitted without a reading inasmuch as copies had been mailed to the members on November 18, 1981, and were found to be in order. The motion carried by voice vote.

On behalf of the Western Board, Chairman Cole expressed pleasure and appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the members of the Murray State University Board of Regents. Characterizing the meeting as an historic occasion, Mr. Cole stated, "To my knowledge, this is the first time that governing boards of major institutions have met jointly to discuss ways in which they can further cooperate and to join together in a common cause for the betterment of the universities and, most importantly, the students; because what we are here for is to attain academic excellence, to educate young people, and to afford them an opportunity for a better life. I am sure we all join in that common goal." Chairman Cole then recognized President Zacharias for comments.

President Zacharias extended a warm welcome to the members of the Murray State University Board of Regents, President Curris, and other members of the Murray State University administration. He then reviewed cooperative efforts between the two institutions extending over a period of time and including two recent meetings. President Zacharias commented that with the increased level of interest in and support of cooperation between the two universities, there had been initiated the exploration of major areas for ways to enhance and enrich educational experiences for students and to find ways, if possible, to reduce expenditures. He expressed pleasure in the opportunity to be a part of the meeting, extended appreciation to members of both Boards for their presence, and stated that he looked forward to continued cooperation.

On behalf of the Murray State University Board, Chairman Ronald Christopher congratulated the Western Board and administration on their initiative in bringing the two Boards together for an historic occasion and expressed appreciation for the hospitality extended. He further stated, "We, too, look forward to the days in the future that these two fine institutions can walk hand in hand in efforts to continue the fine traditions that both institutions have and that we can find

those things and do those things together that will be for the betterment of both institutions." Chairman Christopher then called upon President Curris for comments.

After extending greetings and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the joint meeting of the Western and Murray Boards, President Curris made the following statement: "When the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Kentucky established what is now eight universities, the public intent, the public will, was to be served by these institutions working together to meet the needs of the citizens of this state. The dream was one of a system of higher education that would provide opportunities throughout the Commonwealth and that cooperative effort would dominate the relationships of these institutions with the exception of the competition that we engender on the basketball court and on the football field. This cooperative effort, as Dr. Zacharias has commented has extended for several years and is highlighted by this joint meeting today, was not forced on our two institutions. It was a product of conscientious decisions that we wanted to work together to enhance educational opportunities and to effect cost savings in joint endeavors wherever possible. And in that sense, this meeting to me is a culmination of a concerted effort and the realization, in part, of some of the dreams we have all shared. The meeting also comes at a time when the ugly head of competition has reared itself in the Commonwealth, and I am encouraged that the two Boards have the opportunity to be together to discuss common problems that we did not envision at the time that these intensified cooperative efforts were initiated. Clearly, if we are going to have a system of higher education in this state, it has to be with mutual respect and with cooperative efforts and should not reflect the type of competition of stature for the needed dollars and should certainly not point in the direction of any one or two institutions trying to dominate higher education in the Commonwealth. Higher Education is too big a business, too important an endeavor, for us to have anything but full cooperation among the universities and with the Council on Higher Education."

Regent West commented on the cooperation among the faculties of seven of the eight state institutions through the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders, an organization developed under the leadership of Tom Jones of Western's English Department who has chaired the organization for the past four years. He then read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Western Kentucky University and Murray State University in accordance with their missions serve as residential, senior institutions offering a broad range of educational programs to the people of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the two universities provide programs at the associate, baccalaureate, and master's degree levels; and

WHEREAS, the two universities have worked cooperatively in the past in developing programs in international education, academic programs in the city of Owensboro, and the regular exchange of information between faculty and administrators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University and the Board of Regents of Murray State University support the efforts of President Donald W. Zacharias and President Constantine W. Curris in their efforts to establish closer avenues of cooperation;

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the two presidents take the appropriate action to establish working committees with representatives from the faculty, administration, and students.

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs and Academic Programs explore ways to enhance the educational opportunities for students and research and development activities for faculty through increased efforts at cooperation;

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Vice Presidents for Business Affairs and Administrative Services and Student Affairs and Student Development at the two universities look specifically for ways to reduce expenditures through efforts at joint purchasing and increased cooperation in scheduling of major cultural programs and other special events on each campus.

The motion was seconded by Mr. McCuiston on behalf of the Murray State University Board and was seconded by Dr. Buckman on behalf of the Western Kentucky University Board. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted by voice vote of both Boards.

Dr. Howard of the Murray Board then read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the institutions of higher education in Kentucky have experienced major budget reductions totaling over \$57 million during the current biennium; and

WHEREAS, inflationary costs have eroded faculty and staff incomes; and

WHEREAS, the fixed costs have escalated at a rapid rate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Boards of Regents at Western Kentucky University and Murray State University request that the Council on Higher Education, Department of Finance, and General Assembly establish as their highest priority the restoration of those funds lost by institutions of higher education during this period of economic stringency;

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Commonwealth of Kentucky provide a level of funding for higher education that will assure quality programs at all eight institutions;

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the next session of the Kentucky General Assembly appropriate funds necessary to provide for excellence

in higher education in the Commonwealth;

AND BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Commonwealth recognizes and supports teaching and learning as the primary mission in higher education and gives major emphasis to increased salary levels to attract and retain excellent faculty and staff at all universities.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sara Page on behalf of the Murray State University Board and was seconded by Mr. Campbell on behalf of the Western Kentucky University Board. Following an opportunity for discussion, the resolution was unanimously adopted by voice vote of both Boards.

Chairman Cole then directed attention to the budgetary considerations of the two universities and recognized Mr. Campbell for comments. Mr. Campbell pointed out that

1. Actions taken by the Council on Higher Education staff to resolve budgetary problems affecting higher education in the Commonwealth have caused division among the eight institutions rather than being supportive of the ultimate goal of higher education. Since all institutions are underfunded, they need to work together toward a common goal of letting the Legislature and the Governor know of the need to adequately fund institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth;
2. The Council on Higher Education staff, in looking at the duplication of programs and elimination of waste, needs to be made aware that a 75-mile radius around Murray and around Western divides the area to be served by the institutions whereas a 75-mile radius around Lexington is served by six institutions. Mr. Campbell then read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, major controversy has arisen regarding the attempt of the staff of the Council on Higher Education to implement a new mission model form of funding; and

WHEREAS, this new mission model places less emphasis on the role of teaching and learning and contains numerous noncalculated items; and

WHEREAS, this new model causes unwarranted discrepancies in funding among universities; and

WHEREAS, this new model unjustifiably serves to shift needed resources from the senior state universities to the two urban universities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents at Western Kentucky University and the Board of Regents at Murray State University recommend the establishment of a sound and fair plan for funding higher education in Kentucky that recognizes the instructional, public service, and research missions of all universities in keeping with the principle of providing students in all areas of the state access to academic programs and quality instruction.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Iracane on behalf of the Western Kentucky University Board. On behalf of the Murray State University Board, motion for adoption of the resolution as presented was made by Mr. West and seconded by Dr. Howard.

Comments made in the ensuing discussion are quoted or summarized as follows:

Dr. Curris: Called attention to the concerns he had already expressed regarding the budgetary problems and conveyed appreciation for Mr. Campbell's comments relative to the interrelationship of geography and economics. Voiced grave concern relative to the Council staff's movement to reduce the number of optometric and veterinarian spaces made available through institutions outside Kentucky and the reduction in the support of the area health education system. Saw a clear bias toward supporting education in urban areas with rural areas suffering if proposals of the Council on Higher Education staff are implemented and added that "What we are experiencing is a part of a bigger picture."

Mr. Woodall: Felt that any hope for restoration of funds to the regional universities or obtaining additional funds lies within the Legislature. Pointing to the "political clout" on the Board of the University of Kentucky, saw and emphasized the need to persuasively seek assistance from members of the General Assembly.

Mr. West: Agreed with the comments of Mr. Woodall. In commenting on the phrase of "providing students in all areas of the state access to academic programs and quality instruction" contained in the resolution, emphasized the need to maintain programs essential to university status at institutions accessible to students. Emphasized the need to educate legislators to the meaning of the term "university." Pointed out that in going to the Legislature, it would be judicious to be able to present an alternate plan for funding. Expressed support of the resolution, especially with respect to the "establishment of a sound and fair plan."

Mrs. Page: Agreed with opinions expressed; stated the need to seek and urge support of legislators, not only as Board units but also as individuals, prior to the convening of the Legislature.

Mr. Morgan: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be in attendance at the joint meeting. Agreed with the opinions expressed and pledged his support of the resolutions presented. Speaking in support of the need for regional universities, he stated, "I would hope that we would never agree—and have good reason and understand why—to do away with the decentralization and the regional universities. We will have lost a lot when we do this. I am resolved to work...to see that the concept and reality of the regional university continues to serve those people in the area in which it finds itself. If and when we lose that, we will have lost a lot in the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

Mr. McCuiston: Expressed pleasure at being in attendance. Quoting the state motto, "United We Stand; Divided We Fall," pointed out the need for the universities to stand together through the budgetary crisis to make their voice known and pledged his support to this undertaking.

Mr. McClure: Stated appreciation for the opportunity to work with Miss Bush, Western's student Regent, and other leaders in Kentucky, noting an unprecedented unity between student bodies. Felt the state has the responsibility to supply a quality education to its people as well as to ensure the future of the state because "Education is the future of Kentucky," a statement he credited to representatives of Western. Stated, "One must remember the majority of the students in the state and where they have chosen now and in the past to take their rightful avenue for an education. Inequity in funding is an attack on the theory and practice of fairness and opportunity to the youth and adults of Kentucky." He strongly recommended passage of the resolution.

Dr. Howard: Expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be present. Contrasted the present financial situation in education with that of earlier years. Pointed out that each time a program is eliminated from Western Kentucky University or Murray State University, the education of a deserving young man or woman may be eliminated. Stated the need to be practical, willing to bend, compromise, and

negotiate—but never surrender. Voiced wholehearted agreement with adoption of the resolutions.

Mr. Christopher: Urged each and every friend of Western Kentucky University and Murray State University to pledge to make a good faith effort to personally address each member of the Legislature with whom they are acquainted prior to the first of the year to voice support of adequate funding for higher education.

Chairman Cole called upon President Zacharias and members of the Western Board for comments which are quoted or summarized below:

Dr. Zacharias: Expressed agreement with the points made earlier. Pointed out the strengthening of the administrators' role in seeking funding for the University from the Council and Legislature provided through the support of Board members, faculty, and students voicing to legislators in specific terms personal experiences and benefits from higher education. Stated, "I think we should make the message very clear that we are prepared to do things in new and creative ways, but certainly I am not prepared to sacrifice the quality of this institution, the quality of instruction, our staff, or the kind of support we have been able to give our students because someone thinks that geographically we no longer merit the kind of support we have had in the past." Commented that he looked forward to the challenge the Council has given and expressed faith in the people of the state that they would recognize the value of the institutions of higher education.

Mrs. Judd: Expressed pleasure and pride in the fact that Western and Murray had set the example of cooperation in support of higher education and shared the hope that their action could possibly serve as an inspiration to other schools; emphasized the desire that Kentucky would make education a priority because it is an investment in the future of all citizens of the Commonwealth and hoped that the meeting would convey this message to the legislators. Urged those in attendance to express their support of education as a priority to legislators across the state.

Mr. Iracane: Agreed with Mr. Woodall that the situation necessitated lobbying to the appropriate individuals for adequate support of higher education. Emphasized that the lobbyists must be aware and point out to legislators and the Governor's office that the recommendation made for funding by the Council staff was based on value judgments rather than on a scientific basis and has resulted in an unfair funding plan. Expressed support of the resolution as presented.

Mr. Clark: Pointed out that at the time the mission statement was adopted in 1977 no mention was made of using it as the basis for funding and stated, "I feel like I have been sold down the road a little bit on this issue." Expressed wholehearted support of the cooperation of the two Boards and pledged his full support in effecting an equitable funding plan.

Miss Bush: Pledged support to preventing the implementation of the mission model funding plan. Stated that while trying to remain optimistic, she would work on behalf of the students and with the students to make sure that the goal for equitable funding is met.

Dr. Buckman: Stated disappointment with the funding plan developed by the Council and reported that he along with the faculty Regent from Murray and the student Regents from Murray and Western had expressed these feelings at the last meeting of the Council on Higher Education in Frankfort. Noted the feeling that the proposed plan would divide education in the state of Kentucky thereby proving detrimental to the higher education system in the Commonwealth, a view which he had shared with Council Chairman William McCann. Expressed grave concern relative to the proposal to fund undergraduate instruction at different levels with that particular item being funded at a higher level for the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky than for the other state institutions. Saw the effecting of acceptable funding as a "very, very difficult push" but as a major and worthy responsibility of the Boards of public institutions to see that

adequate funding is provided. Stated that he looked forward to further cooperation between the two institutions.

Mr. Campbell: Saw the issue not as whether one institution should benefit at the expense of another but as a need for adequate and equitable funding for all institutions so that each can do what it was created to do—provide a quality education to students preparing themselves for a career and a livelihood.

Mr. Cole: Found it "a unique experience to be in attendance at the meeting and to listen to intelligent and independent individuals from different backgrounds and different walks of life come together and express their own thoughts on issues which are central and critical to the future of higher education in western Kentucky." Pointed out that decreased funds necessitated choices and setting of priorities, for example, academic excellence over athletics. Agreed with Mr. Clark's comments on the mission statement and added that the purpose for the mission statement was misrepresented to the state universities. Seeing it as an economic tool from the outset to establish budgetary priorities, expressed the fear that the mission statement would be used to explore the area of "necessary and unnecessary duplication of programs," which like beauty "is in the eye of the beholder" and shared the view that control of course offerings will be accompanied by control of budget dollars. Agreed with Mr. Campbell's comments concerning geographic location of universities and service areas, commenting that he felt the legislators would recognize this to be true. Stating that all universities are "state" universities, commented that the level of funding for undergraduate instruction should be the same for all. In sharing his feeling that all young people in the Commonwealth are entitled, in terms of dollars per classroom instruction, to the same quality of education, he asked, "Is a young person in Lexington better than one in Pikeville or Murray? He added, "I don't think so, and I don't think the Legislature will think so." Pointed out that the mission model plan of funding had no support from the Prichard Committee and expressed concern over what he deemed the "lack of integrity over the method that it was adopted." Stated that the universities were not permitted input but were told by the Council staff about the plan, which is based on value judgments, after it was decided. Commented, "The thing has been politicized and orchestrated in an effort to make subjective distinctions for the purpose of funding and is totally unfair." Wholeheartedly endorsing the resolution, stated "...it should be noted as a call to the General Assembly to treat young people fairly in this state and properly fund undergraduate education."

Following comments, the roll call vote on the resolution was as

follows:

Aye: Christopher, Howard, McClure, McCuiston, Morgan, Page, West, Woodall

Nay: None

Aye: Buckman, Bush, Campbell, Clark, Cole, Iracane, Judd

Nay: None

Upon unanimous adoption of the resolution by the Boards of Regents of Murray and Western and with the concurrence of Mr. Christopher, Chairman Cole asked "that the resolution be prepared in an appropriate form and distributed to those members of the General Assembly who reside in western and south-central Kentucky in order that they might understand and recognize the united opposition and the commitment to defeat the mission model funding proposal."



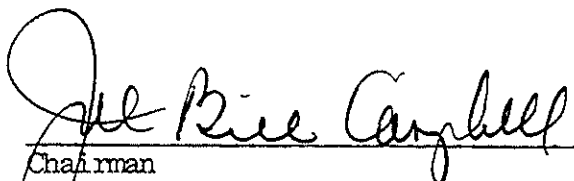
Under other business, Dr. Buckman proposed that the Western Board express its sympathy to Mr. Frank Griffin in the passing of his wife whereupon Chairman Cole, speaking on behalf of the Western Board, extended condolences in the loss experienced by the Griffin family and asked that the Secretary convey the Board's expression of sincere sympathy to Mr. Frank Griffin and his family in their sorrow.


At this point in the meeting, those in attendance were joined by Duncan and Big Red, the mascots of Murray State University and Western Kentucky University, respectively.

There being no further business and with the concurrence of Mr. Christopher and other members of the Boards of Regents, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The meeting was followed by a luncheon at the Downing University Center and the Western - Murray football game at the L. T. Smith Stadium.

#### CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Boards of Regents of Western Kentucky University and Murray State University in a special joint meeting held on November 21, 1981, in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Session, General Assembly).

  
Chairman

  
Mary Sample, Secretary

  
Secretary