

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REGENTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

June 11, 1985

Required statutory notice having been given, a special meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held on Tuesday, June 11, 1985, in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m., CDT. Mr. Joseph Iracane, Chairman presided.

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

The following members were present:

Mr. Danny Butler  
Mr. Ronald W. Clark  
Mr. Joseph Cook II  
Mr. Joseph Iracane  
Mrs. Patsy Judd  
Mrs. Mary Ellen Miller

Mr. J. Anthony Page, Judge John Palmore, Mr. Jack Smith, and Mrs. Hughlyne P. Wilson were absent.

Also present in addition to Dr. Minton were Dr. Donald W. Zacharias, President; Dr. Robert V. Haynes, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Mr. Harry K. Largen, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer; Mrs. Liz Esters, Secretary to the President and Secretary to the Board of Regents; Dr. Paul B. Cook, Assistant to the President for Resources Management and Director of the Budget; Mr. William E. Bivin, University Attorney and Parliamentarian; and Mr. Fred Hensley, Director of Public Information.

Chairman Iracane stated the purpose of the meeting was to inform the members of the Board of the efforts being put forth regarding the Governor's educational reform plans and also Western's posture as far as the financial situation is concerned.

Dr. Zacharias reported recent activities of the university presidents regarding the efforts to improve funding for higher education. Those activities follow:

- Met with the SCR-30 Committee on June 3. Material was distributed, as compiled by the staff for that committee, that gave another picture of what is taking place both nationally and within Kentucky regarding salaries. Copies of the transparencies which were distributed by the SCR-30 Committee on faculty salaries and compensation were provided to the members of the Board, and Dr. Zacharias explained their contents.

- The presidents met with Governor Collins on May 22 to emphasize that higher education needs to be included in any consideration that is given to improving salaries. Higher education should receive the same consideration for salary increases as elementary and secondary and as state employees. (Higher education, the President pointed out, was to include both faculty and staff.)
- The presidents met with Speaker of the House of Representatives on June 4 with the same agenda as presented to Governor Collins.
- The presidents will meet with Senator Joe Prather on June 13.

Addressing the critical need for higher education to receive the same consideration for salary increases as elementary and secondary education, Dr. Zacharias stated, "In the current instructions for preparation of the biennial budget for the next two years, the guidelines (approved by the legislators who constitute the Legislative Research Commission) specify an increase in appropriation of three percent. **That is all that we can ask for.** If that issue is not addressed in a special session, that cap is in there—that is already the guideline—it's not something that is under consideration for adoption. It is already adopted. We are asking that, in special session, those caps be removed and that a more reasonable level of appropriations request be permitted. At a minimum, we would like to see that at five percent. We would be delighted if it would go higher than that. Obviously, the guidelines were prepared in accordance with economic forecasts of economic growth in the state and what kind of money the legislators and the Governor can anticipate having available given all the present conditions. So, you see why it becomes so critical for us to be included in the special session to get some relief from what are the current guidelines for the next two years."

Dr. Zacharias reported that the presidents (meeting together) indicated to Governor Collins, to Speaker Blandford (later will indicate to Senator Prather), and to the legislators with whom each had talked that they (the presidents) are supporting elementary and secondary education. The reasons for supporting elementary and secondary education were discussed by Dr. Zacharias.

Commenting on efforts that have been made on behalf of the educational reform package, Chairman Iracane stated, "We felt early on that we, as a Board, wanted to make some sort of an impact throughout the State of Kentucky to recognize the shortfall in dollars we are receiving at Western. We felt the best program was to join together with the other universities in

Kentucky and make a joint effort—a united effort—to support higher education. The first step of that effort was a joint meeting of Chairmen of the Boards of Regents, Presidents of the Universities, and members of the Council on Higher Education. In that meeting agreement was reached to join forces as members of the Boards in approaching the legislators." Chairman Iracane announced that at the conclusion of the meeting Board members would be given a listing of the legislators in their area to assist them in calling for help for the educational reform plan. Stressing the importance of the board members' taking an active role in visiting and lobbying for the educational reform, Mr. Iracane stated, "We need to put ourselves in place that we need to be heard because there is definitely a crisis in higher education." Mr. Iracane reported that in the joint meetings which have been held the presidents have expressed the fact that we have to come together, look to the future, let the people recognize that there is a crisis in higher education (it's not getting any better), and be in a position to speak for the universities and look for new dollars."

Chairman Iracane asked the Board Members to "contact your local legislators and begin to document the fact that you have visited with these particular people and expressed an interest in the reform package and that you are now familiar with the people in your particular area that you can call upon now for the reform package and hopefully later when we're looking for what we need to survive in higher education."

Responding to a question from Mr. Clark about the perceived reception for higher education being in a call for a special session if one were extended, President Zacharias said, "When we met with Governor Collins and had an excellent conversation with her and with Larry Hayes, all of the presidents felt very good. I think many of you are aware that Kentucky is experiencing some change in the way in which legislation is enacted—the way budgets are approved. The role of the legislature is much more crucial than it was a few years ago. When I talked with Speaker Blandford and indicated that we would like to meet with him, he couldn't have been more cordial. We met with him, just the presidents and Mr. Blandford, and again he listened; he heard some of the same kinds of things that I've just given to you. We tried not to overburden him with all our woes. We tried to express to him that we recognize that we've got a responsibility as this Board has exercised its responsibility. We've had to eliminate programs; we've had to combine

departments; we've had to make reallocations that are painful; and that we expect to do our part. We also told him to call on us, and his response was that he would." Dr. Zacharias felt the meeting with Speaker Blandford was excellent and reported his encouragement at the reception for higher education. "The reception among the leadership," Dr. Zacharias stated, "has been superb."

In closing Chairman Iracane stated, "We're doing something that hasn't been done before, and we're attempting to do as much as we possibly can to show the faculty, staff, and administration that we are sensitive to the critical needs that our university has. There is strength in numbers, so we've come together. We have to make the assumption that there are some basic things as far as dollars are concerned that the reform plan will meet."

Mr. Iracane added, "I think it is so important that our faculty and staff recognize the personal efforts of Dr. Zacharias on behalf of Western on a daily basis. His energy is unbelievable. He is so well taken by everyone; from the people in the Governor's Office to the legislators. In the meetings that I have gone to, everything relates back to Dr. Zacharias' feelings on the issue; how does he relate to it, etc. The faculty and staff at Western should know that our President is making the big effort; all of the presidents are making a similar effort, but our leadership is there and has taken the lead in the educational reform and in speaking out for Western."

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Cook.

#### CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in a special meeting held on June 11, 1985, 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, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Sessions, General Assembly).

  
Elizabeth W. Esters, Secretary

  
Joseph Iracane, Chairman

  
Elizabeth W. Esters, Secretary