

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

October 4, 1990

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

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Invocation

The meeting opened with a prayer of invocation by Mr. Ron Beck, Associate Director of Alumni Affairs.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Roll call

The following members were present:

Mr. Danny Butler*
Mr. Robert L. Chambless, Jr.
Mr. Michael S. Colvin
Dr. Eugene E. Evans
Mr. Monnie L. Hankins*
Mr. Joseph Iracane
Mrs. Patsy Judd
Mr. Wendell K. Strode
Mr. Fred L. Travis
Mr. Denny Wedge

*Mr. Butler and Mr. Hankins who were absent for the roll call arrived shortly thereafter.

Also present were Dr. Thomas C. Meredith, President; Dr. Paul B. Cook, Executive Vice President for Administrative Affairs and Interim Vice President for Business Affairs; Dr. Robert V. Haynes, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Dr. Jerry Wilder, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Stephen House, Executive Assistant to the President; Mrs. Liz Esters, Staff Assistant for Special Projects and Secretary to the Board of Regents; and Mr. Fred Hensley, Director of University Relations.

President Meredith reminded everyone of the approaching Homecoming weekend and all the related activities.

AGENDA 1 - Western XXI Update

Dr. James Flynn, Chair of the Western XXI Strategic Planning Committee reported that the latest round of recommendations have now been made public. A series of position statements on four areas--mission, clientele, comparative advantage, and priorities for action--was developed last spring by a group of 120 people on campus who served on committees through the process. Over the summer, the steering committee has been at work taking that information along with assessment reports from four different task forces to produce

the documents which have now been distributed widely. Those documents are the Western XXI Vision Statement, an elaboration that the Steering Committee thought to be appropriate, and the recommendations about academic programs and support services. The academic program recommendations are broken down into undergraduate degree programs and the graduate degree programs. The recommendations from the Steering Committee are an attempt to provide a more sharpened definition and articulation of what the university should be about in its strategic planning as it moves into the future.

The Shirley Model was followed in making recommendations in terms of relative importance. The Shirley Model uses high, medium, and low in ranking academic programs. The Western document uses primary, secondary, and tertiary with the specific definitions being attached in the document. The other part has to do with action recommendations--enhance, strengthen, maintain, or de-emphasize, and in some cases, review. An attempt to define the terms and the way they are used in the document is included. Feedback has indicated that "maintain" has been a problem for the committee. Maintain does not mean no improvement--status quo; it is not a static term. It means sustain the relative level of scope of a program relative to the other programs.

The document containing the latest round of recommendations has been released to the significant groups on campus in accordance with the process established last year. Dr. Flynn has met with the Administrative Council for a discussion of the recommendations. The Primary Planning Team (the group of 54 charged with overall responsibility for the process) met for a lengthy discussion on Friday, September 21. Many interesting and informative responses were received from these groups.

The discussion had to do with a number of specific points. A big issue that came up was a statement in the vision statement concerning the relative weight of undergraduate education and graduate education. The statement in the draft "Undergraduate education will remain the primary instructional focus of the University" created much discussion and difficulty in reaching consensus. There was considerable disagreement on that point and the implications of it. That issue is still under review and will require additional attention to meet the specific concerns that were voiced at that meeting.

The document has been distributed to the entire university community. Two hearings have been held. The first was on Monday, October 1, at

which there were 19 speakers and approximately 140 people in attendance. The second was held Tuesday, October 2, in Tate Page Hall Auditorium at which there were 10 speakers and approximately 100 people in attendance. Written responses have been solicited to the recommendations. Several written responses have been received dealing with many of the programs about which people have some concerns. Some responses had to do with the overall issue about processing and timing.

Noting that time is a factor, Mr. Iracane stated that the time to respond to the document will be extended to October 12 thereby providing ample time to respond to the draft. The document would then be forwarded to the Board for consideration later in the month.

Dr. Flynn reported on the following recommendations which came out of the Steering Committee meeting.

- On the vision statement, a few editorial changes will be made. The statement "Undergraduate education will remain the primary instructional focus of the University" requires further attention. A general concern expressed by the primary planning team and others is the concern that the vision statement not box us in too much. The Steering Committee is sensitive to that and has decided to include some kinds of language having to do with the further development of programs as they are needed. The language will elude to the fact that development of new programs will be a done at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Strategic planning is based on the assumption that there is an ongoing process of meeting needs and looking at internal resources to be able to accomplish that.
- Under the vision statement, clarification will be attempted in the statement : "Additionally, the quality of all instructional programs will be monitored through a system of faculty evaluation, with appropriate support systems to promote improvement."
- The statement, "Another facet of monitoring for quality, which will also respond to current trends in accreditation, will be the development of outcomes assessments for academic programs" will be changed to include support services as well.
- Under the section, Academic Program and Support Services Recommendations, on page 2 under definitions, the definition of "maintain" will be clarified to read "Provide for at least current relative level of operation/quality." A statement to the effect of sustaining quality will be added.
- The definition of "de-emphasize" has been changed to say "provide support in the context of the university's resources." On the same page under the de-emphasize definition, the statement, "This degree of selectivity is based on an assumption that significant additional state resources will not be available in the foreseeable future" needs to be revised to reflect a more positive stance.
- The Steering Committee has decided to make the statement on the bottom of page 3 related to health care more positive than it currently appears. It will be something to the effect of, "Since health is a larger social issue, it is certainly of increasing importance, the Western XXI Steering Committee recommends that the University position its health care academic programs in recognition of their strategic directions in the coming year." It is currently stated in the negative, and this is an effort to reflect the positive opportunity that exists.

- Under the undergraduate program recommendations, a lot of time was spent discussing the responses received. Dental hygiene and dietetics would be moved from tertiary/de-emphasize to tertiary/maintain. The following note will be added on the notes page, "We think we need to review our involvement in all health care programs to include nursing, medical technology, communication disorders, health and safety, dental hygiene, and dietetics in order for the University to position itself appropriately." The review should include organizational structure as well.
- A note will be added, analogous to the health care note, that as an external factors, we need to be aware of the areas concerning leisure and hospitality; particularly the programs in hotel/motel management and recreation. An overall strategy needs to be developed.
- A few changes will be made in the language about the Community College write-up to insure that it is looked at as a delivery unit for the associate and certificate programs and developmental work.
- In the graduate program recommendations, items will be moved around under the general recommendations to give a highlighting effect to the recommendation about the support for the development of an innovative doctorate in education.
- In the graduate program charts, Folk Studies (M.A.) will be moved to primary/maintain; and Music (M.M.) will be moved from tertiary/de-emphasize to secondary/review. Several minor editorial changes were suggested in the notes.
- Under the support services section, some revision is called for under Office of Development having to do with the language about the roles of the College Heights Foundation and the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

A lengthy discussion period followed in which members of the Board expressed individual concerns with the draft. Those concerns were responded to by President Meredith and Dr. James Flynn.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: A transcript of the comments by members of the Board has been filed with the Western XXI Planning Committee, and a tape of the discussion is filed with the Board's official records.

Following a 12:30 p.m. break for lunch, the Board reconvened at approximately 1:30 for further discussion on the draft.

Mr. Wedge moved that the Board go into closed session for discussions which might lead to the appointment, discipline, or dismissal of an individual. The reason for the closed session is to discuss the reputation of the individual person being considered. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Judd and passed by voice vote. The Board went into closed session at approximately 2:15 p.m. Following a brief period into the closed session, Mr. Franklin Berry, University Attorney, was called on to join the Board in the closed session. After a brief consultation with the Board, Mr. Berry was excused from the closed session. President Meredith was later asked to join the closed session.

The Board returned from closed session at approximately 5:30 p.m., at which time Chairman Iracane stated, "During the closed session, the Board discussed only matters within the scope of the motion, took no formal action and made no decisions."

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Strode, seconded by Mrs. Judd, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:31 p.m.

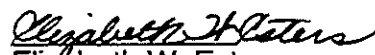
CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above 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 October 4, 1990, 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 Session, General Assembly).


Elizabeth W. Esters
Secretary

Joseph Iracane
Chairman

October 26, 1990


Elizabeth W. Esters
Secretary

October 26, 1990

I hereby certify that the closed session of the above meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.815. The Board discussed only matters within the scope of the motion and took no formal action.


Joseph Iracane
Chairman

October 26, 1990