

1998

UA3/9/6/2 Kentucky Legislative Session

Gary Ransdell

WKU President's Office

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Western Kentucky University
UA3/9 Gary Ransdell
Series 6 Interviews & Oral Histories
Item 2 Kentucky Legislative Session

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Biographical/Historical Note:

The president's office was created in 1906. The president's office was created in 1906. Dr. Gary A. Ransdell was named the ninth president of Western Kentucky University on September 12, 1997.

Dr. Ransdell received his Bachelor of Arts degree from WKU in 1973 in Mass Communications, a Master of Public Service degree in Public Administration in 1974, and a Doctor of Education degree from Indiana University in 1978.

Dr. Ransdell re-joined WKU as President after serving four years as Vice President for Administration and Advancement and seven years as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.

His previous professional experiences at WKU also include service as a field representative in the Office of University School Relations from 1974 to 1976 and as Associate Director of Alumni Affairs from 1978 to 1981.

Dr. Ransdell became Director of Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University in 1981, a position he held until 1987 when he was named as a Vice President at Clemson.

Description: Interview regarding the 1998 Kentucky legislative session.

Dates: 1998

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

Subject Analytics:

Audio recording
Education
Interviews
Kafoglis, Nick
Mass Media & Technology Hall (WKU)
Ransdell, Gary
Richards, Jody
Thomas, Roger
Western Kentucky University

Western Kentucky University. Extended Campus
- Elizabethtown/Radcliff / Ft. Knox
Western Kentucky University. Extended Campus-
Glasgow Center.
Western Kentucky University. Extended Campus-
Owensboro

Accession Information: These records were transferred to the WKU Archives from the President's Office in accordance with the records retention schedule.

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Oral History Recording List UA3.9.6.2 ~ Records

04/22/2014

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	1	00:00:00	<p><i>Reporter: Unintelligible</i></p> <p><i>GR: Well, it's a critical session for us. I am most optimistic about what Western is positioned to receive during this legislative session. Our first priority will be a building on campus right now targeted to cost approximately 18.5 million dollars, primarily designed to serve our technology and communications related disciplines. This building will position us to take the lead role in the Commonwealth Virtual University which is rapidly unfolding and also be a dramatic enhancement to our communications related disciplines, specifically journalism and photojournalism which will be a primary center of excellence that we will identify over the course of the legislative session.</i></p> <p><i>That center of excellence is targeted to receive approximately 1.4 million dollars which we will need to match with internal funds.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:08	<p><i>GR: A third priority will be deferred maintenance money. Western's campus has a challenge with regard to our deferred maintenance. 85% of our buildings are 25 years old or older and we have a deferred maintenance inventory of some 57 million dollars. We hope to get approximately 2.1 million dollars from the state for deferred maintenance which we will be required to match with internal funds as well.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:01:38	<p><i>GR: We have a priority to encourage and support and assist our programs in Glasgow, Elizabethtown and Owensboro to try to create new facilities for Western's presence in those important communities to us. We are very encouraged about the opportunity for new facilities in Glasgow and Elizabethtown in concert with the Tech System and the community college in Elizabethtown. Owensboro is a priority for us although we have some work to do to get Owensboro on the list, but nevertheless those are our three off campus priorities.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:02:16	<p><i>GR: We hope to get, to see progress made with regard to state dollars for a merit scholarship program for all higher education. That is an important priority for Western as we seek to improve the quality of our student body.</i></p> <p><i>We also hope to penetrate a pool that appears to be on a track for approval in which the state will create an incentive pool for private support of higher education, matching money for endowments for key faculty positions.</i></p> <p><i>And finally we would hope to get some approval for a list of some smaller capital projects across the campus if the opportunity presents itself.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:03:03	<p><i>GR: So we have an ambitious list of needs. I'm encouraged that we have an opportunity to gain funding for most of these. It looms as a very, very important legislative session for Western and I look forward to being in Frankfort as the session opens on January 6th. I'll be present when the governor makes his state of the commonwealth address and I will be there on the 7th for a reception which the Speaker of the House Jody Richards is graciously hosting on my behalf for members of the House and Senate. So we are going to get off on the right foot and I look forward to a productive session.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:03:43	<p><i>Reporter: Tell about the great rapport you've built with our area legislators.</i></p> <p><i>GR: Well, that's something we began to focus on immediately. The second day on the job I had the opportunity to host a dinner for our local legislative delegation, Representative [Jody] Richards, Representative [Roger] Thomas, Senator [Nick] Kafoglis and others. I'm very pleased with how our communication has gone. The manner in which they are very serious about supporting this area of the state, supporting Bowling Green, supporting Western and helping us achieve our objectives for growth in terms of the quality of our academic programs and enhancing the Western experience.</i></p> <p><i>Reporter: Thank you sir.</i></p>
Tape 1	1	00:04:38	<p><i>Reporter: Talk about your rapport, the great rapport that you've built with our area legislators.</i></p> <p><i>GR: Well I couldn't be more pleased. From the very beginning that was an important priority for me. My second day on the job I was pleased to host our local legislative delegation and had a very constructive evening with Representative Richards the Speaker of the House, Senator [Nick] Kafoglis and Representative [Roger] Thomas all from Bowling Green and Smiths Grove. And also had the pleasure to be with Senator Rod Wilkie and Representative Richie Sanders and Representative Steve Nunn that evening. And since that time I have had the opportunity to spend time with each of those individuals to discuss Western's priorities. I'm most impressed with their passion and their commitment to our part of the state, to the Bowling Green area and certainly to Western Kentucky University. They are partners with Western and are dedicated to helping improve the quality of our educational experience.</i></p>

Media ID	Side	Start time	Subject
Tape 1	2	00:00:00	<i>Side 2 is blank.</i>