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UA3/9/5 Budget Remarks

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BUDGET REMARKS

FEBRUARY 2, 2006

LAST YEAR WAS A GOOD BUDGET YEAR FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. WE OFFSET FIVE YEARS OF BUDGET CUTS WITH LAST YEAR'S BUDGET. IT PUT US BACK EVEN WITH PRE BUDGET CUT FUNDING LEVELS. SINCE THE BUDGET CUTS STARTED IN 2000, WKU AND OUR OTHER CAMPUSES HAVE ACHIEVED DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE. IN OUR CASE, WE NOW HAVE TO PAY FOR 4,000 MORE STUDENTS.

THE URGENCY TODAY IS THAT THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET CRIPPLES US UNTIL 2008. YET, THE 30 MONTHS BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE '08 BIENNIUM MAY BE THE MOST CRITICAL PERIOD OF TIME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION THAT WE HAVE EVER FACED.

I'M FROM KENTUCKY. IT IS MY HOME, MY ROOTS, AND MY VALUES ARE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED IN THE COMMONWEALTH. WHEN I BEGAN THIS POSITION EIGHT AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO, I INHERITED A DETERIORATED AND COMPLACENT CAMPUS. HOUSE BILL 1 CHALLENGED US, AND WE HAVE RESPONDED. WE HAVE FOUND UNCONVENTIONAL AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MANY OF OUR NEEDS WITHOUT ASKING THE STATE FOR SUPPORT FOR THINGS LIKE ATHLETIC AND RESIDENCE HALL IMPROVEMENTS AND EVEN SOME OF OUR ACADEMIC FACILITES. WE

HAVE FOCUSED OUR STATE FUNDED PRIORITIES ON OUR TOP ACADEMIC PRIORITIES, AND WE HAVE SHAPED THOSE PRIORITIES TO MATCH THOSE PROCLAIMED BY THIS GOVERNOR AND THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. YET, WITH ALL THE STATEWIDE ATTENTION CLAMOR ON THE IMPORTANCE OF P-12 EDUCATION, WE FIND THAT OUR TOP TWO PRIORITIES WHICH ARE ALIGNED WITH P-12 EDUCATION--THE KENTUCKY ACADEMY FOR MATH AND SCIENCE AND A COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BUILDING--ARE LEFT OUT OF THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET. IT MAKES NO SENSE.

WE HAVE DONE WHAT YOU HAVE ASKED. WE HAVE CUT AND REDIRECTED, STRETCHED AND PULLED, AND WE HAVE PROMISED OUR FACULTY AND OUR STUDENTS THAT IF YOU PERFORM STATE FUNDING WILL FOLLOW. I WILL LEAD AND WE WILL BE FULLY ACCOUNTABLE, BUT WE MUST HAVE FOLLOW THROUGH FROM THE STATE. WE MUST HAVE A REASONABLE CAPACITY TO PERFORM IN THE FUTURE, PARTICULARLY AFTER EXCEEDING THE GOALS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET FOR US.

GO TO CARD.

AT WKU, WE LIVE BY THE MOTTO "THE SPIRIT MAKES THE MASTER." THOSE ON OUR CAMPUS HAVE WORKED HARD, WE HAVE BEEN PATIENT. WE HAVE EVEN REMAINED OPTIMISTIC, BUT WE NEED YOUR

HELP. WE NEED YOU TO BOOST, NOT CRUSH, THE SPIRIT OF OUR FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND OUR DONORS.

THANK YOU.

THINGS WE MUST FUND IN 06-07

KERS RATE INCREASE	\$215,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	\$152,000
UTILITIES FOR NEW FACILITIES	\$817,000
POSTAGE INCREASE	\$ 30,000
PROPERTY INSURANCE	\$ 20,000
4% SALARY INCREASE FOR MERIT PERFORMANCE	\$4,000,000
COVERING COST FOR NEW FACILITY OPENING IN 05-08	\$1,450,000

THINGS WE NEED TO DO IN 06-08

- ADD ADDITIONAL FACULTY FOR EXTENDED CAMPUSES, PARTICULARLY ELIZABETHTOWN AND OWENSBORO.
- COVER INCREASED MAINTENANCE COST.
- REPLACE FACULTY AND STAFF COMPUTERS.
- ADD MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS.
- FUND A RURAL MOBILE HEALTH PROGRAM.
- INCREASE GRADUATE ASSISTANT FUNDING.
- FUND THE CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AND CHILD AUTISM.
- STRENGTHEN THE HONORS PROGRAM.

- STRENGTHEN THE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS.
- INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE RATES.
- GROW OUR NURSING PROGRAMS.
- REFINE THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM.
- OPEN THE KENTUCKY ACADEMY FOR MATH AND SCIENCE.