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UA3/8/1 President's Newsletter to Faculty & Staff

WKU President's Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty and Staff

FROM: Thomas C. Meredith, President

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER TO FACULTY AND STAFF

This is the first in a series of newsletters that I will send to all faculty and staff on our campus in an attempt to keep you as informed as possible about current activities.

Christmas Holidays -- I want to extend my appreciation on behalf of the university to those staff members who worked so hard during the Christmas holidays.

Meeting with the Governor -- The other university presidents and I met with Governor Wilkinson in his office at his invitation on December 21, 1989. The Governor informed us that he was going to ask the General Assembly to give higher education $50 million in new money in each of the two years of the next biennium. Although this is less than the Council on Higher Education had recommended, it is more than any figure that had been discussed previously by either the Governor or legislators. We will encourage the legislators to appropriate more than the amount recommended by the Governor. I must hasten to tell you that this is a positive sign for us in higher education. It tells me that higher education is finally being heard and that all of the speeches and spreading of the word in which we have all engaged over the last year and a half are starting to pay dividends. LATE BULLETIN: Governor Wilkinson in a press conference on January 11, 1990, added an additional $11 million to his higher education recommendation. "Good News!"

Ideas for Efficiency -- The Committee for Ideas for Efficiency has been appointed, with Mr. David Sloss, from the Department of Personnel Services, serving as chairman. This is the item we discussed in August, where you will have an opportunity to submit ideas for financial reward that will help Western operate in a more efficient and effective manner. Details will be sent to you soon. Get your ideas ready!

Budget Planning Committee -- In order to obtain more input into the budget planning process, I am asking for representatives from the Academic Council, Faculty Senate, deans, department heads, and staff to join the vice presidents and the budget director in making recommendations to me concerning the 1990-91 budget.

The Spirit Makes the Master
Master Plan -- The campus master plan has been completed, and we are waiting for the final documents from the consultants. A campus meeting will be held upon their arrival to acquaint our campus community with the plan. Thank you for your input.

Western XXI -- A long-range planning effort is now well under way. We are indebted to Dr. James Flynn for agreeing to serve as the coordinator of this complex, important activity. Over 150 faculty, staff, and students will be involved.

Institute for Economic Development -- The Bowling Green Center lease-purchase transaction is now complete for this future home of the Institute for Economic Development. The Governor has included $3.5 million in his executive budget to renovate the facility.

New Residence Hall -- The planning has been completed for two new residence halls on the Normal Drive side of Pearce-Ford Tower. They will be very attractive three-story buildings, housing a total of 380 students in the two facilities.

Health/Activities Building -- This $10 million facility will be placed on top of Regents Drive next to Center Street. As soon as our fund raising is complete, construction will begin.

Spring Break -- In answer to several questions, there is no change in the 1990 spring break as scheduled.

Department Heads -- I am forwarding a recommendation to the Regents pertaining to the selection and evaluation of academic department heads. I am anticipating their action at the January meeting of the Board.

Reports on Athletics -- Two reports have been received in the President's Office regarding athletics at Western. One was prepared for the Faculty Senate by three faculty members. The other report was written by three professors in the Department of Economics. The views presented through the two reports were very different. I am asking the Western XXI task force dealing with athletics to consider both reports before making its final recommendation to the Western XXI Steering Committee.

Task Forces -- We have now received major reports from four task forces established from the President's Office. The reports are Nontraditional Students, Alcohol and Drugs, Sexual Assault, and AIDS Education.

Affirmative Action -- As we enter the interview and hiring time, please remember our commitment to increasing the number of minorities in faculty and professional staff positions on our campus.

Spring Semester -- I hope this is the best spring semester you have had so far.