

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

WKU Archives Records

WKU Archives

1991

UA1F WKU Archives Vertical File - Regents 1990-1991

WKU Archives

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records



Part of the [Advertising and Promotion Management Commons](#), [African American Studies Commons](#), [Higher Education Administration Commons](#), [Journalism Studies Commons](#), [Mass Communication Commons](#), [Public Relations and Advertising Commons](#), [Publishing Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

Western planning for many changes in 20 years

1-25-90
By LISA JACKSON
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University students 20 years from now will make their way across campus on trolleys if ideas in the school's newly completed master plan are implemented.

President Thomas Meredith showed a slide today to the board of regents of what the university will look like in 20 years if the master plan is followed.

Traffic will no longer move through the university, but loop around it, Meredith said. Shuttles will bring students to campus from parking areas, and trolleys will carry them to buildings.

Parking spaces will be removed from the middle of campus and pushed to the outer edge.

"I think what we will propose

will greatly enhance traffic patterns around campus," Meredith said.

Traffic will no longer flow along 15th Street, which would be an open, landscaped area, Meredith said. Traffic also would be stopped on Center Street and limited on Normal Drive through campus.

The master plan, guided by consultant architects from Johnson and Romanowitz of Lexington, has been in development for nearly a year. It is complete, except for printing, Meredith said.

The master plan will guide campus development for the coming two decades and include plans for parking, construction and landscaping.

The board approved the plan at its meeting.

More attention will be paid to aesthetics for those walking through

the campus, Meredith said. Landscaping will include benches and better lighting of walkways.

Besides two new residence halls planned for the south end of campus and a health and activities building to be built next to Downing University Center, other construction projects are outlined in the master plan.

An additional tower will be built next to Cravens Graduate Center and Library and a glass walkway will connect the two buildings, which will house the university library. The Helm Library will be converted to classrooms and offices.

Science and Technology Hall at the corner of State and 15th streets will be razed and a new building will be built in its place. Science and Technology Hall is a mostly wooden structure that needs replacing,

Meredith said. Renovations were expected to cost so much that architects determined it would be best to construct a new building, he said.

An addition will be built onto the Kentucky Building, so that collections can be better displayed, and onto the Academic Complex.

No price tags have been attached to the master plan ideas, Meredith said. University administrators will study the plan and set long- and short-run priorities.

"The money will dictate what we're going to do," Meredith said.

The board also approved a resolution authorizing the university to purchase property as feasible in conjunction with the master plan.

The most recent master plan created for Western was completed in the 1960s and updated in 1975.

Faculty, leaders reach accord on selection process

By LISA JACKSON / 1-26-90
Daily News Staff Writer

A new policy for selection and evaluation of Western Kentucky University department heads is a satisfactory compromise, Faculty Senate President Bart White said Thursday.

"It's not what we hoped for, but more than we thought (we would get)," White said.

Western's Board of Regents approved the policy, devised by President Thomas Meredith with comments from faculty, at its meeting Thursday.

White said two or three changes made in the policy by Meredith within 24 hours of its presentation to the board made it more acceptable to faculty.

Meredith included a statement that would allow faculty during a

formal evaluation at the end of the department head's term to vote by secret ballot on whether the person should be recommended for an additional four-year term.

"Faculty input in the whole process is important," White said. He attributed a satisfactory policy to work by Faculty Regent Gene Evans, who told Meredith about the faculty's problems with the department head issue, and to Meredith for understanding faculty's views.

Faculty members feared a policy that would exclude them in the search and selection for a department head or in evaluations of the departmental leader, giving administrators the primary responsibility for such tasks.

"Certainly we should have major input in those decisions," White said.

The new policy calls for a search committee to be comprised of faculty in the department and a member appointed by the college dean. The committee will recommend three candidates to the dean, with comments about each.

The dean will forward his comments on each candidate to the vice president for academic affairs, who will also make comments on each candidate and give all of the collected information to the president, who will make a recommendation to the board.

Faculty will also have input in annual evaluations.

In unrelated business, the board revised the 1989-90 operating budget to include a \$3.325 million increase because projections for external funding were too low, Meredith said.

The extra money has been earmarked for specific programs and workshops, he said.

In other business, the board:

- Approved audit reports for WKYU-FM and WKYU-TV for the 1988-89 fiscal year.

- Approved salary adjustments for the football coaching staff to give them 2 percent salary increases plus 3 percent for merit — the same as other university employees have received. Contract ending dates for the staff were revised by the board to April 1 rather than in January, and Coach Jack Harbaugh's contract was extended to Jan. 31, 1994.

- Approved re-activation of master of arts in education program with a major and minor in government.

- Adjourned to closed session to discuss property acquisition.

Terms for university board members might increase

By GIL LAWSON
Staff Writer

C. J. 2-14-80
FRANKFORT, Ky. — Terms for members of the Council on Higher Education and for trustees and regents at state universities would be increased from four to six years under a bill unanimously approved yesterday by a Senate panel.



O'DANIEL:
Wilkinson
administration
against his bill

Sen. Ed O'Daniel, the sponsor of Senate Bill 86, said the measure was intended to provide more continuity on boards of trustees and regents.

It would also decrease a governor's powers. Having six-year terms would mean that no single governor could fill every slot on the council and most openings on the eight university boards, as is possible now.

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's administration is opposed to the bill because a governor would then be saddled with the higher-education appointments of previous governors, said Tom Dorman, Wilkinson's legislative liaison.

O'Daniel, D-Springfield, told the Senate State Government Committee yesterday that he expected the legislation, if approved, would prompt a lawsuit to determine its constitutionality.

A previous effort by the General Assembly to create six-year terms was declared unconstitutional in Franklin Circuit Court, based on a section in the state constitution that limits "inferior state officers" to four-year terms.

However, O'Daniel's bill relies upon a different section of the constitution, which gives the General Assembly power to set terms but does not specify the length.

A related measure, House Bill 136, would also change the board and council terms to six years and would establish a committee that would give the governor three names from which to make an appointment. HB 136 was sent to the Senate last week after passing the House. Wilkinson said he opposed it, calling it an infringement on executive authority.

The panel also approved a House bill that would make Martin Luther King's birthday a paid state holiday. The full Senate may vote on the measure, HB 2, later this week.

The vote on the bill was 7-1. Sen. Gene Huff, R-London, said one of the reasons he voted against it was because it would cost too much.

Education panel passes bill on 6-year

By MICHAEL JENNINGS

Staff Writer

C.J. 3-9-70
FRANKFORT, Ky. — A bill that would weaken a governor's control over higher education governing boards is now two steps shy of passage — and of a certain veto by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

The House Education Committee yesterday approved a bill, already passed by the Senate, that would extend to six years the terms of the

trustees and regents of state universities and members of the state Council on Higher Education. Their terms are now four years, meaning each governor could replace or reappoint them all.

The committee amended the Senate bill to call for creation of a seven-member panel that would screen candidates for university governing boards and the council. In filling a vacancy, the governor would have to choose one of three persons

nominated by the screening panel.

In effect, the amendment grafts a bill sponsored by Rep. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, onto one sponsored by Sen. Ed O'Daniel, D-Springfield.

Both bills passed easily in the houses where they originated. If O'Daniel's amended bill now passes in the House, it would return to the Senate floor, where O'Daniel predicted it would win quick concurrence.

board terms; Wilkinson threatens veto

O'Daniel said his bill would "improve continuity on university boards," while the screening process added by Scorsone should ensure nominees have the proper background in higher education.

At a press conference yesterday, Wilkinson vowed to veto the measure if it reaches his desk. In explaining why, he alluded to legislators' refusal to consider a constitutional amendment that would allow him to succeed himself in office.

"If four-year terms are good enough for the governor, they're good enough for the trustees of the universities," Wilkinson said.

O'Daniel said he thought there were enough votes in the Senate to override a veto.

In another matter, the House Education Committee defeated a bill that would enable the spouse and children of a faculty or staff member at a state university to attend that school tuition-free.

The vote on House Bill 728 was 9-6 in favor, with four abstentions, leaving it two votes shy of the number needed for passage.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Walter Blevins Jr., D-Morehead, described it as a tool to recruit and retain good faculty and staff members. An opponent, Rep. Clayton Little, D-Virgie, said the measure would be "robbing the taxpayers of Kentucky" to benefit those who could afford to pay college tuition.

Nomination panel for higher-education posts clears House

By JOHN VOSKUHL
Staff Writer

C.J. 3-24-90

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A bill that would set up a special commission to nominate gubernatorial appointees to public universities' governing boards and the state Council on Higher Education came back from the grave yesterday, as House members approved the measure they had defeated the day before.

"This restores my faith in life after death," said Rep. Ernesto Scorsone, D-Lexington, who handled the measure, Senate Bill 86, in the House.

But the lifespan of the resurrected measure, which cleared the House on a slim 45-41 vote, remains in doubt. Its most controversial provision must return to the Senate for concurrence and, if it's approved, the bill is likely to be vetoed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

"I think the governor would be inclined to veto" the measure as it was passed by the House, said Tom Dorman, Wilkinson's legislative liaison.

House Speaker Don Blandford said the bill got another chance after he spent Thursday night and yesterday morning working to foster support for it. He noted that the governor's staff was working hard against the measure, and he wasn't sure whether enough lawmakers would support the measure to ensure an override of a veto.

But Blandford, D-Philpot, said he would try to build support for an override if it comes to that.

The bill began in the Senate as a measure to increase the terms of public university trustees and regents from four to six years.

Scorsone amended the bill in the House to include the provision that would create the special nominating commission — a measure lifted from a House bill that Scorsone had sponsored. Scorsone's bill was approved in the House but has stalled in the Senate.

Though the provision is viewed as a means of limiting gubernatorial pressure that can be brought to the governance of universities, several members said yesterday that the bill would infringe too greatly on the powers of the governor.

Legislators should "never forget that the governor is also elected by the people of this state," said Rep. Bobby Richardson, D-Glasgow, one of the bill's opponents.

But Rep. Richard Lewis, D-Benton, said the measure would help the state "best manage" its public universities.

He said Murray State University has had far too many regents over the past few years to provide cohesive direction for the school.

And he cited cases at Morehead State University and Kentucky State University in which governors have appointed new regents or trustees in the midst of controversies over presidential searches.

The bill would provide "stability in management" for the universities, he said.

The bill's provision for six-year terms may run afoul of a constitutional provision that limits the terms of state officers to four years, according to two circuit court cases and an attorney general's opinion issued earlier this month.

Scorsone told his colleagues that there has been "no definitive ruling" on the question from the state Supreme Court, largely because Gov. Martha Layne Collins' administration chose not to appeal a circuit court ruling on the constitutionality.

The extension of terms would prevent governors' "cleaning out" boards and filling them with political supporters, Scorsone said.

Measure creating nominating panel for higher education boards dies in House

By GIL LAWSON and JOHN VOSKUHL
Staff Writers

C.J. 3-30-78

FRANKFORT, Ky. — An amendment that would have created a statewide nominating panel for gubernatorial appointments to university governing boards and the state Council on Higher Education died yesterday in the House.

The demise of the measure, which House members had amended to Senate Bill 86, cleared away Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's main objection to the bill — that it would diminish governors' authority to select university trustees and regents.

But the bill's remaining provisions, which would replace the four-year terms that such regents and trustees now serve with six-year terms, will probably still draw a gubernatorial veto, said Tom Dorman, Wilkinson's legislative liaison.

Dorman cited a problem with the bill that even its supporters acknowledge: Kentucky circuit courts have already held that similar legislation violated a provision in the state constitution that limits state officers to four-year terms.

However, as supporters point out, no state appeals court has ruled on the question.

When pressed, Dorman acknowledged that Wilkinson is also concerned that the measure would limit gubernatorial authority over university governance. Governors, who are limited to four-year terms, would be unable to appoint all members of university boards under the bill.

Wilkinson "feels some stewardship for the office of governor" and does not want to see its powers diminished, even though the bill's provisions would not have applied to him, Dorman said.

Rep. Ernesto Scorsone, who served as the House floor manager of the bill, which was sponsored by Sen. Ed O'Daniel, D-Springfield, said he thought he had enough votes among House members to override the veto.

O'Daniel could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Scorsone, D-Lexington, had originally sponsored a bill that would have established the nominating commission. That bill won approval in the House, but it failed in the Senate.

Scorsone then piggybacked the measure onto SB 86, which House members first defeated, then reconsidered and approved last Friday.

But the Senate refused to accept the amendment yesterday, prompting Scorsone to ask that House members "recede" from it, or withdraw it. The House then sent the bill to Wilkinson on a 53-25 vote.

Scorsone said he didn't attempt to force consider-

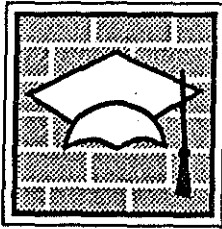
ation of the measure in a conference committee because he didn't think Senate members could be convinced.

"Either the Senate is comfortable with the concept of a screening committee or not," he said.

boards dies in House

HIGHER EDUCATION

Funding increase, 6-year board terms are passed



By RICHARD WILSON
Staff Writer

C.S. 4-15-92
FRANKFORT, Ky. — Creation of a new student financial aid program and the heftiest increase in university funding in recent years were the 1990 General Assembly's legacy for higher education.

The legislature also again amended state law to extend the terms of university trustees and regents from four to six years. But a proposed method to curb political cronyism in the appointments was rejected.

Lawmakers pumped more than \$7 million a year into the budget to create the first part-time student grant program. Under College Access Program grants — which Gov. Wallace Wilkinson proposed — needy full- and part-time freshmen and sophomores will be eligible for maximum grants of \$640 this year, and probably \$680 in 1991-92, at public or private colleges.

Since the CAP grants will be restricted to freshmen and sophomores, the State Student Incentive Grant program will be limited to juniors and seniors, said Paul Borden, executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Overall funding for higher education was increased 24.9 percent in the upcoming biennium, or from this year's \$594.2 million to \$741.9 million in 1991-92. Operating funds for the eight state universities were increased from \$574.3 million this year to \$632.5 million in 1990-91 and \$715.5 million in 1991-92.

Over the two-year period, the increases raise state general operating support from 80.3 percent of the level sought under the state Council on Higher Education's funding formula to 88.2 percent.

The universities also will benefit from \$200 million for campus improvements and new construction. Many of the building projects, mostly financed by revenue bonds, were added by legislative leaders to win needed votes for the tax and school-reform legislation. Interest, or debt service, on these projects will be \$21.5 million in 1991-92.

For the second time in 10 years, the legislature passed a bill to lengthen university trustee and regent terms to six years. Similar legislation in 1980 was ruled unconstitutional by Franklin Circuit Court, but the issue was never decided by Kentucky's Supreme Court.

Sen. Ed O'Daniel, sponsor of this year's effort, has relied on a different section of the constitution. O'Daniel, D-Springfield, expects the new legislation to provoke another court test, but for the issue to be finally resolved by the high court.

Wilkinson vetoed the measure, Senate Bill 86, but legislators overrode the veto Friday.

The House passed a bill to require the governor to name schools' governing board members from recommendations by a new selection panel. But the idea, which would have weakened the governor's appointive powers, was rejected by the Senate.

The budget contains money to allow each campus to grant at least 5 percent annual salary increases to faculty and staff members. Officials still contend the increases are insufficient to keep their schools from losing top professors to schools paying better salaries.

Additional money also was provided for pay raises for county extension workers at Kentucky State University and the University of Kentucky.

Money was provided to expand only a few programs or to start new ones. However, Morehead State University will train personnel for a new state prison in Morgan County; UK and the University of Louisville will expand rural health programs; and Western Kentucky University will start an Institute for Economic Development.

Among the major new construction projects are an \$11.7 million library expansion at Eastern Kentucky University, an \$11.4 million health and physical education facility at KSU, a \$9.1 million library expansion at Northern Kentucky University, and \$11.7 million for a civil engineering building and \$14 million for medical research space expansion at UK.

More than \$40 million was authorized for construction of new buildings at eight UK community colleges, and UK was authorized to spend up to \$12.5 million to purchase a Woodford County farm to replace its Coldstream Farm in northern Fayette County.

Petition opposes WKU logo change

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will review petitions circulated by a student protesting a switch in the school's logo.

Senior Mark Tucker of Bowling Green said he has collected 2,742 signatures of students, faculty and community members who request reinstatement of the university's seal.

Western President Thomas Meredith introduced a new logo to regents at their meeting in October. The logo, which depicts the dome of Cherry Hall with the letter "W" subtly drawn into it and the university's name below it, would replace the seal in all but its most formal uses.

Tucker spearheaded an effort he called Save Our Seal. He circulated the petitions requesting reinstatement of the seal and protection of the symbol from future administrations.

Tucker sent a letter to Meredith to ask the board to consider the request at its meeting Thursday. He said he received a letter from the board that said the issue would be "taken under advisement."

D. W.
4-24-90

Regents back plan for WKU's future

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A plan outlining Western Kentucky University's path for the future cleared a hurdle yesterday as Western's board of regents approved the plan's basic goals.

The goals ranged from increasing the numbers of "non-traditional" (often older) and minority students, to improving Western's private fund-raising efforts, to requiring students to have better communication skills and a more thorough understanding of foreign cultures.

A steering committee will spend the summer reviewing reports from four subcommittees assigned to assess various operations at Western, including the athletic program, which has been a point of controversy among Western's faculty. Some say Western spends too much on its sports program, and others counter that the program generates a significant amount of income.

Another committee will examine the university's budget and see if it can be streamlined.

C.J. 5-15-80

WKU chooses firm to handle bond sales for new housing

5-15-90

A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University on Monday moved a step closer to solving its on-campus housing shortage when a local firm was chosen to handle bond sales for new housing construction.

WKU's Board of Regents accepted Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith Inc. of Bowling Green's bid of 7.4055 percent interest on Series L bonds to be issued to finance construction of two new residence halls. Representatives of the investment group said they were able to take advantage of changing market conditions in offering the rate, which Western officials said was lower than they expected.

Regents also met with members of the Western XXI steering committee to review revisions in the development plan's mission statements.

However, discussion centered

around proposed publication and service obligations for faculty members and developing an equitable measuring system for disciplines.

Differences in the requirements of disciplines and departments will have to lead to flexibility in the program, Western President Thomas Meredith said.

He said with some departments, publication every three years might be a reasonable requirement, while yearly publication could be expected in others. Of the proposal's three requirements for faculty — public service, scholarly productivity and excellence in teaching — "teaching is the most inflexible," Meredith said.

Western XXI chairman James Flynn said his committee wanted flexibility in the requirements and agreed with the board's directive to clarify the proposal.

WKU approves \$100 million budget

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's regents approved the school's first \$100 million budget yesterday, including a 7.51 percent average salary increase for faculty and staff.

The board authorized a 7 percent wage increase for President Thomas Meredith, raising his annual compensation to \$96,531.

The 1990-91 operating budget totals \$102,315,300, an increase of nearly \$11 million over the 1989-90 year.

The increase includes \$8 million in non-discretionary funds restricted for use in Pell grants, other government contracts, debt service and overmatch to the teacher retirement system.

The board also authorized tuition and fee increases of 11.3 percent previously adopted by the state Council on Higher Education.

Undergraduate fees will be \$660 per semester for Kentucky residents and \$1,840 for non-Kentucky residents. Kentucky graduate students will pay \$720 while non-Kentucky residents will be charged \$2,020 per semester.

CJ 5-31-90

WKU regents approve tuition, housing hikes

By REBECCA MORRIS
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University students will see an 11.3 percent hike in tuition, housing and other fees beginning in the fall.

Western's board of regents on Wednesday approved the rates, which previously were adopted by the state Council on Higher Education, as part of a university budget that for the first time exceeds \$100 million.

In-state undergraduate tuition will be \$660 a semester, up \$90 from the past school year. In-state tuition for graduate students will be \$720, up \$100 from the past year.

Non-residents will pay \$1,840 as undergraduates and \$2,020 for graduate tuition, compared to \$1,610 for undergraduates and \$1,760 for graduates the past year.

On-campus housing costs will increase by \$25 a semester — to \$475 for air conditioned residence halls and \$460 for non-air conditioned halls — and student fees will rise from \$50 to \$70.

The record budget is a \$10.9 million increase above the 1989-90 level and includes a 7.51 percent average salary increase for faculty and staff. Western President Thomas Meredith will receive a 7 percent pay hike, taking his salary to \$96,531.

The budget increase includes \$6 million in non-discretionary funds — which are restricted for use in Pell Grants and government contracts, debt service and overmatch funds to the teacher retirement system.

Of the \$4.9 million available for discretionary use, \$3.8 million, about 75 percent, was designated for faculty and staff raises.

Meredith told regents the budget emphasis on raises "reflects the

university's absolute commitment to compensation this year."

Faculty members and non-classified staff making at least \$20,000 will receive a 5 percent raise. Those earning less than \$20,000 will receive raises from 5.33 percent to 8 percent. Employees earning less will receive the higher raise percentage.

Classified employees will also receive raises of 5-8 percent, also structured so that lower-paid employees receive the higher percentage.

Unit heads and vice presidential areas will receive an extra 2 percent of the base funding of their areas to be used for merit raises for employees.

Board Vice Chairman Roger Clark said the university "tried to give the greater percentage of the increase to the people who made less."

Regent Denny Wedge said the increases were necessary to bring salaries in line with other state schools.

Most areas of the budget received increases. The budget for academic instruction, which covers the university's four colleges, was increased \$3.2 million to \$33.4 million.

The College of Education and Behavioral Sciences received a \$1.15 million increase and the budget category containing Western's Community College and extended-campus program received a \$1.4 million increase.

5-31-90

Alumni couple's 50th anniversary becomes WKU's golden opportunity

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A Henderson businessman who met his wife while both attended Western Kentucky University has given his alma mater its largest-ever donation in honor of his 50th wedding anniversary.

In return, Western has agreed to name its new student health and activities center the Raymond B. Preston Health and Activities Center.

Western's president, Dr. Thomas Meredith, announced Preston's gift yesterday at a press conference that Preston, his wife, Hattie Paff Preston, and their son Kent, a Western sophomore, attended. Meredith said Preston's gift quickly brought the university to its initial \$1.4 million fund-raising goal for the student activities center. The state is funding the balance for the \$10 million project.

"We can now move forward with construction of the building," Meredith said.

At Preston's request, Western is not divulging the amount of his gift. But Meredith said it is the single largest private donation received by Western in its 84-year history.

That would mean Preston's gift exceeds a \$300,000 bequest from the estate of Virginia Wood Davis, a 1943 English major who gave her money to Western's journalism program, and a \$400,000 commitment to the activities cen-

ter from Western's Associated Student Government.

The student government association voted this spring to add \$5 to each student's semester fees over the next four years to collect a student-body contribution toward the building.

Preston, who graduated from Western in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry, is the founder and president of PB & S Chemical Co., a Henderson-based chemical-distribution company.

"I met Hattie in a psychology class at Western, and 50 years ago on June 8 we were married," Preston said at the press conference. "I feel very strongly about this program, and I feel very strongly about what Western has done for me. It seems only fitting, on our 50th wedding anniversary, that we do this."

Preston also is one of six members of a steering committee that guides Western's development office, said the office's director, Hal Jeffcoat. Jeffcoat said that when Meredith came to Western in 1988, one of the new president's first moves was to reactivate the steering committee to boost Western's private fund-raising efforts.

In an interview after the press conference, Preston said Meredith and Paul Cook, Western's executive vice president for administrative affairs, approached him about contributing to the building before the official fund-raising campaign began last year.

"They're very persuasive," Preston said. "You can see when he (Meredith) talks about it he really believes in it."

Preston said he thought over the request for a while before agreeing to it. "This was not a snap judgment, it was something we had to think about," Preston said. "Obviously, in the twilight years you start thinking about some things that maybe you hadn't thought about before. That unlimited amount of time you had when you were a kid, you know it becomes very finite. This we thought might could be a lasting contribution and something worthwhile."

The 2-story building will include six basketball and nine racquetball courts, weight-training and aerobic-dance rooms, a 1/9-mile jogging track and a 25-meter swimming pool. It will also include a laboratory to measure cardiovascular fitness.

Western plans this summer to re-route some underground utility lines around the building's site, on Regents Drive east of the football stadium. Meredith said he expects construction on the building to start this fall and be finished in 18 months.

Western hasn't quite finished raising money for the building. Jeffcoat said the university needs to raise another \$250,000 to buy and maintain new equipment. Western has approached several potential donors about that need and offered to name various rooms inside the building for those making significant contributions, he said. The university is now awaiting their response.

"We have major equipment needs because we're doing this the first-class way," Meredith said. "I don't want to be dragging 25-year-old equipment out of Diddle (Arena) and putting it into a brand-new, state-of-the-art building."

During a special meeting of Western's board of regents, which followed yesterday's press conference, new regent Robert Chambless of Munfordville was sworn in by Judge Charles H. Reynolds. Also, the regents elected Patsy Judd, publisher of the Cumberland County News, in Burkesville, as the board's vice chairman. Chambless replaced regent Ronnie Clark of Franklin, whose term ended this spring. Clark was vice chairman.

Warren superintendent is named to Council on Higher Education

By CATHY COPE *7-24-86*
Daily News Staff Writer

Her administrative role at the elementary and secondary education level will help her better serve higher education as an appointee to the Council on Higher Education, the Warren County superintendent of schools said today.

Randy Kimbrough, who will replace Patrick Nutini of Edgewood, was one of five appointed to the council by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson Monday.

"I am very pleased that the governor has faith in me and thinks I can do a good job. It is important that the council have someone who can give input from that (elementary and secondary education) level because we are consumers of higher education every day," Mrs. Kimbrough said today.

Also appointed were former Wilkinson administration budget director Kevin Hable to replace former Gov. Bert Combs; Dr. Robert M. Blake of Maysville to replace Daniel Stamper Jr.; Jack Rose of Murray to replace Bernie Sandfoss Jr. of Newport; and Sheridan Martin of Drift to replace James Hill of Louisville as the student representative on the council.

"(Higher education) is very important to the total development of our population, and I look forward



RANDY KIMBROUGH
One of five appointees

to being in a position where I can help," Mrs. Kimbrough said. "I come from a perspective that would look at what's best for all."

The council sets policy for the eight state universities.

Some of the more important issues affecting universities are the roles they have in education reform, having enough money to attract and maintain quality personnel and upgrading colleges and universities to enter the technology age, she said.

"I will look at the issues and try

to make decisions based on what is in the best interest of students in the commonwealth," she said.

Mrs. Kimbrough was the assistant superintendent for instruction for the state from 1977 until 1980 and currently serves as chairman of the Federal Policy and Legislative Committee for the American Association of School Administrators.

One vacancy remains on the council and one member is still serving even though his term has expired.

Wilkinson also has numerous other appointments pending on the governing boards of the individual universities, including one at Western Kentucky University. Denny Wedge, of 1531 Cabell Drive continues to serve on the Board of Regents even though his term expired in March.

A state law provides that members of such boards may serve beyond the term of their initial appointment if they are not replaced.

Other universities and the number of overdue appointments are Eastern Kentucky, one; Kentucky State, two; Morehead, two; Murray, two; Northern, one; University of Kentucky, two, not counting a faculty position; and University of Louisville, 10, not counting a staff position.

Western considering gifted student plan

By REBECCA MORRIS
Daily News Staff Writer 8-24-90

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents met in Owensboro today in the kickoff of a weekend retreat to review current trends in higher education.

The board will couple its regular quarterly meeting today with a retreat Saturday at Owensboro's Executive Inn Rivermont. The retreat will give each regent an opportunity to comment unofficially on topics of special interest to Western, Western President Thomas Meredith said.

Owensboro is an important center for Western because of the university's campus there, he said. Board of Regents Chairman Joseph Iracane, an Owensboro businessman, and George Overstreet, director of the Western's Owensboro campus, hosted a tour of the campus.

The board was expected to act on a recommendation to establish a center for gifted studies at Western's Bowling Green campus.

"We have lots of different activities for gifted students. We are proposing creating the center to coordi-

nate them," Dr. Julia Roberts, a teacher education professor who coordinates many of Western's programs for gifted students, said.

The university has several activities for gifted elementary, junior high and high school students, including workshops for teachers and parents, camps for academically gifted eighth-graders and programs for verbally and mathematically gifted youths, she said.

The center would be located in Tate C. Page Hall, Mrs. Roberts said.

"At the present time, we will not require additional staff for the center," she said.

The regents also were expected to act on a proposal to divide the department of sociology, anthropology and social work into two departments, with sociology becoming a separate department.

Regents also considered adding proposed minors in land surveying and marketing.

The oath of office was administered to student regent Michael Colvin, a senior finance major from Louisville.

WKU debate over future continuing

By REBECCA MORRIS 10-23-90
Daily News Staff Writer

Faculty and staff resentment over the ranking of degree programs at Western Kentucky University did not abate Tuesday in a second day of discussion on the Western XXI plan.

The draft plan, released to faculty members last week, ranks degree and academic support programs at the university in one of three levels of importance and one of four levels of funding and support. Biology and teacher education were said to be of the most importance to the university and in need of the most support in the draft.

The steering committee that authored the draft held public forums Monday and Tuesday to hear comments on the draft. Suggested revisions were to be studied today, with the draft going to Western's Board of Regents on Thursday. The board is expected to make a final decision on the draft Monday.

The draft is the second part of Western XXI, university President Thomas Meredith said. The first part, released in May, detailed the university's mission and goals for the 21st century.

The ranking of programs is necessary for Western's future, Meredith said.

"Under this proposal, funding decisions would not be made on what was the most demanding need in a particular year, but on the basis of a plan for the future," he said.

The omission of health care from Western's future was the slant of Tuesday's discussions.

"This past Friday, President Meredith emphasized the importance of health care when he spoke at the groundbreaking for the new

student health and activities center," Bill Howard, an allied health professor, said. "Without an emphasis on health care I don't see how we can call ourselves a comprehensive university.

"It seems the overall tone of this recommendation is not to move forward but to move backward," Howard said. "I am aware of the history of this university, and it seems we want to step back and start calling this Western Kentucky Normal School."

Western was designated as a normal school from 1906 until 1930, when its primary emphasis was in teacher education.

Students have been protesting the recommendation to turn over to the private sector the university's health service, which offers medical care to students at a charge of per office visit.

Debbie Smith, a university libraries secretary, agreed with their protests.

"To keep students educationally healthy we must first keep them physically healthy," she said.

Rebecca Tabor, an allied health professor, was angered by the rec-

ommendation to de-emphasize Western's dental hygiene program.

"Western's bachelor (degree) in dental hygiene was the first of its kind in the nation," she said. "Other schools looked at us as a model to set up their programs."

Mrs. Tabor said the dental hygiene program has already received calls and letters from professional associations questioning the recommendation.

Western's Board of Regents will not rely only on the recommendations of the steering committee to make its decision on Western XXI.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the Board of Regents, and at least two other regents attended Tuesday's hearing.

"I wanted to get a first-hand feeling of their interpretation of the plan," Iracane said.

Iracane said it was especially important to see how faculty were responding to the draft, which was partially prepared by other faculty members.

"I wanted to see the faculty response," he said.

Bartley is sworn in as WKU regent

Bobby R. Bartley, a 1958 graduate of Bowling Green Business University, was sworn in as a member of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents today.

Bartley, 54, was appointed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson to replace Denny Wedge of Bowling Green on the board.

Wedge's term expired in March.

Bartley has been general manager of Homer Bartley Lumber Co. in Glasgow since 1960. He is originally from Monroe County.

"I'm happy to be here among a lot of old friends," Bartley said. "I'm looking forward to see if we can get Western rolling."

"I know there are money, personnel and political issues to play with, but I think within a year I'll know my way around," he said.

Bartley's wife, Gloria, is a teacher in the Glasgow school system.

DN 10-26-90

WKU plans to add degree

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's board of regents approved a proposal yesterday for a doctoral degree in education. The plan now goes to the Kentucky Council on Higher Education for consideration in January.

Bobby R. Bartley, a 1958 graduate of Bowling Green Business University, was sworn in as a regent during the meeting to succeed Denny Wedge. Bartley has been general manager of Homer Bartley Lumber Co. in Glasgow since 1960. Q 5 10-17-64

Western XXI vote again put on hold

10-28-90

By REBECCA MORRIS
Daily News Staff Writer

A vote on Western XXI, Western Kentucky University's controversial strategic planning process for the next century, has again been delayed.

Western's Board of Regents voted Friday to give President Dr. Thomas Meredith until Nov. 30 to review the document with the university's administrative council.

"I'd like to recommend to the board that as important as this document is and as anxious as everyone as to move on to the next step, I think we need to take more time to allow me to take the vice presidents and the deans and go over the whole document," Meredith said. "That would also give the community outside the university a chance to reflect on what they want Western to be in the 21st century."

In September, the release of a draft of a portion of Western XXI that evaluated and ranked the university's academic programs resulted in complaints from faculty and students when several programs, including advertising, public relations and dental hygiene, were recommended for review and possible de-emphasis.

After two campus hearings on the draft proposal, its steering committee made several revisions to the document. The regents approved an extension of the time limit for written comments, setting Friday as the date the proposal would be voted on.

The steering committee has recommended, however, that all journalism, professional communications, health and leisure/hospitality courses be reviewed to determine where they fit in Western's strategic plan.

The Western XXI process also came under fire from faculty members who thought the process was moving too fast. Regents' chairman Joe Iracane said the process needs to be completed before the board looks at Western's next budget.

"Western XXI is a vision of the university's future, but it is also a



BOBBY BARTLEY
New Western regent

mechanism that I as a board member could look to to make recommendations on the budget," he said.

In other action, the board:

—APPROVED a proposal for Western to offer a doctoral degree in education.

The proposal must be approved by the Council of Higher Education. The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville are the only public universities in the state whose charters currently allow them to offer doctoral degrees.

"There will have to be a legal opinion issued to determine if Western under the current rules can offer the degree," Meredith said. "I feel very positive that we will be allowed to do so."

Meredith doesn't believe UK and U of L will contest the proposal when it comes before the CHE in January.

—SWORE IN new regent Bobby Bartley of Glasgow.

—ELECTED Joe Iracane of Owensboro and Patsy Judd of Burkesville as chairman and vice chairman for academic year 1990-91.

—ELECTED Fred Travis of Glasgow and Wendell Strode of Bowling Green to the Executive Committee.

—APPOINTED Dr. Paul Cook as treasurer, Franklin Berry as parliamentarian, and Liz Esters as board secretary.

—AUTHORIZED issuing \$3 million in bonds for improvements to the university's residence halls. Western received \$3 million in low-interest federal loans for the project, Meredith said.

WKU regents to review plan to guide university smoothly into 21st century

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY

Staff Writer

C.S. 12-12-90
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — In the 21st century, when people think of Western Kentucky University, planners hope some things will spring to mind:

An undergraduate recombinant-genetics program. A graduate folk-studies program. Psychology. Biology. Leadership in education reform. Students who can write and speak proficiently.

And oh yes, the already-nationally recognized programs in print journalism, photojournalism and public relations.

At least, that's what the latest — and most revised — version of the plan says. Today, Western's board of regents will have a go at it, possibly giving the document, known as "Western 21," its stamp of approval.

However, according to regents chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro, there have been some rumblings about wording changes, "cosmetic" changes, and possibly even one regent who wants to bring the whole process to a halt.

That would run counter to the desires of Western President Thomas Meredith, who proposed the university-wide review a year

ago as a way to guide Western into spending its limited resources more wisely. Meredith has said he would like to have a finished plan ready when the university begins its budgeting process next month.

Also, the Western 21 effort is supposed to mesh with a second, university-wide budget review now under way for all departments and support services. When both are finished, theoretically, Western 21 will help administrators decide where to place whatever extra money is found in the budget review.

That is supposed to help guide Meredith on deciding what to do about Western's ongoing controversy about whether it is spending dollars wisely on athletics.

Since the spring of 1989, some of Western's faculty have called for the university to cut back athletics spending, while other faculty members have jumped to the program's defense. The two sides swapped thick reports analyzing the university's athletic spending during the summer of 1989, but Meredith hasn't issued his own pronouncement on the matter.

Now, the latest draft of the Western 21

document has confused some faculty members on what Western will do about athletics, said Bart White, president of the faculty senate.

A chart lists athletics as one of Western's 31 "essential" support services; other essential services range from admissions to the university ticket office. A narrative notes that athletics serve as "a focal point for institutional identity and spirit" for students, alumni, and "other university supporters."

But elsewhere in the document, athletics are described as a "drain on University resources (which) should be curtailed." Here Western 21 suggests Western either find more outside funding for athletics or cut some costs.

"It's essentially a contradiction in terms," White said.

English professor Jim Flynn, who has guided the development of the planning document since its beginning, said the confusing assessment of athletics entered the document after a review by Western's administration. Flynn said his steering committee gave athletics the finan-

cial drain label and ranked it as "tertiary" in importance to the university.

But the administration changed athletics to an "essential" service and added the statements about athletics' role among students and the larger community, Flynn said.

Meredith was not available to comment on the matter yesterday, but Flynn said he didn't see the two as necessarily in conflict. Flynn said he interpreted the document to say athletics "may be essential to this university, but we need to get the drain on resources under control."

Both drafts list athletics as one of many subjects for review. That has prompted one regent, Robert Chambless Jr. of Munfordville, to suggest that Western 21 be delayed until all the reviews can be completed. Chambless told the WKU student newspaper, the College Heights Herald, in October that he didn't believe programs and services could be ranked if so many needed reviewing.

Chambless did not return a message left at his home over the weekend.

Flynn said there were many de-

tailed areas within degree programs and services that his committee lacked the time or expertise to evaluate.

"It wasn't, 'All right, let's become instant experts,'" Flynn said. "Given the accelerated pace of this process, the most we could do was raise a red flag."

Other criticisms of Western 21 have been its suggestion that the student health services be taken over by a private company and that the public relations degree program be assigned a low priority. Both of those concerns have come from students.

Flynn said the health services takeover was merely a suggestion, again linked with a recommendation for review. He said he thought students misunderstood the document.

The PR program's low ranking prompted about 20 public relations majors to attend an October public hearing brandishing two dozen plaques and trophies they have won. Since then, the program's ranking has changed.

It's now "essential."

WKU's regents adopt master plan

By RICHARD WILSON, Staff Writer

C.J. 12-13-70
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — It may be only a semantic distinction, but at Western Kentucky University, athletics are essential, not just desirable.

However, Hilltopper athletics almost got downgraded to being only desirable yesterday when the school's board of regents adopted a master plan to guide the university into the 21st century. The plan, called "Western 21," is to be used by the school's administration in planning how to spend limited resources in the years ahead.

Several changes in the document, including the one pertaining to athletics, were defeated before the board adopted it 9-1 after nearly two hours of discussion.

Robert Chambliss Jr., a Munfordville banker, was the only regent to oppose the plan. He said that it was being rushed and that it merited more study before final action was taken.

The 30-page plan contains much lofty language on Western's goals and purposes. But the portion that has caused friction on the campus — and most of yesterday's discussion — categorizes the school's academic programs according to whether they are

See WKU
Page 4, col. 1, this section

WKU regents adopt plan to set long-term priorities

C.S. 12-13-90
Continued from Page C1

prominent, essential, desirable or non-essential. Numerous faculty members and students have contended the labels are too subjective and may lead to the phasing out of some programs.

The dispute over the designation of athletics came when faculty regent Eugene Evans questioned the wisdom of calling intercollegiate sports an essential support service, even though he acknowledged that most regents thought they deserved such a designation.

Evans acknowledged that athletics may be essential for varsity players. But he said he doubted that sports are anything but entertainment for most students.

Spending for intercollegiate athletics has been an issue at WKU since the spring of 1989, when some faculty called for cuts while others jumped to the program's defense.

"I appreciate the paragraph (elsewhere in the plan) saying that 'the drain on university resources in this area should be curtailed,'" Evans said. When he finally asked that athletics be demoted from the "essential" category to the "desirable" one, he told the regents he was making the move "with no expectation of success." His effort lost on a 5-5 vote.

Evans also provoked discussion of the plan's categorizing of academic programs when he questioned whether the panel that developed the categories had thoroughly considered the future need for some programs. He also said some programs had been dropped a level without faculty's having had a chance to contest the decision.

The regents finally defeated Evans' motion to delay categorizing graduate programs in home economics, physical education, recreation and sociology until they received further review. The programs were listed in the plan as desirable, and he said some of them perhaps should get higher classifications. He also sought similar action for a "non-essential" program in child development and family living.

WKU President Thomas Meredith told the board that "desirable" did not mean that a program is automatically targeted for termination if resources wane. "Emotions have led some to believe that if they (the programs) are only desirable, that means the death knell is tolling.

That is not our intention," he said.

Some other regents questioned classifications for other programs. But regent Danny Butler of Greensburg urged adoption of the document yesterday. He said unanimous agreement could never be reached on the programs. Most regents also acknowledged that they had received numerous calls, apparently from faculty members, about the programs.

Meredith defused some criticism of the classifications when he announced at the beginning of the meeting, which drew a standing-room-only crowd to the boardroom, that the latest revision of the report incorrectly listed two programs. He said the undergraduate social-work program and a graduate program in geography are essential, instead of only desirable.

More than a dozen social-work students attended the meeting. A number of graduate students in sociology were also there, protesting their program's classification as merely desirable, rather than essential.

The only other change in the plan came from a proposal by student regent Michael Colvin. The regents adopted his proposal, which called, in part, for a comprehensive final examination in every course, covering the whole content of the course.

Meredith said the plan, which has been in the works for 13 months, will now enter what he called an "action" phase — meaning that procedures will be developed to carry out the recommendations.

He also said the plan will be reviewed every two years and will get an intensive review every six years.

"It's always difficult to go through these kinds of processes. Limited resources force institutions to do so if (they) are going to gain the kind of recognition necessary to become competitive in today's higher-education world," Meredith said.

He said the plan placed Western's future direction "in some pretty firm putty, but certainly not concrete."

Regent Chairman Joe Iracane said the plan would help the board as the school's 1992-94 budget is developed. He said that the school had "scrutinized its programs all along" and was not top-heavy academically.

Iracane said the master plan was long overdue, and complimented Meredith for his courage in undertaking it.

Advocates of WKU program waiting

Advocates for a education doctorate program at Western Kentucky University are waiting for a response from the state Attorney General's Office but have asked Gov. Wallace Wilkinson to look into it.

Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane submitted the proposal to Wilkinson on Monday. Iracane said he asked for the governor's opinion about the legality of whether the Council for Higher Education can approve or disapprove a doctorate program.

In November, the council refused to rule on the proposal because state law is unclear about whether it has that authority.

DN. 12-11-90

Plan clouds WKU's athletics role

By SMITA MADAN PAUL
Daily News Staff Writer 12-13-90

The role of athletics in Western Kentucky University's future remains in a precarious balance, despite passage Wednesday of Western XXI, a guideline for the school in the 21st century.

The document is supposed to be a spending guide for Western under a tightened budget, but how much money and emphasis athletics will get is unclear.

The document describes athletics "as a drain on University resources (which) ... should be curtailed."

But in a ranking of services by priorities — enhanced, essential and desirable — athletics is listed as essential. It also says athletics serve as "a focal point for institutional identity and spirit."

At the regents meeting, Faculty Regent Dr. Eugene Evans made a motion to downgrade the athletic program to desirable, since only a small percentage of the student body is involved.

"I don't think we should advertise a

plan that says athletics will be essential," he said. "That's translated into 'Coach, build an empire.'"

Regent Patsy Judd of Burkesville seconded the motion and suggested a new category — highly desirable — be formed for the athletic program.

The vote ended at 5-5, with the split coming between those on the regent's athletic committee and those not. Regent Chairman Joe Iracane from Owensboro voted against the motion.

The contradiction about the role of athletics appeared after the steering committee submitted a draft to university's president and administrative council, according to English professor Jim Flynn who oversaw the documents development. The original document listed athletics as tertiary in importance and called it a financial drain.

The new comments about the importance of athletics to the community and its promotion to the essential category came from the administration, Flynn said.

Since spring 1989, some faculty

members have asked for cutbacks in athletic spending. Others have defended it.

Supporters and detractors have submitted reports analyzing the university's need for the athletic program during summer 1989.

The remainder of the 30-page Western XXI plan was approved 9-1 but not without other last-minute changes.

The plan also ranks academic programs in four lists — prominent, essential, desirable and nonessential.

The changes included upgrading two programs, the undergraduate social work major and the graduate geography program, from desirable to essential.

University President Thomas Meredith said the programs had been downgraded by mistake.

"There has been a great deal of revisiting of past information," he said. He also added a review process for every

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

DN 12-13-76
two years and an extensive study every six years to insure other changes can be made if deemed necessary.

When the plan is approved, it will place the direction of the university in "pretty firm pudding, but not concrete," he said.

The next phase is to put the plan into action, he said.

Regent Robert Chambless Jr. of Munfordville, who cast the lone vote against the plan, said, "I think a vote today is too quick and a disservice to the university and all of our constituents."

He asked that students and faculty crowded in the back of the regent's room be allowed to offer their opinions.

A group calling themselves AESSOP, All Endangered Students Speak Out for Preservation, handed out fliers saying "Defend your right to learn, save your department."

"I can understand why people are upset and feel they are not properly represented in the university," Chambless said. He also warned that the plan would fail to control the reorganization process or the budget.

However, Iracane said the plan was no longer open to public discussion.

Evans voted for the plan but not without attempting to further amend the document. He made a motion to strike several programs from all lists until further review of their importance.

He said he didn't think the plan was going to work because there was no basis for discrimination.

"There has been a lot of communication within the last 24 hours. Some got to the decision makers and some didn't. I think everyone should get that chance," he said.

The motion failed to pass.

An amendment to require a comprehensive final in all courses was suggested by student regent Michael Colvin and passed in a 9-1 vote.

Serious WKU athletics debate

12-13-96

And so the debate begins — publicly, anyway.

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents on Wednesday tore down the notion that they stand unanimously behind the status of the school's athletics programs.

In fact, we now know Western's 10 regents stand divided — right down the middle.

First, a synopsis of Wednesday's events:

Faculty regent Eugene Evans introduced a motion to have athletics demoted from the "essential" category to "desirable" on the Western XXI report. The report is a document approved by the board that prioritizes Western's departments in

Sports Dept



Joe Medley
Daily News
Sports Editor

the school's plans for the 21st Century. Patsy Judd gave a second to the motion.

After some debate, which included heavy bashing of Western's

athletics department, the motion failed ... not by a majority vote, but because the regents tied 5-5.

Remember that score, Western fans. It may become the most important score in the history of Western athletics.

That's because it opened the door, at last, to *serious* debate. It shows, at least, that the school is taking a serious look at serious questions about athletics.

Debate is not all bad, even if it results in no change. At least Western athletics can no longer hide behind smoke screens raised by some members of a good-old-boy dynasty who refuse to let go of the past.

begins, and it's about time

Western athletics is at a crucial point where they can go for a skysrise condominium or sit on Mom and Pop's porch. It's a clear choice between the future and the past.

And, at last, the status quo is no longer acceptable — without, at least, some debate.

Some vital questions:

— What should Western do with conference affiliation? It's becoming quite apparent the Sun Belt Conference won't survive the present state of anarchy in intercollegiate athletics without a minor miracle.

— What should be done about athletic spending — not just in terms of figures, but how the money is used?

— How about the structure of Western's athletics department? It's clear that too much is expected of the athletics director, and the saturation can lead to dangerous oversights and insufficient promotions, among other things. The AD needs some assistant ADs, but how many and what are their duties?

— Is there a vision for Western athletics? What is it? What does Western need to do to get there and does the school's administration have the guts to do it?

All of this comes at a very interesting time. Jimmy Feix has retired as athletics director, and the search for his replacement will begin next month.

What will a divided board of regents be looking for in the next AD? I'd sure like to sit in on those interviews. The candidates may have more questions than their interviewers.

Not that a divided board is a bad thing.

With the upheaval of schools jumping conferences like frogs jumping lily pads and pending NCAA legislation that will undoubtedly hurt mid-major schools like Western, it's time to debate.

It's time for the good-old-boy dynasty to crumble.

Let's hope it's a bloodless and fruitful revolution.

WKU, credit union relationship probed

2-1-91

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith has agreed to look into the relationship between the school and Western Kentucky University Credit Union after questions were raised Thursday at a Board of Regents meeting.

Regent Robert Chambless Jr. asked Meredith to look into connections between the school and the credit union, which are thought to be separate businesses despite a shared name.

"I got something in the mail that said it was printed by Western," Chambless said. "It was a lobbying effort on behalf of the credit union, and I don't think it's appropriate that our name be on things like that."

Regent Chairman Joseph Iracane said he dislikes that implication.

"I don't think we want anything going out with Western's name on it that takes a political stance," he said.

It makes it look like Western is lobbying for a private business, Chambless said.

"If they're lobbying for Western,

that's fine but not for private business," Chambless said. "I can see no reason why Western and the credit union would be intertwined at all."

Western does printing for the credit union and handles its payroll, but the credit union reimburses the university, said Paul Cook, executive vice president for academic affairs.

"I asked Dr. Cook if Western would do my printing and my payroll and he said 'no,'" Chambless said. "Then they shouldn't be doing the credit union's either."

Meredith said he needed to study the issue.

"I didn't know it was going to come up," he said. "If I had, I would have been prepared. To be honest, I haven't looked at that since I've been at the university."

The regents also approved a master of arts degree in education for interdisciplinary early childhood education.

"Part of the state education reform calls for family service centers for preschool children," Meredith said. "They'll need people



DR. THOMAS MEREDITH
Western president

trained in education to run these centers. We want to be on the leading edge of this."

Meredith also released preliminary enrollment figures for the spring semester.

The figures show 14,135 students enrolled this spring, compared to 13,890 for the 1990 spring semester, Meredith said. That includes an increase of 515 full-time students.

This is the first time spring enrollment has topped the 14,000 mark. The final fall 1990 count was 15,240.

WKU may get new regent

By JASON SUMMERS
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University may be getting a new regent after April 8, the day Wendell Strode's appointment runs out.

"I'd be honored to continue serving as a regent," Strode said, but he doesn't know if he will be able to.

He hasn't heard anything from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's office, and he said he doesn't know what his chances are.

"That's a decision the governor will be making," Strode said. "I'm sure he (Wilkinson) has many other people who have a fondness for Western, so I think there are several choices. There are several people who could do an outstanding job."

Two possibilities include David Broderick, a Bowling Green attorney Wilkinson tried to appoint to the state

school board, and Stephen Catron, another Bowling Green attorney.

But Broderick said he has heard "nothing whatsoever" about being appointed regent.

"In fact, the name I've heard mentioned is Steve Catron," he said. "It's not me."

Catron said, "It would be extremely flattering to even be mentioned for the position."

Catron said he and his wife, Dr. Deborah Catron, are Western graduates.

No decision has been made about appointing a new regent, according to Doug Alexander, Wilkinson's press secretary.

"I don't know what his plans are," Alexander said. "I generally don't know until we're ready to announce someone."

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

Regent

From
Page 1

When Strode's term ends April 8, "it doesn't necessarily create a vacancy," Alexander said. "People serve until they're replaced."

A new appointment could be announced at any time, he said.

Wilkinson has never given an opinion on what he thinks of Strode's job as regent, Alexander said.

"The board there has functioned well, and the governor has a good, strong relationship with Western," he said. "Over the governor's term, we've worked closely with the university."

Strode, 42, is the last regent on Western's board that hasn't been appointed or reappointed by Wilkinson, said Fred Hensley, university relations director at Western.

Strode, senior vice president of Trans Financial Bank, was appointed Dec. 7, 1987, by then Gov. Martha Layne Collins. He was sworn in Jan. 7, 1988.

Strode said the two biggest ac-

complishments he's been part of has been the selection of Dr. Thomas Meredith as president and development of Western XXI, a plan for the school's future.

Strode and the other regents are meeting today to hear information about the budget for next year, Hensley said. About a year ago Meredith appointed a committee to study the various departmental budgets following the guidelines set down in Western XXI.

One part of the budget that has been under fire has been the money spent on athletics. Western XXI originally classified athletic in the desirable category — programs Western desires to offer as long as resources permit.

That classification was changed to essential — programs essential to WKU. Each program in this category should be directed to strive for excellence."

Western's Faculty Senate recently passed the first reading of a resolu-

tion that athletics be dropped back to the desirable category, and the group also released an annual report critical of the amount of money athletics spent versus what they took in.

But Strode does not agree that athletics should be pushed to the back of the line.

"I think a major, comprehensive university like Western Kentucky University should have a high-quality athletic program," he said. "Also, I would say then that there are ways that our university and athletic programs can be more financially prudent."

Strode said he thinks the money problems with athletics have been "misrepresented, or misunderstood, maybe that's the word."

"If we budget X dollars for certain areas, whether it be a certain department or athletics in general, if we are living within that budget, then we need to be satisfied with that I think," he said.

Regents approve tenures

By JASON SUMMERS 5-14-91
Daily News Staff Writer

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents on Monday approved recommendations for granting tenure and, with some argument, passed recommendations for other personnel changes.

Of the 18 people granted tenure, two each came from the College of Business Administration, the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences and Ogden College of Science, Technology and Health. Three people in the university libraries department were tenured and nine people from Potter College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences also received tenure.

The tenure question passed with little debate, but Regent Robert Chambless wanted to delay action on any other personnel changes.

President Thomas Meredith said the personnel changes have been the province of the president for years and the decisions are carried out as necessary. The board approves them after the fact in many cases, he said.

"To delay the majority of the action ... would be moot," he said.

Chambless wanted to delay the decisions "until we are further along in the budget process.

"We don't have money in the budget yet," he said. "And I don't want to spend money we don't have."

Meredith said he hopes to have the budget to the regents within a couple of weeks, so they will have time to study it before the June 12 meeting.

The board asked about progress on the construction of two dormitories and the student health and activities center and was told the projects are slightly behind schedule because of weather delays and problems moving more rock from the ground than was projected would be there.

"It's always a pleasant surprise when you go underground in Bowling Green," Meredith said.

One of the two dorms is supposed to be ready for occupancy by the spring semester but may not be because of the delay, said Paul Cook, executive vice president.

"We're hoping to have one ready by January, and that's going to be tight," Cook said, "because if it's going to be ready for occupancy it has to be ready by December."

Regents decide to end ties

By REBECCA MORRIS
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents voted Monday to end all ties later this year between Western and the WKU Credit Union.

Western, which was one of the credit union's original 1963 charters, according to the state Department of Financial Institutions, will terminate its relationship with the credit union at the close of business Dec. 31.

The decision to cut the ties between the two came from the credit union's refusal to restrict its service base, according to the resolution adopted by regents.

"The Board of Regents has undertaken an extensive review of the relationship between the university and the credit union in light of its vastly expanded services and customer base," the resolution said. "The university requested that the credit union restrict its customer base to only those directly related to

the university; however, the credit union expressed its intention to continue to expand its customer base beyond the university environment to include persons and groups with no relationship to the university."

The severing means the credit union office on campus will be closed. Regents also asked that the credit union delete Western Kentucky University from its name.

The regents' action will not endanger the credit union, according to

between Western, credit union

Valerie Kinder, its president.

"It's going to give us an opportunity for continued expansion and even greater service to our customers throughout the region," she said.

The credit union now serves Western students, faculty, staff and alumni.

But with the disassociation between the credit union and school, service could be extended to small businesses throughout the region, Mrs. Kinder said.

"We'll be in a position now that smaller companies that want credit union services could come in," she said. "That's the kind of expansion we can consider now.

"We're very sorry for the inconvenience the regents have caused credit union members by their action, but I don't think we're going to lose any of our membership," Mrs. Kinder said.

The credit union's large office at 1609 Campbell Lane and automatic teller machines in Bowling Green

will help make up for the lost office space at Western, she said.

The credit union's board of directors was scheduled to meet at noon today and would discuss the situation, Mrs. Kinder said.

The board also was to consider how to handle the university's request that the credit union change its name, she said.

"That was our chartered name," Mrs. Kinder said. "Our board will have to choose whether to change the name."

WKU budget focuses on salary hikes

By REBECCA MORRIS 7-30-91
Daily News Staff Writer

Faculty and staff at Western Kentucky University will receive the lion's share of a \$6.69 million budget increase, but university leaders said they remain unsatisfied with salary levels.

Eight of Western's 10 regents voted Monday to approve a \$109 million operating budget for fiscal year 1991-92, nearly a month after the fiscal year began July 1. The university has been operating on an emergency spending plan since that time to meet payroll.

The budget was delayed as regents reviewed university spending to see if funds could be transferred from inefficient or non-essential areas to higher-priority ones.

Regents Danny Butler and Robert Chambless did not cast votes during voting on the budget.

"I was not really pleased with all aspects of the budget," Butler said after the meeting. "I didn't want to vote against it, but I didn't want to vote for it either."

Chambless refused to comment.

About \$5.3 million of the budget increase, or 83 percent, will go toward employee compensation and benefits, Western President Thomas Meredith said.

The school has been struggling for years to bring salaries to levels competitive with comparable schools, he said.

"We've been making major commitments to salaries, but we're not there yet," Meredith said.

Faculty and staff doing acceptable work received base-pay raises of 5 percent. Merit raises of up to 3 percent also will be available, pushing the increase for those judged as exceptional employees to a maximum of 8 percent.

The raises are retroactive to July 1.

Earlier this year, Western's Faculty Senate pushed for a 9-percent raise.

While expressing his continued support for employee raises, Meredith asked regents to limit his annual raise to 3.5 percent this year. Regents approved the request.

Meredith's salary before the increase was \$96,540.

The remainder of the budget increase will go toward research grants, scholarships, campus improvements and realignment of faculty and graduate positions under Western XXI, the university's long-range plan unveiled last fall.

Regents also approved adopting tuition and fees set by the state Council on Higher Education earlier this year.

Tuition for Kentucky residents will be \$720 per semester for undergraduates, up from \$660 last year. For Kentucky graduate students, tuition climbed \$70, to \$790 per semester.

Non-Kentucky residents will pay \$2,020 per semester to attend Western as undergraduates, up from \$1,840 a year ago, and \$2,230 per semester as graduate students, up from \$2,020.

Semester rental rates for university housing also increased with an air-conditioned dormitory room now costing \$510 per semester, up from \$475 last fall. Rooms not air-conditioned are \$495, up from \$460 in 1990.

The school anticipates maintaining enrollment levels at last fall's record of more than 15,000 students, Meredith said.

"Every data indication we have says enrollment should be down, given the lower numbers of high school graduates," he said. "Our

recruiters are doing a fantastic job."

Western's two new regents, Steve Catron and Heather Falmlen, were sworn in before the business meeting. The oath of office for both was administered by Kentucky Supreme Court Judge Charles Reynolds.

Catron, a Bowling Green attorney, replaces Wendell Strode on the board, and Ms. Falmlen, a Winchester theatre major, replaces student regent Michael Colvin.

Western gets late budget containing \$109 million

\$4.8 million set for faculty, staff raises

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Nearly a month after its fiscal year began, Western Kentucky University yesterday finally received a \$109 million operating budget.

The budget spends \$6.69 million more than last year's. Most of that increase — more than \$4.8 million — is going toward faculty and staff raises.

Faculty and staff members doing acceptable work received base pay raises of 5 percent; another 3 percent was to be doled out as additional merit pay raises. Therefore, someone doing an exceptional job could receive as much as an 8 percent raise, several university administrators said yesterday.

The exception was Western President Thomas Meredith. He told the regents to limit his pay increase to 3.5 percent, and they accepted his request. Meredith's salary before that raise took effect was \$96,540.

Western has struggled for years to bring faculty and staff pay up to a level competitive with other "benchmark" schools, "but we're not there yet," Meredith said yesterday. Earlier this year, Western's faculty senate had pushed for a 9 percent raise.

Yesterday, former faculty senate chairman Bart White called Meredith's salary offer "an appropriate gesture." White also said he believed the faculty was "fairly pleased" with the raises, which Meredith proposed earlier this year and are to be retroactive to July 1.

Current faculty senate chairman Arvin Vos was traveling yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Another \$1 million of the \$6.69 million additional spending went for items such as new research grants, new scholarships, and money for campus improvements.

That left Western with about \$788,000 to spend on its well-publicized "Western 21" plan for the university's future. The plan, unveiled last fall, ranked the university's academic and support programs according

to how essential they are and whether they enhance the university's reputation.

Cecile Garmon, Western's director of budget and planning, said Western 21 influenced how money for graduate assistantships was assigned, and it influenced a shuffling of some full-time faculty slots among departments.

For example, Western added more graduate assistantship money to its programs in coal chemistry, education, folk studies, psychology and school administration, all considered to be of top importance, to Western. In return, the business and community colleges, the library, and the program for city and regional planning all lost their graduate assistantship money, and assistantship funding for other programs was reduced.

At least five full-time faculty slots were taken from the home economics, government, sociology and computer-science departments and added to the history, journalism, education, communication and mathematics departments, Garmon said.

Along with Western 21, the university also spent a year reviewing its budget to see whether more money could be squeezed from some inefficient or non-essential areas and used for higher-priority items. The review was one reason Western's regents were a month late in passing the budget.

However, the budget review failed to find any extra money, Garmon said. Instead, it determined that Western's departments need to more accurately predict their spending when budgeting, Garmon said the review committee found too many instances of unanticipated expenses, she said.

That has been a faculty complaint about athletics, for which \$2.3 million will be allotted this year — about 21 percent more than last year. White has described the faculty complaint in terms of academic departments having to watch their pennies "while athletics has an unlimited credit card."

To answer that complaint, Western is hiring three new assistant athletic directors, including one to manage Western's sports business. That assistant will be charged with keeping athletics within its budget. The second assistant will market Western's football and basketball programs to boost ticket sales, and the third will coordinate the use of the university's sports facilities and equipment.

Paul Cook, executive vice president for administrative affairs, said the money for the three new assistants is coming from an additional \$258,000 from the NCAA.

In a related matter, Regent Danny Butler of Greensburg yesterday persuaded the regents to rename Western's football field after retired athletic director Jimmy Feix. The stadium will continue to be called the L.T. Smith Stadium.

Some students to get WKU tuition reduction; dependents of full-time faculty, staff eligible

8-1-91

A Daily News report

A tuition reduction program approved this week by Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents could be a powerful faculty recruiting tool, according to university President Thomas Meredith.

The program, which takes effect this fall, provides a 50-percent tuition reduction to the dependent children of full-time Western faculty and staff.

The program will make Western more competitive in faculty recruitment, Meredith said. Many other universities throughout the state and

nation offer some type of tuition reduction for employees' dependents, he said.

Universities nationwide have faculty shortages, and fringe benefits are becoming more important in recruiting, he said.

The program also will help attract students to Western, Meredith said.

"This will help us keep some of our best and brightest students at home," he said.

Incoming freshmen and current undergraduates are eligible for the program. Students must maintain a

2.0 grade point average to remain eligible.

Those receiving the reduction also may be eligible for scholarships and financial aid, but the students will not be allowed to receive more funds than attending the university costs.

Western has about 1,600 full-time employees, said Mike Dale, university personnel director.

"We really don't have any figures in terms of how many children will be eligible," he said. "I guess we'll find out at registration."



Staff Photo by Tracy Glantz

THE WESTERN KENTUCKY University Credit Union on campus will be allowed to remain open for the time being, but the Board of Regents passed a resolution Wednesday calling for bids to be accepted from banking institutions interested in using the facility.

WKU credit union gets a temporary reprieve

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

9-19-91

The Western Kentucky University Credit Union might have received a stay of execution for its on-campus facility at Western Kentucky University.

The school's Board of Regents voted unanimously during a special meeting Wednesday to allow the credit union to rent the campus space until a lease is awarded to a financial institution for providing such services.

The approved resolution allows the credit union to bid on the on-campus space along with other banking businesses.

The resolution also mandates requesting that the space in Garrett Conference Center now being used by the credit union be put out for bid so the faculty and students won't be without on-campus financial services.

"It's important that the services they are receiving presently will not be lost," said student Regent Heather Falmlen, who with faculty Regent Eugene Evans requested the meeting to clarify the board's position.

"I do realize we're not going to make everyone happy, but I feel it's a good, legal compromise," she said.

Faculty and students have been vocal in their complaints about the possible loss of the credit union after the board passed a resolution ordering the financial institution off campus as of Dec. 31. The board's stance is that it is a legal question and not one of personal opinion.

"There seems to be a lot of misinformation concerning our intent," Evans said early in the meeting. "Last spring, we discovered that the university hosting the credit union is against the law. I considered our vote not discretionary" but mandatory.

Western President Thomas Meredith voiced concern about wording in Wednesday's resolution that said a lease would be awarded to the financial institution that would make available "the same services as are currently provided by the Western Kentucky Credit Union."

"I would suspect that there might be services the credit union can provide that banks can't," Meredith said. "Will we get into a single source bidding situation, and is that legal?"

To avoid the possibility, Regent Stephen Catron suggested deferring

the resolution to the appropriate committee with orders to prepare a bid package, but Evans said the resolution was conceptual and should avoid legal entanglements.

A delay through committee might mean a lapse of on-campus banking services after Dec. 31, Miss Falmlen said.

Faculty Senate Chairman Arvitt Vos said he is satisfied with the approved resolution.

"I am, for now," he said, cautioning that the university's losing control of the credit union might create later problems with an on-campus banking facility.

"It will be free to do what it wants without any input from the board," he said. "They won't have any control."

Evans also said he is satisfied with the board's move and hopes it will resolve some of the uproar surrounding the decision.

"I'm hoping that this means the credit union has an excellent chance of staying right where it is," he said. "A lot of people don't understand what we're trying to do. We're just trying to conform with the law."

Evans said he doesn't know when a bid package might be ready, though it could be as early as Oct. 1.

In other business, Miss Falmlen also told the board polls among students, faculty and staff have indicated support for a four-day weekend fall break. The idea is to be discussed at the board's October meeting.

Health service future concerns WKU students

*Privatization is one option
of school's Board of Regents*

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

9-24-91
Concern that the Board of Regents might vote to privatize Western Kentucky University's Student Health Service could be premature, though it's good that students are taking an interest in the on-campus service, according to Kevin Charles, director of the service.

"In Western XXI, the Student Health Service was categorized as essential and recommended for careful review," Charles said Monday to members of the Residence Hall Association and the Student Health Advisory Committee. "One recommendation (of the review) is privatization. But the real recommendation is that it is essential."

Western XXI is the university's blueprint of where it wants to be entering the 21st century.

The board will consider privatization as one of several options for the service, said Charles, who had been asked to speak to the two groups about the status of the service. Others include general fund allocations, a prepaid health fee, fees for services rendered and health insurance.

Students have become increasingly concerned about the possibility that the service will be turned over to a private health service, possibly leading to increased medical costs for students that could compare to off-campus doctors' visits. Some of services offered by health services now are contracted out to private businesses.

Office visits at the health clinic are \$5. Some lab work can be done at a minimal extra cost.

The advisory committee is circulating petitions among students asking that the health service remain under university control and, since Sept. 16, has collected about 1,300 signatures it plans to present to the Board of Regents at its Oct. 31 board meeting.

Residence Hall Association on Monday passed a resolution saying its members are "totally appalled at the very thought of the privatization" of the service.

37
Charles and others will have a meeting with the board's finance committee before the regents' meeting to discuss the options, Charles said.

Charles said he is unsure why possible privatization is receiving so much attention when there are several options.

"I think students are realizing it may depersonalize care," he said.

Advisory committee Chairman Kira Prewitt said the attention stems from students realizing the importance of the service.

"People are so set against it because it is the one that would be the most detrimental," she said. "The university would be losing control of it."

Charles said he supports increasing the \$12.50 prepaid health service fee included with tuition, though he feels all options, including privatization should be considered by the board.

The health service came under scrutiny in Western XXI because it is funded in part by \$177,000 from the school's general fund.

The advisory committee hopes to have at least 3,500 signatures on its petition before the regents' meeting.

Western regents to hear proposals on future of student health service

Director of service will address board; students' opinions to be a key in decision

10-7-91
By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

Members of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents are hoping Tuesday to learn enough about the campus' student health care service to make an educated decision about the future of the facility.

"I think this is a fact-finding mission," Regent Bob Bartley said. "They're supposed to have information on what other schools are doing."

Student Health Services Director Kevin Charles will address the board about the options during a special meeting at 4 p.m. in the Regents Conference Room of Wetherby Administration Building.

But Regent Stephen Catron said students' opinions also will be a key in the final decision.

"I haven't heard from students," Catron said. "That's what I would like to hear (Tuesday). They've been provided an opportunity to speak, so I assume we'll hear from them."

Kira Prewitt, chairwoman of the university's Student Health Advisory Committee, said she plans to speak if allowed to and knows of others students who also hope to be heard.

"They could not find a private

health service that could duplicate the cost, service and friendly, caring atmosphere of our health service," Miss Prewitt said. "The nurses really care, and many students have told me that they would not use it (the health service) if it was privatized."

The committee is circulating a petition asking that the board not privatize the service. More than 2,000 signatures have been collected.

The health care service came under scrutiny in Western XXI because it is funded in part by \$177,000 from the school's general fund.

Students have become increasingly concerned about the possibility that the service will be turned over to a private health service, possibly leading to increased medical costs for students comparable to off-campus doctors' visits. Some of the services now offered by health services are contracted out to private businesses.

The regents said the concern isn't necessarily undue, even though there are other less drastic options to consider.

"Their concern — anybody's concern — is a healthy issue," Bartley said. "I'm sure there'll be

some kind of health care on campus."

Heather Falmlen, student regent and Associated Student Government president, said the response is overwhelming.

"The vast majority of students have been very vocal about privatization," she said. "I think this is going to be a much more educated group (of students). They've been reading and researching this."

That doesn't mean students aren't open minded about the situation, she said.

The regents "are going to have to present a really good case for privatization before the students agree to that," she said.

Charles in September told the Residence Hall Association of the options available for the service — shortly before it passed a resolution opposing privatization.

Among those options is a general fund allocation, a prepaid health fee, fees for services rendered and health insurance.

Students now pay a \$12.50 fee along with tuition and \$5 for an office visit to the service.

Charles supports increasing the \$12.50 fee.

The regents will take a tour of the on-campus health services center before the 4 p.m. meeting, Regent Bob Bartley said.

Those wishing to be heard at the meeting must submit a written request today.

WKU regents learn ways to keep center healthy

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents on Tuesday was presented several possible ways to decrease costs — without cuts in services — for the Student Health Services.

"The only thing I can say about health services nationwide is that there is no (one) right way," Student Health Services Director Kevin Charles told regents during the meeting.

Instead, regents — many of whom took a tour of the Student Health Services' facilities before the meeting — were presented with several options for operating the service, including general fund allocations, prepaid health fees, fees for services, making health service private and health insurance or grants.

Student Health Services' funding has decreased from 100 percent when it opened in 1968 to about 33 percent the past school year, Charles said.

Additional funding comes from partial prepaid fees, which were established in 1980 and increased a few years ago, and a minimal charge for office visits.

Making the health service private has been under heavy criticism from students, who fear such a move could lead to health-care costs to

rival off-campus medical treatment.

"They're afraid the cost will go up so much they might as well go to the outside," said Kira Prewitt, Student Health Advisory Committee chairwoman. "They say they can go to Student Health Services and not feel judged" for their health problems.

Miss Prewitt was the only student to address the board, to the disappointment of some regents.

"We were hoping we'd have more students' comments," board Chairman Joe Iracane said.

When asked if students would mind an increase in the student health fee — \$12.50 that is tucked away in the student activities fee included with tuition — Miss Prewitt said she didn't think so.

"Most students don't know about the fee," she said.

More widespread knowledge of the fee would lead to increased use of the facility because students are more likely to utilize something they're already paying for, she said.

One option that seemed to gain early support, including an endorsement by Charles, is increasing the prepaid student fee and possibly eliminating costs for office visits.

Students now pay \$5 a visit plus the cost of any lab work and prescriptions.

If the prepaid fee is increased, the additional cost of lab work and



Staff Photo by Tracy Glantz

KEVIN CHARLES (third from right), director of Western Kentucky University's Student Health Services, stands beside President Thomas Meredith (fourth from right) while giving administrators and regents a tour on Tuesday of the health center. The tour was part of an informational meeting for the regents, who are considering alternative funding for the center.

prescriptions would have to remain because some lab tests cost as little as \$6, while others cost as much as \$40, a difference that couldn't be covered in one fee, Regent Fred Travis said.

The prepaid fee, as part of tuition, is covered by financial aid. The cost of office visits is not.

Student Regent Heather Falmlen said she hopes to hear from students about the possibility of increasing the prepaid fee.

"I don't want to cast a vote for this and find out later they don't support us," she said.

Charles considered the meeting a success.

"I heard a lot of people say they were more informed, which was the purpose," he said.

Iracane agreed that the meeting was helpful.

"It was extremely beneficial to me," he said. "I plead ignorant to many of the things (said). I understand it more."

The board could make a decision about the Student Health Services as early as its scheduled Oct. 31 meeting, but a decision at that time has not been promised, Charles said.

WKU regent chairman releases 'mission statement' mapping goals

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

C. J. 10-17-77

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — In response to criticism from different sources, Western Kentucky University regent chairman Joe Iracane unveiled a "mission statement" for the school yesterday, which he said is guiding the regents in their decisions.

The nine-page document, written mostly by Iracane, contains few surprises. For example, a top policy goal is concentrating "the fiscal resources of the university . . . in such a manner as to improve the quality of the academic programs."

Western President Thomas Meredith, who attended the news conference but did not speak, commented on Iracane's statement afterward: "It would be hard to be in disagreement" with the document.

In an interview afterward, Iracane explained that some in the university community haven't understood that the regents are following up on recommendations set out by Western 21, a long-range planning docu-

ment that assigned priorities to academic and support programs. A university-wide budget review accompanied Western 21.

Some of those recommendations urged the regents to take a closer look at the university's student-health services, food services, athletics funding, and development (fund-raising) efforts. Iracane appointed a series of committees last week to study those issues.

So far, the regents' review of student-health services — with an eye toward possibly turning those services over to a private company — has drawn much student opposition. Iracane said the regents think the health services should be self-supporting, something a private company could guarantee.

However, he said, the regents held an informational meeting on the issue last week and learned that the health services are closer to being self-supporting than originally thought. But he still hasn't ruled out the possibility of a private company running them, he said.

This week, Iracane was one of several regents criticized by another

regent, Bobby Bartley of Glasgow, for being only "interested in sports and penny-ante stuff." Bartley did not attend the news conference, and could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Iracane said the regents have been urging Meredith to streamline the university's spending and to save for the inevitable time when Western's growth "comes to a screeching halt."

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's announcement Tuesday of a projected \$155 million shortfall in state revenues highlighted "exactly" what he was talking about, Iracane said. Early indications are that Western may lose up to \$2.4 million because of that shortfall, said Paul Cook, Western's executive vice president for administrative affairs. Cook said that represents about 2 percent of the school's \$109 million budget.

"I don't feel we should wait until there's knife at our throat," Iracane said. The university should be tightening its belt now, he said, so "if there's a budget cut we're ready to react to it."

Business leaders want

By DAVID C.L. BAUER
and ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writers

10-22-91

Growing dissatisfaction with the path Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents is carving — a path some speculate is the impetus for Western President Thomas Meredith interviewing with a Florida university — has prompted a group of powerful business leaders to request a meeting with the regents, during which Chairman Joe Iracane will be asked to leave his post.

Twenty-five to 30 business leaders, mostly presidents and chief executive officers of Bowling Green and Warren County businesses and financial institu-

tions, met Monday to draft a statement to the regents showing their support for Meredith, who leaves Thursday for an interview at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

Meredith is one of 13 finalists for the president's post at the school.

Most of those attending the meeting downplayed the letter, which was being drafted today for distribution to the regents. A copy of the letter, as well as a list of meeting participants, was not available.

Some of participants said it was meant to display solidarity for the things Meredith, who has been Western's president since August 1988, is doing.

"The group did not take any position on

regent Iracane out

(Iracane)," said Wendell Strode, a senior vice president at Trans Financial Bank and a former Western regent. "That's not in our communication at all. That would be a decision for the board to make. It's a message" of support for Meredith.

Others in attendance alluded to problems at the university but declined to discuss specifics.

"It's a group of people who recognize Western Kentucky University is a very important part of the community, whose interests are best served by President Meredith, not served by individual board members," said David Cole, an attorney for Cole, Broderick, Minton, Moore & Thornton, who attended Monday's meeting.

When asked whether the group perceived problems with the Board of Regents, Van Meter Insurance President Chip Van Meter, who said he was one of the organizers of Monday's meeting, said: "We think so. Yes." He declined to elaborate, saying he does not know specifics.

But reports of disagreements between Iracane and Meredith — reports both deny have any bearing on Meredith's pursuing the UCF post — weighed heavy on the minds of those attending the meeting, according to several who attended and spoke on the condi-

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

Iracane

From
Page 1

tion of anonymity.

"A lot of the focus (of the meeting) was on the current chairman ... and the direction he is taking with the university," the source said. "There's a lot of displeasure with his representation."

When asked whether the group would use its meeting, requested for Saturday and coming just days before the board's scheduled Oct. 31 regular meeting, to ask that Iracane either step down as chairman of the board or remove himself from the board, the business leader said: "If you were to print that, it would not be inaccurate."

Iracane, who has been a member of Western's board since July 1980 and its chairman since September

1984, could not be reached for comment.

Iracane's secretary said he is out of the country and will not return until Friday. She said he has not been in contact with his office or his wife since he left a few days ago and they have no number by which to reach him.

Meredith, who was traveling today between Frankfort and Lexington, also was unavailable for comment.

Dennis Griffin, president of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, said the meeting brought out a lot of support for Meredith.

"There was a desire to get some

of the business leaders together and see if we all share the same beliefs," Griffin said. "The meeting was for business leaders to get together and see how best to express that support, and one of the things was to let the Board of Regents know there is tremendous support for Dr. Meredith."

David Broderick, an attorney for Cole, Broderick, Minton, Moore & Thornton, attended Monday's meeting and said the group wants the board "to recognize the things Thomas Meredith has been doing" at Western.

"The group wants to keep Thomas Meredith as president and in Bowling Green," he said.

Bowling Green leaders want WKU regents to endorse Meredith

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

C.S. 10-23-91
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A group of Bowling Green area community leaders wants Western Kentucky University's regents to meet Saturday and declare their firm support for Western President Thomas Meredith.

In a letter that was to be mailed last night, the group also says it wants the regents to ask Meredith to withdraw his name from consideration as president "of any other academic institution." And it reminds the regents that "it is not the role of a Board member to become involved in the day to day operation of the University or individual personnel matters."

If Western's regents decline to meet and publicly endorse Meredith, the group wants the regents to elect a new chairman and vice chairman, according to the letter.

The current regents chairman,

Joe Iracane of Owensboro, and vice chairman, Patsy Judd of Burkesville, could not be reached for comment last night. Ronda Iracane said her husband is traveling and she wasn't sure if his plans would allow him to be at Western on Saturday.

Referring to controversies that have surrounded some other university presidents in Kentucky, letter co-author John David Cole said in an interview: "We want very, very much for Western to avoid becoming embroiled in the controversies that have occurred at Murray, Morehead and just recently Kentucky State University. If Western loses a president in three years, it has a negative influence on Western's ability to attract a person of caliber. (And) if it hurts Western, it hurts the entire system of public higher education in Kentucky."

"If you're an educator deciding

whether to accept a position in Kentucky, you have to ask yourself if this happened at Morehead and Murray and Kentucky State, well, is Western next? Or U of L? Or UK?" said Cole, himself a former chairman of Western's board of regents.

KSU President John Wolfe resigned Friday immediately before a hearing of that school's board of regents that could have led to his ouster. Murray's regents refused to renew Kala Stroup's contract in 1990. And Herb Reinhard left Morehead amid controversy in 1986.

The 39 signatures on the letter read like a "Who's Who" of part of Western's service area: Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce Chairman Bob Aldridge. Past chamber Chairman Harold Brantley. Former Western regents Cole, Wendell Strode, Tom Emberton, of Edmonton, and Steve Thornton (who was a student regent). State Reps. Jody Richards and Billy Ray Smith and state Sen. Nick Kafoglis. Warren County Judge-Executive Basil Griffin. Glasgow City Council member Sam Lawson. Bowling Green Mayoral Candidate Johnny Webb. Joe Medalie, vice chairman of Union Underwear.

There are dentists, doctors, attorneys, bankers, restaurant owners, insurance executives, a horse breeder and a road contractor. Strode and Cole wrote the letter yesterday after attending a meeting Monday at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce office.

Strode labeled it as a "plea to try to improve the working environment at the university and try to foster an environment that encourages Dr. Meredith to stay at Western as president."

Both he and Cole said a local news account that the group wanted "Iracane out" was incorrect. The Daily News of Bowling Green quoted an unnamed "business leader" as saying the group wanted Iracane to either step down as chairman or remove himself from the board.

The two said the group had avoided pointing fingers at specific regents or listing specific problems in an effort to keep a rift between Meredith and some of the regents from widening.

Meredith could not be reached for comment last night. He is scheduled to visit the University of Central Florida in Orlando Friday as one of 13 candidates for that school's presidency. Meredith said last week it was the first presidential candidacy he had agreed to consider since he came to Western in August 1988.

Regents Danny Butler, Robert Chambless, Bobby Bartley, Fred Travis and student regent Heather Falmlen could not be reached for comment last night. Faculty regent Eugene Evans declined to comment.

Regent Monnie Hankins of Louisville, reached last night, said only, "That's very unusual, an outside entity asking a board to meet."

Regent Stephen Catron, who lives in Bowling Green, said he "would respond very favorably" to the community's request for a regents' endorsement of Meredith. Catron also said he thought it should be "the highest priority" of the regents to resolve Meredith's situation since Western is facing other pressing issues, such as its quest to start a doctoral program in education administration.

Keeping Meredith at Western is aim

By DAVID C.L. BAUER
Daily News Staff Writer 10-23-91

A group of Bowling Green and Warren County business and community leaders is asking Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents to woo President Thomas Meredith into withdrawing his name from consideration for a presidential post at an Orlando, Fla., university.

Failing that, the group is seeking a "change (in) the leadership of the Board of Regents." That leadership includes Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro, who has been its chairman since September 1984 and on Western's board since July 1980.

Spokesmen for the group of 39 business and community leaders who met Monday to discuss showing their support for Meredith said the group is not targeting Iracane or any other regent for removal, but some of those who attended Monday's meeting maintain that is a goal.

A letter sent to members of the Board of Regents as a result of that meeting highlights Meredith's accomplishments at Western and urges the board to meet with the group to discuss the role of the board in overseeing Western.

Letter authors Wendell Strode, a former regent, and John David Cole, a Bowling Green attorney, told the Louisville Courier-Journal a story in Tuesday's Daily

News about the group wanting Iracane ousted either from his chairmanship or from the board itself was incorrect.

But at least three business leaders maintain that was the ultimate intent of the letter and a requested meeting Saturday. Others alluded to perceived disagreements between Iracane and Meredith — disagreements that some speculate have caused Meredith to look closely at a position with the University of Central Florida.

One of the three who spoke Tuesday to the Daily News on the condition of anonymity, reiterated today that the Daily News story "was on the mark."

Those whose names are on the letter are Bob Aldridge, B.J. Booth, Harold Brantley, Richard W. Bridges, David Broderick, Lloyd Cassady, Jerry Cohron, Mary Cohron, Cole, Dan Davis, Rick DuBose, Tom Emberton, Bob Fitch, David Garvin, Jack Glasser, Basil Griffin, Dennis Griffin, Nick Kafoglis, Richard H. Kelley, Lester Key, Sam Lawson, Doug Lester, Peggy Loafman, Mike Manship, Cecil Martin, Jerry Martin, Joe Medalie, John D. Minton Jr., Jody Richards, Frank St. Charles, James Scott, Frank Moore Jr., George Shaw, Billy Ray Smith, Strode, Steve

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

Meredith

10-23-91

Thornton, Chip VanMeter, Johnny Webb and David Wiseman.

Many of those contacted Tuesday and today did not return calls or declined to openly discuss the meeting.

"I think each individual person has a right to express their individual opinion," Strode said today. But this letter was sent "as a group. This was a group letter ... a group position (and) everybody approved it prior to being sent."

The letter, which Strode said was mailed late Tuesday to each member of the Board of Regents, cites accomplishments by Meredith since he took over at the helm of Western three years ago.

"This letter is written in support of Western Kentucky University, and specifically in support of President Thomas Meredith, whose continued leadership we believe to be in the best interest of the university. We are distressed by the thought that President Meredith may choose to leave to assume the leadership of another institution," the letter said in part.

"The tenure of President Meredith is one of accomplishment and vision, with strong state and national relationships. The ac-

complishments during the Meredith administration include: enrollment is the highest in the history of Western; faculty and students continue to reach new levels of excellence; personal leadership that has established a strong relationship between the university and community and regional, state and national groups; capital construction is the highest in two decades, with current projects in planning or construction in excess of \$38 million; private funding support for the university is at an all-time high," it continued.

The letter asks regents to adopt a resolution expressing public confidence and support for Meredith and requesting that he withdraw his name from consideration at UCF.

Should the board not adopt such a resolution, the group requests it "change the leadership of the Board of Regents," according to the letter.

Strode denied, however, that changing the leadership specifically targeted Chairman Iracane.

"We're not focusing on any individual board member," he said.

Iracane, who is out of the country until Friday, could not be reached for comment.

"We wanted to show support for

Dr. Meredith and we're asking the board to do what we think is the responsible thing," Strode said. "We're one group trying to address another group."

Meredith, who will visit UCF's campus Friday after being named as one of 13 finalists for the president's post there, could not be reached today for comment.

Regent Fred Travis of Glasgow, who had yet to receive his copy of the letter, said he wants "to see Tom Meredith stay."

"I sure do. I think he's good for the university and for the state of Kentucky," Travis said. "I do back Tom Meredith and I do want him to stay."

He declined comment on whether there is a perception among board members of problems between any board members and Meredith.

Other regents contacted today either could not be reached for comment or did not return telephone calls.

Board Secretary Liz Esters said today that she had no knowledge of any meeting yet being scheduled for Saturday.

The board will meet in regular session Oct. 31.

Western regents yet to respond

and DAVID C.L. BAUER
Daily News Staff Writers

16-24-91

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents — the members of which were mailed copies Tuesday of a letter sent by business and community leaders with ties to Western who want a public show of support for President Thomas Meredith — have yet to respond to the group's requested Saturday afternoon meeting.

Meredith was scheduled to leave today for Orlando, Fla., to interview with the University of Central Florida. Meredith is one of 12 people being considered for the president's post at the school.

Some, including some of the 39 who signed the letter to Western's board, have said they think there is the perception of tension between Meredith and some of the members of the Board of Regents.

Meredith and board Chairman Joe Iracane, who has been targeted by some as the source of the tension, have denied that had any bearing on Meredith's decision to interview with the 23,500-student university.

But a majority of the business and community leaders who attended a meeting Monday that spawned the letter to regents think Iracane's either leaving the board, on which he has been a member since 1980, or leaving the post as chairman, which he has maintained since 1984, is the ultimate goal, according to at least four business leaders who attended the meeting.

Iracane, who is out of the country on business and could not be

reached today for comment, is expected to return Friday.

The letter mailed to board members asked regents to publicly show their support for Meredith and ask him to withdraw his name from the UCF opening. Failing that, the letter said, the group is seeking a "change (in) the leadership of the Board of Regents."

The spokesmen for the group and co-authors of the letter to the board, former regents Wendell Strode, a vice president at Trans Financial Bank, and J. David Cole, a Bowling Green attorney, have said the group is not targeting any specific individuals on the Board of Regents.

Many of those who attended the meeting Monday, however, privately maintain the goal is to remove Iracane from the board or from chairmanship of the board.

Apparently, the reason for such a move is the perception by some of Iracane's views on how the university should be run and Meredith's role in overseeing university matters.

"I have personally witnessed one such event," said businessman B.J. Booth, one of those who signed the letter. "There have been other incidents, from what I hear, that have happened where President Meredith's authority, not ability, was interfered with" by Iracane.

Others contacted today said they were not necessarily aware of the board or any of its members involving themselves in Western's day-to-day operations but pointed out that Western having had three presidents in little more than 10 years, with Meredith having been here since mid-1988, is part of the reason there is a perception of discord between the board and past presidents.

"I want to be very careful in saying that I have no direct knowledge that the board is involving itself in the day-to-day operations of the university; I hope not, that should be the chief administrative duty of the president," said Bob Aldridge, who signed the letter to

regents. "We've had three presidents here in the recent few years and there is some perception that there is some dissension among the regents and these presidents."

South Central Bank President Bob Fitch, who also signed the letter, agreed.

"We seem to have a revolving door, not only on presidents, but on coaches," he said.

Although board members who were called Wednesday and today declined to comment on whether they perceive problems between the president and other board members, several did express their desire to see Meredith stay at Western. Others could not be reached for comment or did not return calls.

"I think he's good for the University and for the state of Kentucky," regent Fred Travis of Glasgow said. "I do back Tom Meredith and I do want him to stay."

Regent Danny Butler of Greensburg said he thinks the letter spoke strongly of the community reaction to Meredith.

The letter highlights Meredith's accomplishments at Western since he took over at the helm of the school three years ago.

"This letter is written in support of Western Kentucky University, and specifically in support of President Thomas Meredith, whose continued leadership we believe to be in the best interest of the university. We are distressed by the thought that President Meredith may choose to leave to assume the leadership of another institution," the letter said in part. "The tenure of President Meredith is one of accomplishment and vision, with strong state and national relationships..."

The letter sought a meeting between the business and community leaders Saturday afternoon. As of early today, none of the regents had requested such a meeting be arranged through board secretary Liz Esters, according to Meredith's office.

The board will meet in regular session Oct. 31.

WKU regents won't be able to meet

Western Kentucky University regents won't meet tomorrow as requested by a group of Bowling Green civic leaders, regents Vice Chairman Patsy Judd said yesterday.

"It's not possible to schedule a meeting on such short notice," Judd said.

On Tuesday the civic leaders sent letters to regents asking them to meet tomorrow to express their support for Western President Thomas Meredith and to ask him to withdraw his name from any university presidential searches. C.V. 10-25-71

Iracane denies any rift with Western president

By DAVID C.L. BAUER and ANGELA GARRETT *Daily News Staff Writers* 10-25-91

Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane denies there is any rift between him and President Thomas Meredith and said today the speculation of such a rift will not prompt him to leave the chairman's post he has held for nearly eight years.

If nominated for the chairmanship when the board meets Thursday to reorganize its leadership, Iracane said he will pursue the position.

Speculation of growing tension between Iracane, a regent since 1980, and Meredith, who is in Florida today interviewing for a presidential post at the University of Central Florida, has prompted some business and community leaders to write to the board, requesting it adopt a public show of support for Meredith and urge him to remain at Western. A meeting requested by the group for Saturday will not be held, ac-

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

ording to board Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd of Burkesville. She said in a statement issued Thursday that there was too short a notice given and many of the regents will not be available to meet Saturday.

"Members of the board appreciate the interest of the people listed and the support these individuals give to Western Kentucky University," Ms. Judd said in the statement.

Iracane said he is trying to respond to those who wrote the letter, which was mailed late Tuesday to each regent.

The letter requested that, should the board fail to adopt a public statement of support for Meredith, who joined Western in August 1988, there be a "change (in) the leadership of the Board of Regents."

Letter co-author Wendell Strode, a vice president for Trans Financial Bank and a former regent, said today that the business leaders have not been able to discuss, as a group, the board's response to its request. The group plans to meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce to discuss what to do next. Other business and community members may attend, he said.

A letter was being drafted today to ask to speak at the board's regularly scheduled meeting Thursday, he said.

"They didn't get their notice until yesterday, and they've responded in a timely manner," Strode said. "It's acceptable as long as we have a chance to speak as a community at the next meeting."

Letter co-author J. David Cole, a Bowling Green attorney and a former regent, said he accepts the response "if they say they can't make a quorum," and he doesn't view it as negative.

"My individual response is that I remain hopeful that the board will take positive action at the next meeting to show support for Western and Dr. Meredith," he said.

Strode has said the group of 39 business and community leaders sent the letter as a show of support for Meredith and the things he has accomplished at the university.

A majority of the business leaders at the meeting, however, say they are pressing for Iracane's removal either from chairmanship of the board or from the board itself, according to some who signed the letter. Those who are pushing for his removal think perceived disagreements between Iracane and Meredith led to Meredith pursuing the opening at the Florida school.

"The rift is ridiculous. There is none," said Iracane, who was out of the country much of this week and unavailable to comment when reports about the letter surfaced.

Iracane attributes reports of a rift to comments made by regent Bobby Bartley of Glasgow, who said there was nit-picking between Meredith and several board members. Bartley could not be reached for comment.

In response, a position paper was released last week after being drafted by Iracane, Ms. Judd and several other regents.

"We have indicated certain things that need to be reviewed," Iracane said, adding that he thinks the board and Meredith are side-by-side on the issues addressed in the paper. "We're looking for administration in all of these things. If that's nit-picking... I don't think it is."

The nine-page paper said regents are trying to follow up on recommendations outlined in Western XXI, a long-range document designed to plan for the future of Western and to assign priorities to

academic and other programs. Some of the recommendations to regents in Western XXI were to look closely at the overall budget of the university and such areas as student health services, athletics funding and food services.

The perception of the board being entrenched in day-to-day operations of the university, Iracane thinks, stems from when Kern Alexander was president and the board asked for a review of admissions policies and enrollment capping.

"We knew we were living off a false sense of security financially and we needed to be as cost-effective as we could, recognizing there could be a shortfall in the budget, which has now become reality," Iracane said. "I think the historic situation related to where we are today was inherited a long time ago."

Iracane, who worked with Meredith in Owensboro years ago when both were teachers there, said he supports the president and what he has accomplished.

"As far as supporting Dr. Meredith, I am supporting him," Iracane said. "There is no personal rift."

"I've known him longer than anyone else and I like to think I had a hand in getting him here," Iracane said. "Tom was nominated for a job, as was Don Zacharias and as were other good people."

Iracane also said anything he has done regarding the board has come through the board and not through one person's line of thinking.

"It's all based on policy, not personality," he said. "I am a single unit. There are 10 people on this board and I am attempting to monitor the entire board. I think that's the responsibility of a chairman."

Editorial

It's time board listened to words of community

DN 10-25-91

The words of a group of business and community leaders, sent this week in a letter to Western Kentucky University Board of Regents members, speak loudly of what should be done for Western, for President Thomas Meredith, and for the community.

The group, which is concerned that Meredith — who is in Orlando, Fla., today interviewing for the president's post at the University of Central Florida — might leave Western, wants a public show of support from the regents for Meredith.

It's the least the board should do.

Although the ultimate goal of the group of 39 business and community leaders, who have requested a meeting Saturday with the board, is being subject to different interpretations — with some saying the group wants only a show of backing for the president and others saying the group wants a change in the board's composition — the message is clear: Keep Meredith here.

Meredith, president of the university since mid-1988, has proven himself a capable leader and one who believes strongly in Western. Enrollment at the school is the highest in history

and there are strong relationships growing among Western and leaders throughout the community, region and state.

In addition, growth in terms of physical facilities continues to build, as does private funding.

But there's more at stake. Western is in danger of getting stuck with a perception as being a university not worth the time to some of the best and brightest potential draws. Consider that in little more than a decade the school has gone through three presidents.

That has to make anyone who would think of coming on board think twice about job security or satisfaction here.

The regents now say they will not be able to schedule the meeting requested by the group of 39.

The meeting, however, should take place, if not Saturday, soon.

The board should adopt a public statement of support for Meredith.

And, should that not occur, the board should look at its own composition and decide whether it is one formed in an interest for the university or for an interest in self-promotion.

If it is indeed the latter, as some speculate, it's time to make a change in the board.

Your turn

Iracane says he supports Meredith

OWENSBORO, Ky. — The chairman of Western Kentucky's regents says he supports President Thomas Meredith and doesn't want him to leave the university.

"He has my total support," Chairman Joe Iracane said after returning from a trip abroad. "I don't know what more to say on the issue."

A letter containing 39 signatures of prominent businessmen and civic leaders and three former WKU regents urged Meredith to withdraw from consideration for the presidency at the University of Central Florida in Orlando in exchange for a public endorsement from the regents.

Regarding reports of a rift between Meredith and some regents, Iracane said: "It stems from a story that Bobby Bartley, a member of our board, indicated that there was nitpicking going on between several members of our board and Dr. Meredith. Legitimately there is no nitpicking."

Iracane released a 10-page paper last week outlining the regents' position regarding Western's future. He said it was prepared by him, regent Vice Chairman Patsy Judd and several others.

"We had a press conference and I gave him a position statement of the board," Iracane said. "I don't think it's nitpicking, and neither does Tom."

Iracane said he and Meredith may have differences of opinion on approaches to things, "but as far as I'm concerned, he's the administrator. He must make the recommendations."

C.J. 10-26-71

**Leaders to plan
next WKU moves**
 By DAVID C.L. BAUER
Daily News Staff Writer
 Business and community
 leaders will meet at 8 a.m. Tues-

day at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce on State Street to discuss their next move in getting Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents to express its support for President Thomas Meredith.

A group of 39 met last week and wrote to the board, requesting a meeting with regents and the adoption of a public show of support for Meredith, who is one of 12 candidates for the president's post at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

The group's letter also asked that regents request Meredith withdraw his name from consideration for the Florida position.

Failing that, the letter said, the group seeks a change in the leadership of Western's board.

Board Vice Chairman Patsy Judd of Burkesville on Thursday issued a statement in which she

said the board could not schedule the meeting, which had been requested for Saturday, because of the short notice given and prior commitments on the parts of some regents. The letter was mailed late Tuesday, according to co-author Wendell Strode.

Board Chairman Joe Iracane said today that he has contacted some of those who signed the letter. He said he is not sure he was able to change any minds about the situation but understands their position and was able to relay his views on the matter.

The board meets Thursday to elect officers for the coming year, and business leaders are requesting to be able to address the board during that meeting.

Other business and community leaders are welcome at Tuesday's meeting, Strode said.

Meredith returned Saturday from Orlando, where he went through an initial interview Friday. He was not in his office today and could not be reached for comment.

Leaders ask to speak with Western's regents

By STAN REAGAN
Daily News Staff Writer

10-29-91

Representatives of a community group trying to keep Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith from leaving the school have asked to speak to the Board of Regents on Thursday, and members said they want to make their remarks before the board elects new officers at that meeting.

About 60 prominent people, mostly from Bowling Green's business and professional community, met today at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce to prepare for the regents' regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

"A few of us talked Friday and decided to put our Board of Regents on notice," said Wendell Strode, a former Western regent and senior vice president of Trans Financial Bank.

Strode, who moderated today's gathering, said a letter was sent to Meredith's office on

Monday asking that two members of the group be allowed to address the regents at their meeting, which begins at 12:30 p.m. at the school's Agriculture Exposition Center.

No one at today's meeting mentioned board Chairman Joe Iracane, but state Rep. Billy Ray Smith of Bowling Green stressed the need for the group's representatives to speak before the regents hold their annual election of officers. Iracane said he is interested in remaining chairman.

"Are they going to hear our questions before or after they have their election?" Smith said. "I think that is critical."

Some members of the group have said Meredith decided to interview for the presidency of the University of Central Florida in Orlando last week because friction between he and Iracane was interfering with Meredith's ability to run the university.

Iracane and Meredith have denied the allega-

tions of interference, and Iracane said from his Owensboro office that Meredith was coming there today to talk to him.

The request to speak to the board, which was required to be addressed to Meredith, is a procedural step for someone wanting to speak at a regents meeting, Strode said.

"Specifically, the sense of the group is that it is in the best interest of Western Kentucky University that you continue as president and that you withdraw your name from consideration by other schools," the letter says. "It is our firm belief that institutional stability is necessary, and your leadership and vision are necessary for the continued growth of the university."

The lone signature on the letter was that of William B. "Chip" Van Meter, president of Van Meter Insurance.

The letter follows a previous letter sent Oct.

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section



Staff Photo by Stan Reagan

BANK PRESIDENTS Frank St. Charles (left) and George Shaw talk today at a meeting of business and community leaders.

22 to the Board of Regents. That letter was signed by 39 Bowling Green business leaders.

It asked the regents to author a resolution in support of Meredith and to "change the leadership of the Board of Regents should they fail to adopt this resolution."

That letter also asked for a special meeting of the regents, but board Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd informed the group in a letter two days later that the meeting was not possible on such short notice.

Two members of the community group were elected today to speak at Thursday's regularly scheduled

meeting of the regents. They will be limited to five minutes each.

J. David Cole will represent the group as a former regent and chairman of the board. The Bowling-Green Warren County Chamber of Commerce will be represented by either Chairman Bob Aldridge or Chairwoman-elect Peggy Loafman.

Others attending the meeting today included Ray Thomas, Frank St. Charles, George Shaw, B.J. Booth, Gary Dillard, Mike Manship, J. David Francis, Pete Mahurin, Joe Bill Campbell, Joe Cook, David Broderick, David Garvin, Harold

Brantley, Johnny Webb, Rick DuBose and Bowling Green Mayor Patsy Sloan.

The group assembled approved of getting at least five more people to attend the regents meeting with the speakers.

"I think we should rent a Greyhound bus and be getting the numbers out," said Jim Scott, president of Scotty's Contracting. "I'm serious."

Strode said numbers would show the regents of community and regional support.

Supporters from Glasgow, Franklin, Russellville, Scottsville and Louisville have been in contact with members of the Bowling Green group and at least one, the Glasgow group, has sent a letter to the regents seconding actions here, Smith said.

Strode told the group it should work to convince Meredith and his family to stay at the university should a position be offered to him as president of the University of Central Florida.

"Let's remember to express our feelings to the Meredith family as well," Strode said. "It's important that we let them know we want them to stay as well. It's up to them to withdraw from the search."

Meredith, who interviewed for the job Friday, is one of 12 finalists for the position.

Group asks to speak to WKU regents

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Representatives of a community group trying to keep Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith from leaving have asked to speak to the school's Board of Regents tomorrow.

The group's members said they want to make their remarks before the regents elect new officers at that meeting.

About 60 people, mostly from Bowling Green's business and professional community, met yesterday at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce to prepare for the regents' regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

A letter was sent to Meredith's office on Monday asking that two members of the group be allowed to address the regents, a group spokesman said.

Some group members have said Meredith decided to interview for the presidency of the University of Central Florida in Orlando last week because friction between him and WKU board Chairman Joe Iracane was interfering with his job. Iracane and Meredith have denied the claim.

C. J. 10-30-91

Leaders cite WKU reception incident

By DAVID C.L. BAUER
and JOE MEDLEY
Daily News Staff Writers

10-28-91

Some business and community leaders apparently taking aim against the leadership of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents say a disagreement at a reception at President Thomas Meredith's home this year underlined problems between the president and the chairman of the board.

But Chairman Joe Iracane — while acknowledging the incident and saying mistakes were made in its occurrence — maintains any

disagreements between him and Meredith are not personal.

Meredith returned Saturday from Orlando, Fla., following an interview at the University of Central Florida. He is one of 12 in contention for the president's post at the 23,500-student university.

A group of 39 business and community leaders last week had requested a meeting with Western's Board of Regents, during which the group wanted a resolution adopted showing the board's public support for Meredith and asking him to

withdraw his name from consideration. That meeting, sought for Saturday, was not held because of prior commitments by some regents, and the group hopes to meet with the board this week.

Failing adoption of such a resolution, the letter said, a change in the leadership of Western's board is in order.

Several members of the group said the ultimate goal for many of those attending a meeting last week, during which the decision was made to send the letter, was the removal of

Iracane, who has been on the board since 1980 and its chairman since 1984, either from the chairmanship of the board or from the board itself.

The regents meet Thursday to name new officers for the coming year, and Iracane has said he will pursue the chairmanship if nominated.

Some have maintained that a soured relationship between Iracane and Meredith played heavily in Meredith's decision to explore the UCF opening.

Meredith and Iracane have maintained that is not the case, and Iracane on Friday said there is no personal rift between him and the president.

Iracane did acknowledge, though, two public confrontations between him and Meredith. He declined to discuss details of one of those exchanges or when it occurred, but he did talk about a July reception for new athletics director Lou Marcianni during which Iracane and Meredith had a disagreement about Western's role in the Sun Belt Conference.

Bowling Green businessman B.J. Booth, who was in attendance at the reception and who also signed the letter sent to regents, said the exchange "had to do with the changing of the conference in which Western agreed to participate in."

"Dr. Meredith had made a commitment on that, and Mr. Iracane disagreed with him on it — and not in a respectful manner," Booth said.

Ken Wallace, a Bowling Green car dealer and a member of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation's board of directors, said he saw the discussion, but it amounted to little.

"Joe got up and said a few things and Tom said a few things," Wallace said. "I didn't think that much about it."

Several others in attendance declined to comment about the inci-

dent, saying Western needs to maintain a united and positive outlook to move beyond this situation.

Wallace agreed, saying: "There are some things going on behind the scenes right now that I hope will get all this resolved. I think things are going to be all right."

Iracane said he thinks mistakes were made in the exchange.

"I think Dr. Meredith made a mistake that he talked of policy that had not been addressed by the board, and I think I just should have kept my mouth shut," Iracane said.

He denied, however, it was any indication of a power struggle between the two.

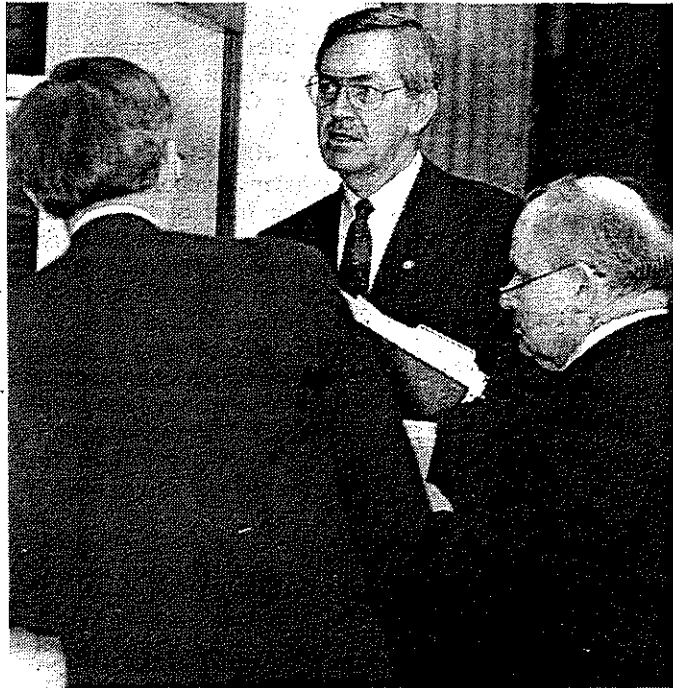
"It was basically on policy," Iracane said. "There's one other misunderstanding we had, and that was more significant than the first one. The first one was insignificant as far as I'm concerned."

"I apologize for that first one," he said. "Maybe I made a mistake at that time, and I think Dr. Meredith did, too."

He maintains that any disagreements between him and the president are the result of policy and not personality and certainly are not signs of a bad working relationship between the two.

"The rift is ridiculous," Iracane has said. "There is none."

Iracane — who worked with Meredith from August 1963 to May 1969 while both taught in the Owensboro school system — said he strongly supports Meredith, who could not be reached for comment. Any perception of disagreements between the two, Iracane said, comes from his role as chairman of the board and acting in the interests of all regents.



Staff Photo by Tracy Glantz

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY President Thomas Meredith (center) talks today with regents Bob Bartley (left) and Dr. Eugene Evans. The regents toured the Agriculture Exposition Center before meeting to elect board officers.

Meredith withdr

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

10-31-91

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith pulled his name today from the list of contenders for the presidency of the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

A written statement from Meredith about his withdrawal was presented to the media at 12:15 p.m., but a formal announcement was not scheduled until today's meeting of Western's Board of Regents. That meeting began at 12:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Exposition Center.

A group of business and community leaders planned to ask the board at the meeting to adopt a statement of support for Meredith and to urge him to remain at Western.

Meredith said in the written statement that community support was the deciding factor in his decision to stay at Western.

"During this time, my family and I have been honored and humbled by the strong demonstration of support we have received from the people of Bowling Green and Warren County, Glasgow, the faculty, staff and students at Western and from

people across our state," Meredith said.

"Because of my love for this university, and because of the commitment my family and I made to come to Western and to the commonwealth to make a difference, I have notified the University of Central Florida that I am withdrawing my name from consideration," he said.

Meredith, who has been president since August 1988, made the announcement just hours before a UCF committee was to name the five remaining finalists in the presidential search.

Meredith was among 12 people from 30 applicants invited to the university for interviews.

Meredith and his wife, Susan, visited Orlando last week and Meredith underwent the first round of face-to-face interviews with school leaders.

Meredith said in today's letter that he liked the campus and its people.

The five finalists will be invited back to the campus for two-day visits and batteries of interviews. Final recommendation for the president's post is expected to be made to the school's Board of Regents in mid-November.

The announcement that Meredith was exploring

the posi
with di
groups.

A gr
leaders
in a let
Regents
support
withdra
that, the
sider a c

That
been its
board si
volved
sonal ri
reasons

Both
problen
over p
clashes.

"The

Meredith withdraws

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

10-31-91

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith pulled his name today from the list of contenders for the presidency of the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

A written statement from Meredith about his withdrawal was presented to the media at 12:15 p.m., but a formal announcement was not scheduled until today's meeting of Western's Board of Regents. That meeting began at 12:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Exposition Center.

A group of business and community leaders planned to ask the board at the meeting to adopt a statement of support for Meredith and to urge him to remain at Western.

Meredith said in the written statement that community support was the deciding factor in his decision to stay at Western.

"During this time, my family and I have been honored and humbled by the strong demonstration of support we have received from the people of Bowling Green and Warren County, Glasgow, the faculty, staff and students at Western and from

people across our state," Meredith said.

"Because of my love for this university, and because of the commitment my family and I made to come to Western and to the commonwealth to make a difference, I have notified the University of Central Florida that I am withdrawing my name from consideration," he said.

Meredith, who has been president since August 1988, made the announcement just hours before a UCF committee was to name the five remaining finalists in the presidential search.

Meredith was among 12 people from 30 applicants invited to the university for interviews.

Meredith and his wife, Susan, visited Orlando last week and Meredith underwent the first round of face-to-face interviews with school leaders.

Meredith said in today's letter that he liked the campus and its people.

The five finalists will be invited back to the campus for two-day visits and batteries of interviews. Final recommendation for the president's post is expected to be made to the school's Board of Regents in mid-November.

The announcement that Meredith was exploring

the position, for which he was nominated, was met with disapproval by student, civic and business groups.

A group of about 39 business and community leaders expressed their desire for Meredith to stay in a letter given last week to Western's Board of Regents. The group sought a public statement of support for Meredith, backed with a request that he withdraw his name from consideration. Failing that, the group's letter said, regents should consider a change in the leadership of the board.

That leadership includes Joe Iracane, who has been its chairman since 1984 and a member of the board since 1980. Some of the business leaders involved in sending the letter said they thought personal rifts between Iracane and Meredith were the reasons Meredith considered the UCF post.

Both have denied the existence of any such problems and said any disagreements have been over policies and not because of personality clashes.

"There have been many concerns expressed

during recent times pertaining to the relationship between members of the Board of Regents and the president," Meredith said in his statement. "It is time for these complaints to be put behind us, and all of our energies directed toward making this university an even better place for our students to achieve their educational goals."

by Tracy Glantz
President Thomas
Bob Bartley (left)
of the Agriculture
Board officers.

Meredith says he'll stay at WKU



MEREDITH:
Announcement
got a standing
ovation.



IRACANE: Says
"I want to be a
good steward of
the university."

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

C.S. 11-1-91
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith announced yesterday that he would not seek a post in Florida and would stay on at Western, and a few minutes later the university's board of regents unanimously re-elected Joe Iracane of Owensboro as chairman.

The 170 business and civic leaders who crowded into the regents' meeting at Western's L. D. Brown Agricultural Exposition Center responded to Meredith's announcement with a standing ovation. The same people stayed silent when the regents, without nominating others and without comment, named Iracane chairman.

Vice Chairman Patsy Judd of Burkesville also won re-election unopposed.

In a statement announcing his decision to withdraw from a presidential search at the University of Central Florida, which he read at the start of the regents' meeting, Meredith said, "It is time for these concerns to be put behind us and all of our energies directed

Won't seek post in Florida; board chief re-elected

toward making this university an even better place for our students to achieve their educational goals."

Afterward, Meredith said that when he returned from a first-round interview in Florida Oct. 26, he realized that "I needed to make a decision . . . before they made their decision down there, and before this board meeting. If I stayed in it through this next round, it would send a message that I wanted to get away from Western no matter what, and I didn't want that message sent." Meredith also said he timed his statement to keep yesterday's regents meeting from becoming negative in a way "that would damage us later."

Iracane also gave a statement after he had been re-elected chairman and

after several speakers had told the regents they supported Meredith.

"I can't tell you I wasn't hurt by the things said about me in the last three weeks. I would never do anything to hurt Western Kentucky University," Iracane said. "... I'm sorry we were (misunderstood) as far as what our intentions were or are. I assure you, all we want as a board is the best for Western Kentucky University. . . . I'm sorry for this outburst; I hope it is behind us."

Robert Aldridge, chairman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and one of the speakers, said afterward he thought Meredith's withdrawal from the Florida presidential search had defused the growing controversy over Iracane's leadership of the regents.

Critics have accused him of "micro-management" — of interfering in the day-to-day operation of the university. He says his critics are misinformed.

"I believe the time has come, since

See WKU'S
Page 2, col. 3, this section

WKU's Meredith won't seek Florida post

Continued from Page B 1

C.S. 11-1-91

Dr. Meredith has made a decision to stay here, to not exacerbate the issue any further," said Aldridge, one of the 39 Bowling Green-area people who sent a letter to the regents last week asking them to declare their firm support for Meredith.

But others, such as former regent Wendell Strode and state Rep. Billy Ray Smith, D-Bowling Green, said they thought the community would "wait and see" if the problems prompting the controversy — and Meredith's consideration of another job — had been truly resolved.

Smith, who is Lt. Gov. Brereton Jones' Warren County campaign chairman, also noted that Iracane's and Judd's terms as regents expire in June. He added, "What happens if the governor does not choose to reappoint these two people?"

About 25 Western students also attended the regents' meeting, many with signs supporting Meredith and asking him to stay. They cheered when they learned of his decision.

None of the other regents, including Bobby Bartley of Glasgow, were willing to comment on Iracane's reelection or the recent controversy

surrounding him. Most said they were glad Meredith would stay.

Also at yesterday's meeting, regent Danny Butler of Greensburg blasted Western's student newspaper for publishing a story about rumors that student regent Heather Falmlen had accepted a diamond bracelet from Iracane.

Butler said the Oct. 24 College Heights Herald story had put Falmlen "under an extreme amount of pressure and pain."

"Certainly the student writers and advisers must do a better job (to prevent) letting this type of vicious fabrication in print," he said.

Herald editor Tanya Bricking stood by the story, saying the rumors became news when student government officers called a special closed meeting to discuss them. The story said the officers feared that if Falmlen did receive a gift it might sway her vote on Oct. 31.

Falmlen, the association's president, denied getting a bracelet. Iracane called the rumor "utterly ridiculous." After the meeting, the officers released a statement saying they had "no reason to doubt the honesty and innocence" of Falmlen

Journal, 5.5
yesterday
84 in 188
h 77: low
day, 73: 1



Staff Photo by Tracy Glantz

nce he withdrew his name from con-
eration for the presidency of the Univer-
of Central Florida, and Iracane was re-
ted chairman of the board.

Iracane retains his post as WKU regents chairman

By ANGELA GARRETT 11-1-91
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane, who some people think was the impetus for President Thomas Meredith's candidacy for another job, was re-elected Thursday as chairman by acclamation for 1992 after no one else was nominated.

J. David Cole, a leader of a group of 39 business and civic leaders who signed a letter requesting that the board give a public show of support for Meredith or remove Iracane as chairman, said today that Iracane's re-election was anticlimactic. Meredith had announced earlier in the regents meeting that he had withdrawn from consideration as president of the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

"The important thing for Western is that

Tom Meredith stay as president of Western," Cole said. "That is more important than who is chairman of the board."

Regent Danny Butler nominated Iracane, after which the remaining nine regents declined to name someone. Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd also was re-elected by acclamation after a nomination from Butler.

Meredith's announcement received a standing ovation from a crowd of more than 150 people who gathered at the meeting to show support for Meredith. The crowd remained quiet during the board elections.

Meredith and Iracane have been the

Continued Back Page
Column 4, This Section

Iracane

DN 11-1-91

From
Page 1

focus of attention at Western and in the community since Meredith announced his candidacy for the UCF job in early October. Regional business and civic leaders voiced concern that Meredith was looking into the Florida job because of disagreements with Iracane about how the university should be run.

Bob Aldridge, chairman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, said Meredith's announcement should calm some fears about the board's actions, and the group of business leaders is willing to be patient.

"I think that whole situation was diffused by Dr. Meredith's announcement he was going to stay on," Aldridge said. "We'll be interested to see how that relationship between the Board of Regents and the administration continues. I think we'll have to adopt a wait-and-see attitude."

Despite Iracane's uncontested nomination, regents said the election results were not an organized attempt to present a united front to the public.

"I didn't know how things would happen," Iracane said. "I certainly didn't solicit votes. They fell where they fell and, naturally, I was pleased."

Wendell Strode, a former regent and an organizer of the community group, said he cannot accept the results of the meeting at face value.

"At this point, I think the appropriate thing to say is all groups are speaking in terms of unity in terms of moving Western Kentucky University forward," he said. "I, as one member of the Bowling Green community, will be willing to accept that but also be cautiously observing that that is actually taking place."

Regent Steve Catron said speculation of an organized attempt to keep Iracane as chairman is unfounded.

"I cannot speak for the other regents, but I had not planned to nominate anyone going in," he said. "If it was (an organized plan), I certainly did not know anything about it. As a board, collectively, that issue was not discussed."

Catron and other regents said they

hope Meredith's decision to stay will allow the board to proceed with leading the university into the future.

Meredith also said he hopes the furor will die.

"I remain optimistic that we'll be able to move ahead," he said.

He declined comment about Iracane's re-election, saying that, as university president, he does not involve himself in the elections.

Meredith, who interviewed for the UCF job a week ago, told that school's officials on Wednesday that he was withdrawing from the race. UCF's Board of Regents was to meet Thursday to narrow its list to five or six candidates who will be asked back for formal, two-day interviews.

"I decided after we were there last Friday that I needed to make a decision by today (Thursday)" to be fair to UCF and to try to diffuse the situation here," Meredith said.

—Daily News Staff Writer Stan Reagan contributed to this story.

WKU regents order audit of payments to Meredith's wife

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

C. J. 12-3-91
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Saying there was a need "to eliminate the clouds on the university," board of regents Vice Chairman Patsy Judd yesterday asked that Western Kentucky University's outside auditors review an internal audit of some university payments to the wife of President Thomas Meredith and money used for repairs and improvements on the Merediths' home.

The request followed the regents' 8-2 approval of a plan to handle a state funding cut of nearly \$2.36 million. Western covered two-thirds of that loss by using most of last year's operating surplus and some reserve funds, plus unanticipated income supplied by enrollment increases over three semesters.

Less than \$128,000 will come from the university's academic and other departments; specific cuts by departments haven't been determined yet.

In making her audit request — which was approved 6-4 — Judd, a Burkesville newspaper publisher, said the internal audit, done in October, made allegations of "improper actions and some irregular activities." She asked for a special committee of regents to be established to set the review's scope, and she excluded Meredith from any role.

In an interview after the meeting, Judd said she didn't know how much such a study would cost, and she declined to comment on why she wanted Meredith excluded. When

asked if she thought Meredith had a conflict of interest in the matter, she said, "I really don't think I should comment on that at all."

The internal audit said Susan Meredith was receiving a \$2,000 monthly entertainment allowance — a practice that began before the Merediths arrived — and that some improvements to the house, which is owned by the College Heights Foundation, may have been improperly paid for by the university instead of by the foundation.

Casting the dissenting votes on the audit were Bobby Bartley and Freddie Travis, both of Glasgow,

Stephen Catron of Bowling Green and Monnie Hankins of Louisville.

Catron, a Bowling Green attorney, disputed Judd's interpretation of the report. "There are some accounting differences, but I don't know that there's a cloud over the institution," Catron said.

Catron then tried to get the regents to accept two amendments to Judd's request. One called for a review of the entire university's accounting practices and procedures; it was defeated 7-3. The second unsuccessful amendment included Meredith in the review process. It called for him to instruct the auditors as directed by the board, and for him to receive a copy of any report stemming from the review.

Bartley and Travis urged Judd to hand the matter over to the established finance committee, which is chaired by Catron and whose mem-

bers are Bartley, Travis, Judd and regent Danny Butler of Greensburg.

"It needs to be done as a regular process, not a special process," Bartley said, "If not, it's going to cost a bundle."

For his part, Meredith told the regents that he was "concerned about the tone" of Judd's request.

"We've said there are problem areas that need to be looked at," Meredith said. "I did not perceive the breadth you have expressed. . . . You have a finance committee already in place, but that's your decision, Mr. Chairman."

Meredith said he had ordered immediate changes in light of the audit, including halting the monthly payments to his wife. The money now will be placed in an account to pay for entertainment expense Meredith incurs.

Western budget plan OK'd

12-3-91
By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will hire an outside firm to audit portions of the university's accounts, including an account for entertainment expenses incurred at President Thomas Meredith's house.

Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd of Burkesville made a motion to hire a firm during a special meeting Monday to discuss a \$2.4 million cut to the university's budget. The budget plan, which called for \$127,000 to be cut from operational budgets, was approved with two regents — Robert Chambless Jr. of Munfordville and Danny Butler of Greensburg — dissenting.

Mrs. Judd thinks the audit is necessary to make the university accountable and because results of an internal audit of the president's office were leaked to the media in November.

"We must minimize our liability," Mrs. Judd said, adding that the results of the internal audit left a cloud over the board and the university.

Meredith said in November that he ordered an end to a monthly \$2,000 entertainment allowance being paid to his wife, Susan, as soon as the internal audit showed that a better way could be found to handle the his entertainment expenses.

"We've said previously that there are ways of doing things and areas that need to be looked into," Meredith told the board. "I'm more concerned about the tone (of the motion) than the details."

The internal audit showed problems with accounting methodology, but said there were no inappropriate expenditures found.

Regent Steve Catron of Bowling Green tried to pass two amendments to the motion to specifically include Meredith in the process, but his amendments were defeated.

"My feeling is that the president should have specifically been inserted into the motion and into the process because he is the chief ex-

ecutive officer of the university," Catron said. "I do not think the majority of the board intended to leave him out of the process."

Meredith said he saw no reason for the results of such an audit not to come back to him as the head of the university, a statement with which Chairman Joe Iracane agreed.

"He'll definitely be involved in it," Iracane said. "There's no intention to keep him out, nothing secretive about it. The way I perceive it is very similar to what we've been doing with other committees. The results of these questions will come back to the full board" and Meredith.

The wording of Mrs. Judd's motion did not include Meredith, a decision she stood by, saying that to include him in the process would take authority away from the committee that will be formed to handle the audit process.

"I worded it the way I did because I believe it's the board's responsibility," she said. "I think we need to get the audit and, as far as

my choice of words go, I stick with my choice."

Food Services and the Physical Plant also might undergo audits as part of Mrs. Judd's plan, and other board members are free to suggest areas they want to look at, she said.

Iracane said he is looking into the cost of the limited audit and will work on appointing a committee after the cost is determined.

4 regents to review WKU payments

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Four Western Kentucky University regents have been named by Chairman Joe Iracane to a committee to handle the review of some university payments to the wife of President Thomas Meredith and for repairs and improvements to Meredith's home.

The committee members are Patsy Judd, Robert Chambliss, Monnie Hankins and Freddie Travis. Iracane said he made his choices based solely on their length of service as regents. The group will meet with internal auditor Warren Irons "within the next two days," Iracane said.

Baird, Kurtz & Dobson, a Bowling Green accounting firm already under contract to do Western's annual audits, will handle the review, thus keeping the cost to a minimum, Iracane said. Besides the Meredith payments, Iracane said, the review probably will cover other university accounts that "we believe haven't ever been audited."

Iracane also said Meredith will be involved in the committee's review, despite indications to the contrary at Monday's meeting of the regents. "He'll get the information as we get it," Iracane said yesterday.

C. J. 12-4-71

74

Iracane puts 4 WKU regents on audit panel

12-4-91
A Daily News report

Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane has appointed four regents to serve on a committee that will oversee an audit of the president's office, including entertainment expenses at the university president's house.

Patsy Judd, Robert Chambliss, Monnie Hankins and Fred Travis have been named to the committee based on time served on the board, Iracane said.

"They were chosen for their longevity and service to the board," Iracane said. "I went straight down the line. It doesn't matter who serves on the committee, all abilities being the same."

Regent Danny Butler was in line to serve on the committee but is unable to because of conflicts of interest with his business, Iracane said.

Mrs. Judd made a motion requesting the audit at a special regents' meeting Monday.

The audit, which will be done by the Bowling Green accounting firm of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson, is to review a recent internal audit of the president's office and other areas of the university that have not undergone audits in recent years.

Iracane said work on the audit will begin immediately.

University President Thomas Meredith will see results of the audit as soon as they are available, Iracane said. Some regents expressed concern Monday that Mrs. Judd's motion might exclude him from the process.

75

Business leaders remain uneasy about Western

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

12-5-91

Former Western Kentucky University Regent Wendell Strode, spokesman for a group of business leaders who in October expressed concern about perceived conflicts between regents and Western President Thomas Meredith, said today there still is a great deal of concern about those conflicts and that the group probably will meet soon to see what steps to take.

The business leaders apparently are concerned about the call Monday for an audit of some university accounts — including monthly entertainment expenses paid directly to Meredith's wife, Susan.

But large money losses in some Western Kentucky University departments — losses that first raised questions by on-campus administrators and not the Board of Regents — is at the heart of a call for an audit of some university ac-

counts, according to Regent Patsy Judd, who said those who think the audit is purely over expenses being paid Susan Meredith are off-base.

"What prompted the internal audit were people on campus expressing concerns about things they suspected might not be exactly as they should," Mrs. Judd said. "The board felt a responsibility to check it out, and the internal audit has brought to light some things that need to be looked at and fixed."

She declined to say who brought the questions to the board's attention and what those questions are specifically.

Among the things brought to light in the internal audit were monthly \$2,000 payments to Mrs. Meredith for entertainment expenses at the president's house. Meredith halted those payments in late October after the internal audit showed a better way could be found to distribute the money.

Board Chairman Joe Iracane said regents were aware that the payments were being made, but were unaware that they were going directly to Mrs. Meredith as an employee of the university.

Mrs. Judd called for and received the board's approval of a motion to have an external audit on Monday, during a special regents meeting to discuss a \$2.4 million cut to the university's budget.

The entertainment payments rose to the forefront of the issue, despite some board members' denials that they were the target.

Strode, who was chairman of the board's Finance Committee when the entertainment payments were increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 monthly, said the board was aware

Continued Back Page
Column 1, This Section

Western

From
Page 1

of the payments at that time.

Regent Steve Catron, who tried Monday to have Meredith specifically included in the audit process, said Tuesday that the expenditures credited to the entertainment account were not improper and that the payment had been made to

the president's wife since Dero Downing's term in that office a decade ago.

Former Regent Ronnie Clark said the board not only knew about the payments, but how they were being made.

"Whether the check was written to Susan or Tom, I don't know," he said, adding that the money had no restrictions placed on it.

But Mrs. Judd said the latest audit

isn't an attempt to blame anyone for the losses, but an attempt to prevent them from continuing.

"We don't want to point a finger at anyone," she said. "We just want to find out why we're having these losses."

Mrs. Judd declined to speculate as to the cause of the losses, saying she would rather wait until the audit report is final.

Wilkinson says regents are 'harassing' Meredith by seeking second audit

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

C. J. 12-6-71
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Gov. Wallace Wilkinson told reporters yesterday that he believes Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith is being "harassed" by some Western regents.

"I think Tom Meredith is a wonderful university president, and it's unfortunate, in my view, based on what I know about it, that some of the trustees at Western Kentucky University continue to harass him" by asking for a review of an internal audit of presidential accounts, said Wilkinson, in Bowling Green for a last round of local announcements.

In an interview later, Regent Patsy Judd of Burkesville, who sought the review, denied that she was trying to harass Meredith and said of Wilkinson, "It's unfortunate he has that perception."

Judd, the vice chairman of the board of regents, pushed Monday for a second, outside audit of some university payments made to Meredith's wife, Susan, and for repairs and improvements to the president's official residence.

Judd said she was trying to respond to complaints she had received about the amount of money spent on the Merediths' home, which is owned by the university-related College Heights Foundation, and other financial issues.

"We have the responsibility of receiving and expending funds for the maximum

benefit of every student," Judd said. "That's the reason for this."

On Monday, Judd said an internal audit of the payments and other accounts controlled by Meredith had left "clouds over the university" because it included allegations of "improper actions and some irregular activities."

The regents voted 6-4 to conduct the second audit, with Regent Stephen Catron of Bowling Green objecting to Judd's characterization of the internal audit's findings.

Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro on Tuesday named Judd and fellow Regents Fred Travis of Glasgow, Robert Chambless of Munfordville and Monnie Hankins of Louisville to a committee to handle the second audit. Chambless will lead that panel, which is scheduled to meet Tuesday with auditors from the Bowling Green firm of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson to tell them which accounts to review.

Several accounts set up for Meredith will be included, as well as the university's food services accounts, Judd said. Iracane has said several times that the food services lose too much money; yesterday Judd repeated that view.

It remains unclear how much Meredith will be involved in the review. Iracane said Tuesday that Meredith would "get information as we get information," but Judd said last night that she hoped Meredith wouldn't involve himself in the review of the presidential accounts "because that could jeopardize its credibility."

Western fight seems headed for Round 2

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

12-6-91
The second round in a battle being waged by a group of business leaders against members of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents — some of whom the leaders accuse of conducting a witch hunt against President Thomas Meredith — apparently is about to begin.

A call Monday by board Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd for a second audit of some university accounts — including payments made to Meredith's wife, Susan, for entertainment expenses — is not a sign that the board stands behind Meredith, businessman Frank St. Charles said today.

The board "launched an investigation, which in my opinion is a witch hunt," St. Charles said.

Mrs. Judd has said the requested audit — which includes a second look at Meredith's expense accounts — is targeted, not at the president, but at cutting university losses.

But St. Charles and other business leaders said they don't accept that answer.

"If they don't think that (Meredith is doing wrong), why are they excluding him and pointing fingers?" St. Charles asked.

The fact that Gov. Wallace Wilkinson — who on Thursday said the action by the board constitutes nothing more than harassment of Meredith and his family — has involved himself in the situation speaks for its seriousness, businessman Bob Aldridge said.

"Other than expressing our support and continuing to monitor the

activities up there, I don't know that there's anything we can do right now," Aldridge said. "But we hope we can have some influence over future appointments to the board."

Regent Steve Catron, a Bowling Green attorney, said he agreed with Wilkinson's statement and expects a reaction to the board's actions soon.

"I'm hearing discussion among some people and fully expect that (a reaction to the situation) to transpire," he said. "The perception is that not only businessmen, but citizens and Western alumni — very distinguished Western alumni —

across Kentucky have heard quite enough" and are going to demand that something be done.

The group of several dozen business leaders, who marshaled forces in October to try to get the board to adopt a statement of support for Meredith — who at the time was being considered for a position at the University of Central Florida — plans to meet again soon and decide what course to take, but has yet to set a meeting date.

The first round of the battle ended when Meredith announced Oct. 31

that he had withdrawn from the race for the UCF position, a race business leaders think Meredith entered because of personal disagreements with board Chairman Joe Iracane.

Meredith and Iracane denied that they had any differences other than normal business disagreements. Iracane and Mrs. Judd were renamed board chairman and vice chairwoman, respectively, at the Oct. 31 regents meeting after no other regents were nominated for the positions.

Audit felt witch hunt

By ANGELA GARRETT

Daily News Staff Writer 12-10-91

Two Western Kentucky University regents labeled as a witch hunt a meeting today of a committee overseeing an audit of some university accounts — an audit apparently targeting almost all financial dealings of President Thomas Meredith since he assumed the presidency.

The list of audit requirements, which was given today to representatives of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson, Certified Public Accountants, includes an itemized list of university employees hired since Aug. 30, 1988, when Meredith took office; a detailed listing of where interest earned on the university's General Fund goes and how it's used; a list of honorariums and other fees authorized by Meredith since August 1988; travel expenses for Meredith and his family since he took office; and entertainment expenses incurred by the president.

"That list leaves no question about it," said Regent Fred Travis, a member of the Board of Regent's audit committee.

Travis stipulated during the meeting that, where some accountings are questionable, it should be included in the auditor's report how long those practices have been in operation.

"It's not going to be a witch hunt as far as I'm concerned," he said after the meeting. He also said it is necessary to include how long these practices have been in place if it is an accurate picture of accounting procedures that is being sought.

Regent Steve Catron, who attended the meeting even though he is not on the committee, agreed that the audit is aimed at Meredith. He objected, along with reporters, when Regent Patsy Judd asked that the committee go into closed session to discuss the audit.

Travis also objected, saying he was unaware they had planned to go into closed session and was sure committee member Monnie Hankins also was unaware of that plan. Hankins missed the meeting because of traffic problems.

The meeting remained open after Mrs. Judd

rescinded her request.

Mrs. Judd continued to deny after the meeting that the audit was aimed at Meredith.

"That's not my conclusion at all," she said. "Food Services is losing money and we need to find out why and fix that."

Food Services was mentioned in the audit request, as was the Physical Plant, but they too were mentioned in connection with Meredith.

The committee asked for an itemized list of where food has been served and if that expense should be charged to another university budget unit. It also requested an itemized list of hours spent by Physical

Plant workers making repairs to Meredith's house and the cost involved.

The audit request is the latest in a line of perceived disagreements between some members of the board and Meredith. Regent Robert Chambless is heading the audit committee.

An internal audit of the president's office said in October that some accounting practices were questionable and a better way could be found to handle some accounts in that office, but the audit found no wrongdoings in the way expenditures were made or handled.

79

WKU regents want audit; focus clearly on president

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY, Staff Writer

12-11-71
BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A special board of regents committee gave Western Kentucky University's auditing firm a list yesterday of 11 spending areas to investigate and review — and nearly all of them were expenses incurred by or for Western President Thomas C. Meredith and his wife.

The list prompted Regent Stephen Catron of Bowling Green, who attended the committee's meeting as a spectator, to accuse some of his fellow regents of being on a "witch hunt."

It also renewed anger in Bowling Green and elsewhere over what civic leaders perceive as attacks on Meredith. Some community leaders said yesterday that a group that previously spoke in support of Meredith plans to meet again in the next few days to discuss firing another salvo at the regents.

Ray Preston of Henderson said in an interview yesterday that the regents "seem determined to nitpick (Meredith) to death . . . to run off one of the best presidents Western's ever had."

Preston, for whom Western's \$10 million stu-

See WKU REGENTS
Back page, col. 1, this section

WKU regents order audit

Continued from Page One

dent health and activities center will be named, called Meredith "the deciding factor" in his 1990 decision to give the university its single largest donation. (The amount is somewhere between \$750,000 and \$850,000; Preston has declined to allow public release of the actual amount.)

Preston said he thought the ongoing controversy might discourage other possible donors to WKU "because why would you want to step in the middle of this?"

Meanwhile, Meredith, in Frankfort attending Gov. Brereton Jones' inauguration, said that he hadn't received any information from the committee and that he couldn't comment on specifics.

"I have not had any conversations with these board members about any of these items previously," Meredith said. "It's all being announced in the press. That's the way I hear of it."

Meredith also said, "I welcome any audit of any expenditures."

The regents' request to the accounting firm of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson, as handled by Regent Robert Chambliss of Munfordville, chairman of the special audit committee, was labeled "Items to be audited . . . covering the period 8-30-88 to present" — in other words, during Meredith's tenure at Western.

But Regent Fred Travis of Glasgow, a member of the audit committee who said he supports Meredith, objected repeatedly to that limitation. He said many of the practices being questioned began several administrations back and that any review by the auditors should cover those years.

The committee asked for:

■ A list of employees who had

been hired by the university but not subsequently approved by the regents.

■ A detailed list of "all honorariums, personal-service contracts, stipends, or other funds paid out by Western Kentucky University on behalf of, or at the direction of, Thomas C. Meredith."

■ A review of travel expenses incurred by Meredith and his wife, Susan, that were either paid directly by the university or by reimbursement, and a review of their entertainment expenses incurred either at their official residence or elsewhere off campus.

■ A review of spending on the official residence, including "home improvements, repairs, janitorial services, maintenance, and all other work" associated with it.

■ An audit of all development funds received and spent by WKU.

■ An audit of Western's Physical Plant Department, including "a list of man hours and materials used at the President's home, as well as a dollar value," to determine whether some of its expenses should have been charged to other university spending accounts.

Baird Kurtz & Dobson partners Ron Shrewsbury and Spencer Coates told the committee that an audit of the physical plant could be time-consuming and expensive. They said they would come up with an estimate before proceeding.

The committee, referring frequently to a report completed in October by university internal auditor Warren Irons, also asked the accounting firm to audit "interest earned on general fund accounts, and designated and undesignated private contributions, to determine if these funds have been properly accounted for and disbursed in accordance with Board authorization and state law."

This request stems from Irons' finding that Western had established during the 1990-91 fiscal year an account labeled "President's Un-



Thomas C. Meredith

"I welcome any audit of . . . expenditures."

restricted Account." It was funded with some of the interest earned from money Western had on deposit in interest-earning accounts. Irons recommended that the interest be recorded as income, then "properly budgeted and spent."

Coates and Shrewsbury told the committee they could not interpret state law, and at best could suggest that the board seek an attorney general's opinion, if necessary.

The regents' request called for a management letter listing recommendations for correcting any problems, including "any violations of (a) contracts, (b) university policies, (c) state law, and any other exceptions which may not fall in a, b, or c, but which should be reviewed by the board of regents."

A few hours after the meeting, Catron, the Bowling Green regent, called the financial review "an embarrassment to the university and an embarrassment to the board of regents."

"After sitting through that meeting this morning it is clear to me there is nothing more and nothing less than a witch hunt under way, clearly directed toward Dr. Thomas C. Meredith," he said, calling the extensive financial review an effort to neutralize Meredith's support.

But board of regents Vice Chairman Patsy Judd of Burkesville, who asked for the follow-up audit on Dec. 2, repeated her previous comment that she was pursuing the issue because the regents "are trying to spend our dollars so the students get the maximum value from Western."

Jones issues statement of faith in Meredith

By ANGELA GARRETT 12-11-91
Daily News Staff Writer

Gov. Brereton Jones, during his first full day in office today, issued a statement saying recent events at Western Kentucky University should be viewed in a positive light because he has faith in President Thomas Meredith.

Meanwhile, former Western Regent Wendell Strode said today that members of the Board of Regents told Meredith when he took office in August 1988 what they wanted from him and his family and that Meredith has done nothing the board didn't request.

Jones and Strode issued the statements after the perimeters of an audit of some university accounts was determined Tuesday by a special committee of the board. The items outlined in the audit request led two regents to refer to the process as a "witch hunt" aimed at Meredith and his family.

"At this point, I have 100 percent confidence in Dr. Meredith," Jones said.

In a letter Strode said he is mailing today to board

Chairman Joe Iracane, Strode asks Iracane to stop the audit process and other bickering with Meredith because actions taken by Meredith not only were known about, but approved by Iracane as chairman.

"It appears to me that course of action is to discredit Dr. Meredith and his family by nit-picking the president's budget to death. ... To use that as a basis for terminating the employment and employment contract with Dr. Meredith and in the process destroying the credibility of this great institution of higher learning," the letter said.

Strode said he wrote the letter in response to comments by Iracane that hinted at wrongdoings between Strode and Meredith.

"I hadn't intended to say anything," Strode said, reiterating that he did nothing that wasn't in his authority as chairman of the board's financial committee. "I was going to take my lumps silently" but Tuesday's meeting changed Strode's mind.

Problems between the board and Meredith have been in the spotlight since speculation began in October that Meredith was in the running for a job with

the University of Central Florida because he was frustrated with the board's attempts to run the university.

Meredith and Iracane denied personal problems and Meredith withdrew from the UCF race minutes before Iracane was renamed board chairman.

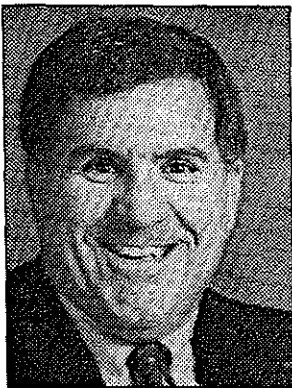
At a Dec. 2 board meeting, Regent Patsy Judd called for an audit of some university accounts, but denied that Meredith was the target.

But the audit committee meeting showed that some board members are seeking audits of almost every university account with which Meredith has been involved.

Regents Steve Catron and Fred Travis said after that meeting that the audit is nothing more than a "witch hunt."

Strode, spokesman for a group of business leaders who have voiced concern over the situation, said that group probably will be meeting next week.

Meredith, who was in Frankfort on Tuesday for the gubernatorial inauguration, said he welcomed "any audit of any expenditures."



"There's no personal gain, no witch hunt in any of this."

Joseph Iracane, regents chairman

WKU regent chairman defends audit

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY C. J.
Staff Writer

12-10-91

OWENSBORO, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's board of regents is not out to fire President Thomas Meredith, board Chairman Joseph Iracane said yesterday.

They're not even particularly upset that money was going to Meredith's wife, Susan, for entertaining, Iracane said. In fact, Susan Meredith's entertainment budget is something Iracane wants to reinstate.

The real issue for Iracane, and for regents such as Patsy Judd and Robert Chambless, is whether Western is spending money as efficiently as it can.

Iracane and the others think the answer is: Probably not.

Iracane said the controversy now swirling around WKU began with Western 21, the university's evaluation last year of all its programs and spending, and grew with the discovery of some confusing and some unpublicized financial decisions.

Tuesday, a special board of regents com-

Iracane says board not out to fire Meredith

mittee gave WKU's auditing firm a list of 11 spending areas to investigate and review, nearly all of which were expenses incurred by Meredith and his wife.

Iracane also said that Meredith's predecessor, Kern Alexander, raised concerns before he left in 1988.

Alexander questioned the bottom lines of what Iracane called "auxiliaries" — services offered by Western such as its bookstore and its food and health services. The same areas were questioned again last year during Western 21's university-wide spending review.

"The auxiliaries must run in the black," Iracane said. "If one loses a million and a half dollars, and stays in the red, for example, is that an acceptable financial situation? No."

But it's unclear if the auxiliaries are losing

a lot of money, Iracane said, because their funds appear to come from and go to other areas.

Faculty and staff members in program areas designated by Western 21 to be de-emphasized and eventually phased out had also raised questions about university financial matters, Iracane said.

"They were putting up a fight about it, and they were shedding light on some things," Iracane said. "Sure, they're being hurt. So they ask us, 'Did you know about this? Did you know about that?'"

The regents began to look into their claims, said Iracane, but couldn't find clear answers. So they asked for an internal audit.

That audit, completed in October, looked at Meredith's compensation, payments to him for travel and entertainment, and payments on the official residence. That's when Susan Meredith's monthly checks came to light.

See IRACANE
Back page, col. 4, this section

Iracane talks of regent action

Continued from Page One

12-12-91
Iracane, who has been challenged by two former regents, Ronnie Clark of Franklin and Wendell Strode of Bowling Green, for saying publicly that he didn't know about the checks to Susan Meredith, said yesterday he knew that Western was paying for the Merediths' entertainment expenses, "but I didn't know checks were issued directly to Mrs. Meredith and that she was a contract laborer for us."

In a letter urging Iracane to stop the regents from "nit-picking the President's budget to death," Strode, former chairman of the regents' finance committee, acknowledged that when he set up the payment arrangement to Susan Meredith he didn't clearly understand what it entailed, other than that "it was to be done like it was with Dr. (Donald) Zacharias," a previous

Western president.

When questioned later by faculty regent Eugene Evans, Strode said the entire arrangement with the Merediths was discussed in a closed executive session during a board meeting. "I felt to not discuss this in open session was the preferred method to address these type situations," Strode wrote in his letter to Iracane. "If there is any 'dirt,' it is on the Board and our lack of documenting the understanding" with the Merediths.

In an interview yesterday, Strode said he now regretted the decision not to fully disclose the Merediths' compensation arrangement.

"I think it's time to do things out in the open," he said.

Iracane said that he agrees with Strode but thinks he's missing the main issue.

What really jumped out from the audit report, said Iracane, was the discovery of "the President's Unrestricted Account," a fund created with unbudgeted interest income culled from other money deposited in interest-earning accounts.

A spot check by The Courier-

Journal of financial practices at the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University and Murray State University drew the following response from officials at each of those schools: All unrestricted interest earnings go into the school's general fund and are then budgeted for spending, with the approval of the schools' regents. (None of the three schools paid the president's wife for entertaining.)

Iracane said Western's board is concerned about the propriety — and legality — of the President's Unrestricted Account. But Donald Clapp, vice president for administration at UK, said he knew of no state laws or regulations that would govern the situation in question, at least as he understood it.

University finance officials must follow "generally accepted accounting principles," Clapp said, and when they don't, an audit will usually point that out.

Because Western's regents didn't know about the unrestricted account, said Iracane, and because they can't find it in the budget, they began to wonder what else they didn't know about. That led them to seek the second audit, he said.

Nearly all of the questions in the second audit, discussed on Tuesday with Western's outside auditor, the Bowling Green firm of Baird, Kurtz & Dobson, dealt with expenses incurred by or for Meredith. However, it also asked the auditors to look into one "auxiliary," the food services budget.

"There's no personal gain, no witch hunt in any of this," said Iracane, who said he hoped the second audit wouldn't take very long. "If it's wrong, let's change it. If we need to make changes, let's make them and move forward."

48

WKU rift deepens

12-12-91

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

A call for the resignations of some members of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents is expected to be made after a meeting Monday of business leaders concerned about ongoing events involving regents and Western President Thomas Meredith.

But board Chairman Joe Iracane said today that an audit that targets many of the president's finances — including an unrestricted account that apparently was brought to regents' attention during a preliminary audit and that Iracane maintains was not approved by the board — is not targeting Meredith.

The president's job is safe, Iracane said.

"This has nothing to do with Dr. Meredith's job," Iracane said. "I do not understand why anyone is considering this a threat. Everyone, including Dr.

Meredith, feels it is necessary. He told me there is no problem with having an audit."

Iracane said the audit looks at the president's expenses, but is aimed at cutting losses in fringe areas of the university, such as Food Services.

"It's very difficult with Western's budget the way it is now to measure the value to students of budgets in fringe areas," he said.

The questions began during the board's creation of Western XXI, a master plan for the university that outlines what areas need to be emphasized and de-emphasized, Iracane said.

"Questions were being raised, not by regents, but by people in Bowling Green" at Western, he said.

Accounting practices in Health Services made it appear the area was receiving more university funding than it was and only an audit of the operation showed

Health Services receives much less money than the board thought, Iracane said.

Some board members also are concerned about the unrestricted account, of which Iracane said he and others were unaware until an internal audit of the president's office showed the account exists.

Iracane said allegations that the board has sought to do away with an entertainment allowance for the president are wrong and he hopes to reinstate that allowance. The \$2,000 monthly payment was halted after the internal audit of the president's office showed a better method could be found to distribute the money. The money had been going to Meredith's wife, Susan, under an employment contract with the university.

Former Regent Wendell Strode, who

was chairman of the board's Finance Committee when the allowance that had been paid to previous university presidents was continued for Dr. Meredith, said the Merediths' expenses were discussed in closed session with the board and that board members should have been aware of the payment.

Iracane said the board members were aware of the allowance, but were unaware that it was being paid to Mrs. Meredith as an employment contract.

The group of business leaders sent a letter in October demanding

that the board take actions to show its support of Meredith after it was learned the president was in contention for a presidential post at the University of Central Florida.

Business leaders at that time claimed perceived problems between Meredith and the board were at the root of his exploring the position.

Members of the group have said that this audit, which they and Regents Steve Catron and Fred Travis have defined as a witch hunt, shows the board does not support Meredith.

The meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce office.

Business leaders weigh

By ANGELA GARRETT
Daily News Staff Writer

12-13-91

The spokesman for a group of business leaders labeling an audit of some Western Kentucky University accounts as a witch hunt said today that the group, which meets Monday, might consider a lawsuit against the university's Board of Regents on the grounds it betrayed the public's trust.

Other options, group spokesman and former Regent Wendell Strode said, include asking for the resignations of some regents or asking Gov. Brereton Jones to intervene and continue his show of support for President Thomas Meredith by asking for resignations.

"Several of the members of the community that are concerned about this have expressed some potential options they think should be discussed," Strode said. "Those include asking for resignations, asking the governor to continue to show his support ... by him asking for resignations and, thirdly, reviewing the potential for a lawsuit against members of the board for the betrayal of public trust. I'm sure there are

others that will come up at the meeting."

The audit, meanwhile, is drawing support from Western's Faculty Senate, which Thursday voiced its support of an audit of some university accounts — an audit some people have decried as a witch hunt against Meredith — saying they've been pushing for such a review for a decade.

"Speaking for the chair, I reinforced to (Faculty Regent) Gene Evans and the senate that we are in support of the audit," said Robert Otto, senate vice chairman. "We didn't have a resolution (supporting the audit), but we've had studies for the past 10 years and this is the first time the regents really started looking at university spending. That's what we have continued to ask."

Senators also said they were pleased to learn that a \$2.4 million university budget cut hit athletics harder than academic areas.

The senate has issued for several years athletics spending reports showing what faculty members see as a one-sided picture in favor of athletics. Many

suit against regents

faculty members are hoping this audit leads to a closer look at athletics spending.

Initial findings in a new athletics report, on which a senate committee is working, show a 5-1 ratio in the dollar amount of athletics scholarships and non-athletic scholarships and about a 5-1 ratio in spending on athletics travel and faculty travel, Otto said.

The Faculty Senate is an advisory committee and makes recommendations, but university administrators are not obligated to accept those recommendations.

Otto said he did not know how strong faculty support for Meredith is and the senate's support of the audit is not necessarily a sign of disapproval of the president because faculty members have sought such reviews since before Meredith came to Western in 1988.

The intent of the senate's comments is to "show support of the regents' action," Otto said. "Not who they might target, but their general intent of monitoring spending."

A senate survey of the faculty showed last spring

that only about 40 percent of Western's faculty thought Meredith was doing an adequate job as president, Otto said. In the survey, spending priorities was the top item in a list of 13 items with which the faculty was dissatisfied.

Regents who support the audit, which involves many accounts controlled by Meredith, have said the audit is the result of many questions being asked by people within the university and is an attempt to identify and solve accounting problems and curtail losses in some university accounts.

Otto said the senate is taking a wait-and-see approach to the audit and plans to wait until results are in before making any final decisions about the situation.

A group of business leaders who are dissatisfied with what they see as an attack on Meredith and his family are meeting at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce office. The group is expected to ask for the resignations of some regents.

Meredith supporters want two regents out



By KIRSTEN HAUKEBO, Staff Writer

12-17-91

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Supporters of Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith will ask Gov. Brereton Jones to demand the resignations of two regents they say are "harassing" and "intimidating" Meredith.

A resolution will be presented to Jones during his visit to Bowling Green tomorrow, said Robert Aldridge, chairman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce.

Yesterday, Jones said through his spokesman, Bill Griffin, "I am very supportive of President Meredith but feel it is inappropriate for me to inject myself in that conflict."

More than 40 business and civic leaders, most from Bowling Green, met at the Chamber yesterday to discuss ways to show support for Meredith. Many of the same people were also involved in sending a letter to the regents in October asking them to publicly endorse Meredith.

The resolution singles out board Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairman Patsy Judd as regents who "have and continue to harass, intimidate and embarrass Dr. Tom Meredith and this great university."

The statement echoes one made Dec. 5 by then-

The resolution singles out board Chairman Joe Iracane, right, and Vice Chairman Patsy Judd as regents who "have and continue to harass, intimidate and embarrass Dr. Tom Meredith and this great university."

Continued from page one

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, who told reporters "it's unfortunate . . . that some of the trustees at Western Kentucky University continue to harass" Meredith.

The resolution contends Iracane and Judd have "unjustly focused on President Meredith's use of privileges" that were also used by his predecessors.

Judd pushed the board of regents to ask for an outside auditing firm to review an internal audit of some university payments to Meredith's wife and money spent on the president's home, which is owned by the university-related College Heights Foundation.

Last week, a special committee of the board drew up a list of 11 spending areas to be reviewed. Nearly all of the expenditures were expenses incurred by Meredith and his wife, Susan.

Former Regent Wendell Strode stressed yesterday that the civic and business leaders did not oppose an audit but rather the way the regents asked for it.

The resolution said that the regents "have repeatedly used a public forum to air complaints instead of discreet committees — all intended to embarrass Dr. Meredith and discredit him."

Strode said Iracane and Judd were named because they were on the board when the discretionary allowance for the Merediths was approved in 1988 and was increased to \$2,000 per month in 1989.

"They were the leadership on the board; they're still the leadership on the board; and they have been taking a leadership role in this audit," Strode said. Strode acknowledged, however, that the minutes of the board's meetings don't reflect that the two regents were aware of the arrangement. The entire agreement with the Merediths was discussed in a closed session.

Strode, who formed the agreement when he was chairman of the regents' finance committee, said last week that he now regrets the decision not to disclose the arrangement.

Judd, reached at her home in Burkesville, denied that she is try-

ing to harass Meredith. "No one is doing that. My reaction to this (the resolution) is that Kentucky law says the board of regents are supposed to set policy for the university. I believe it is in the best interest of the university to have an audit."

Judd added that she had no intentions of resigning.

She said that although she knew of the Merediths' entertainment budget, she didn't know that the university was making direct payments of \$2,000 a month to Susan Meredith.

Iracane, of Owensboro, could not be reached for comment yesterday, but he said last week that the regents were not out to fire Meredith. The regents' concern, he said then, was whether Western was spending money as efficiently as it could.

Aldridge, president of American National Bank in Bowling Green and one of the organizers of the meeting, said the group may consider filing a lawsuit if its appeal to the governor does not produce results.

Information for this story was also gathered by staff writer Tom Loftus.

Cool heads, audit should prevail over WKU furor

DN 12-17-91

Cool heads should prevail in a matter involving Western Kentucky University's budget, which has focused attention on the Board of Regents and President Thomas C. Meredith.

Some of the regents have requested an audit of the university's Physical Plant, Food Services and the President's Office.

The action has raised the ire of some business and civic leaders who believe the call to be more than a coincidence following Meredith's withdrawal a short time ago from competition for the University of Central Florida presidency.

Tension between board Chairman Joe Iracane and Meredith was denied by both men as the cause for Meredith's brief job search. But the resulting hullabaloo over what some people suspect, again, has caused friction.

Rumors about large money losses in some Western Kentucky University departments — losses that first raised questions by on-campus administrators and not the Board of Regents — is at

the heart of the examination, according to Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd.

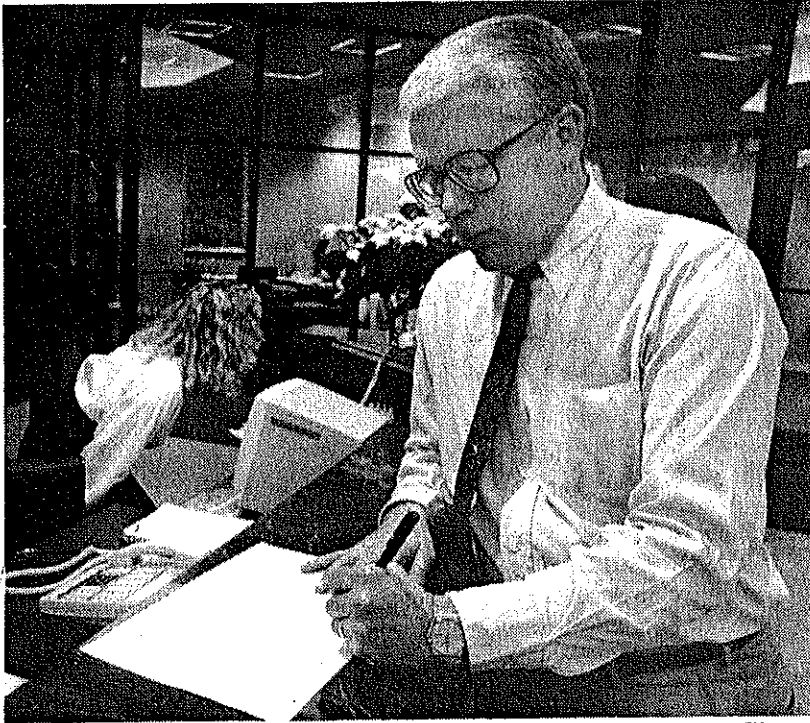
Those who think the latest audit is purely over payments of entertainment expenses to Meredith's wife, Susan, are wrong, Mrs. Judd says. An internal audit already has put the Merediths in the clear, and Meredith welcomes the call for the new audit.

Perhaps this audit might give the board a better idea of how to discuss a \$2.4 million cut that is mandated by the state and affects the university's budget.

It is important that any questions about spending be answered, but we hope the findings of such an audit will not be used as a weapon by anyone.

It is essential for Western and those it serves that the furor die down. Then Western administrators and the board can return to the business of higher education.

Once the results of the audit are reviewed, an appropriate response to the findings can be determined.



Staff Photo by Tracy Glantz

BILL REYNOLDS signs a petition today that asks Gov. Brereton Jones to seek the resignations of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents President Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd. The petitions are being circulated by a group of business leaders. *DN 12-17-91*

WKU resignations asked

By ANGELA GARRETT

The Daily News

12-17-91
Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said today that he would consider resigning from the board if Gov. Brereton Jones requested the resignation, but Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd has no plans to step down, despite a petition being circulated asking Jones to request the two to leave the board.

A group of business leaders concerned with what they see as continued harassment of university President Thomas Meredith are circulating the petition today for presentation to Jones on Wednesday during an economic development announcement at the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce office.

The decision to circulate copies of the petition came during a meeting of the group Monday.

"I would consider it if the governor asked me to resign," Iracane said today. "But I would be very hurt because it would mean I wasn't serving the public's interest."

Jones has said in a statement released by his

spokesman, Bill Griffin, that he supports Meredith but does not think it would be appropriate for him to involve himself in the conflict.

The petition requests action by Jones, saying that Iracane and Mrs. Judd "have continued to unjustly focus on President Meredith's use of privileges and practices that have existed" since before Meredith took office in August 1988.

Bob Aldridge, a spokesman for the business leaders and mediator of Monday's meeting, said the business leaders chose to specifically name Iracane and Mrs. Judd because members of the board broke an agreement made prior to the Oct. 31 board meeting at which board elections were held.

Aldridge said members of the group were approached prior to that meeting and told that if they objected to Iracane and Mrs. Judd being re-elected, the results of an internal audit of the president's office would be made public.

The leaders agreed to the terms of the deal because Iracane and Mrs. Judd are up for reappointment in July, Aldridge said.

But Iracane and Mrs. Judd denied today that

any such deal was made.

"That is just totally groundless," Mrs. Judd said. "I certainly would not be a party to that. I'm offended by that."

Aldridge said he was not part of that meeting and declined to be more specific about which members of the group were.

Meredith said today that he welcomes the audit and is looking forward to a speedy end to the debate. He declined further comment.

The business leaders also support the audit, but disapprove of the public manner in which it was handled, Aldridge said during the group's meeting, adding that members of the group provide much support for the university.

"There's large support for Western, not only spiritually, but financially," he said, adding that American National Bank, where he is president, granted 188 scholarships to Western students this year.

Members of the group said the petition is only the first step. If Jones doesn't intervene or if Iracane and Mrs. Judd do not resign, the business leaders have said they will consider filing a lawsuit against the board for violation of public trust.

Meredith backers vow to pressure WKU regents

By KIRSTEN HAUKEBO
Staff Writer

C.J. 12-19-71

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Having failed to enlist the help of Gov. Brereton Jones, civic and business leaders will seek other ways to remove two regents they say are attacking Western Kentucky University's president.

"The pressure's not going to stop," said Doug Lester, chairman and chief executive officer of Trans Financial Bank.

A petition has circulated since Monday asking Jones to demand the removal of board Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairman Patsy Judd for "harassing" and "intimidating" President Thomas Meredith. About 200 people have signed the petition, which will go to Frankfort next week, said Bob Aldridge,

chairman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce.

Meredith's allies see this as a crucial time, with as many as six hostile votes on the 10-member board and the terms of four regents — including three considered hostile to Meredith — expiring next year.

Jones, in Bowling Green to announce a new factory, reiterated yesterday that although he supports Meredith, he would not get involved in the situation.

"I think it would be a big mistake for any governor to begin to micromanage the various universities," he said. "Every trustee has a right to speak their own will, their own feelings about every issue."

Iracane said he would consider resigning if Jones asked him, but he and Judd said they had no plans to

step down.

Iracane said he is only trying in good faith to improve accounting procedures at WKU.

"I'm going to leave a legacy at Western of an improved accounting system and better accountability," he said.

The regents recently initiated a special audit of 11 areas, nearly all of which were expenses incurred by Meredith or his wife, Susan. In particular, they have focused on an entertainment allowance — now suspended — paid to Susan Meredith.

In a recent letter to Iracane, former regent Wendell Strode revealed the worst fear of Meredith's supporters: "It appears to me that the course of action is to search and search until they have found some basis to terminate the employment and the employment contract of Dr.

Meredith."

Iracane and Judd, whose terms end June 30, deny they are trying to oust Meredith.

Danny Butler, who also is seen as a Meredith opponent, finishes his term at the end of March, as does Fred Travis, who says he supports Meredith. A fifth regent — the student representative on the board — is re-elected every year.

Some fear WKU will lose out on funding if the board doesn't present a united front when the legislature convenes next month.

"The sooner we can focus our energy away from having to address this harassment, the better," Strode said. "It's hurting us with fund raising; it's hurting us everywhere we turn."

Western suspicions growing

12-17-91

By ANGELA GARRETT
The Daily News

Members of a group of business leaders say they believe a call for an audit of some parts of Western Kentucky University's budget — an audit the business leaders believe is aimed at discrediting university President Thomas Meredith — is part of a conspiracy involving former President Kern Alexander.

"We think Dr. Kern Alexander is behind this in some manner," said Bob Aldridge, a spokesman for the group that wants Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd off the board.

Aldridge declined to be specific about his claim of Alexander's involvement.

Group members think Regents Danny Butler, Iracane, Mrs. Judd and Robert Chambliss have been in contact with Alexander about operations at Western, Aldridge said today.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 for a teaching position at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., said last week that Iracane and Mrs. Judd are "dear friends." But he said he has not been in contact with anyone in this region and is unaware of what is going on at Western.

"Occasionally, I get to talk to someone from around Bowling Green," Alexander said. "But I haven't kept up with Kentucky that

much. I don't even know what's going on" at Western.

Iracane and Mrs. Judd have denied that a conspiracy against Meredith exists, saying the audit is an attempt to review and correct accounting procedures at the university.

The two regents also have denied knowledge of a deal Aldridge said was worked out before the board elections in October between some of the business leaders and members of the Board of Regents.

Regent Steve Catron has claimed a deal was made. He said he was told before the Oct. 31 meeting that results of an internal audit of the president's office would be made public if Regent Fred Travis continued with his plan to nominate Catron as board chairman.

Iracane and Mrs. Judd were renamed by acclamation to head the board after no other regents were nominated for the positions. Results of the internal audit were leaked to a Bowling Green radio station a few days later.

A petition by the business leaders asking Gov. Brereton Jones to request that Iracane and Mrs. Judd resign from the board was to be presented to Jones during an economic development announcement in Bowling Green on Wednesday but was delayed to prevent detracting from the announcement, Aldridge said.

The group now plans on Friday to either hand deliver the petition to Jones, or mail the petition to his press secretary for delivery to him, Aldridge said.

Group members plan to circulate the petition, which this morning had about 200 signatures, at E.A. Diddle Arena during tonight's basketball game between Western and Murray State University.

Faculty members feel business

By ANGELA GARRETT
The Daily News

12-20-91

Some Western Kentucky University faculty members think a group of business leaders concerned with the situation between the university's board of regents and President Thomas Meredith need to know more about the university's operations before continuing with accusations against regents.

"Most of what I hear (from faculty members) is fairly negative about the notion of a downtown group trying to put themselves above the system" and dictate what happens at Western, said Dr. Bill Meadors, a physical education and recreation professor.

Business leaders are circulating a petition they plan to submit today or early next week to Gov. Brereton Jones, who has said he supports Meredith but has no

intention of involving himself in an internal conflict at the university.

The petition requests that Jones ask board Chairman Joe Iacone and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd to resign because of continued perception of harassment of Meredith.

But those business leaders get many of their ideas about conditions at Western from extracurricular activities and are not involved in the day-to-day operations of the university, Meadors said.

"I'm distressed with the whole notion of an outside group applying political pressure to get whomever they want on the board appointed," Meadors said.

Western's Faculty Senate voiced support during a Dec. 12 senate meeting for a board-requested audit — an audit some business leaders have deemed a witch hunt aimed at Meredith.

leaders ill-informed on Western

The senate's show of support does not mean the senate is against Meredith but that it wants more accountability in university funding, Senate Vice Chairman Robert Otto has said.

Senate Chairman Arvin Vos said community support for Western is appreciated, but possibly misguided.

"I think the general perception is that we're glad the business leaders have an interest in Western, but the way it's being expressed right now — in trying to get political action against the regents — is inappropriate," Vos said.

Meadors agreed that the group's actions might have gone too far.

"I've been at Western some 23 years, and also was a student here in the mid-'50s," he said. "There's always been a good relationship between the com-

munity and Western and it concerns me that the situation now is divisive."

Vos said business leaders should wait until the audit is complete before deciding what action might need to be taken.

"At this point, it's time to wait and see what is found in this audit and see if we can go on from there," Vos said. "Until we have more evidence, it's time to pack it up and enjoy the holidays."

Bob Aldridge and Wendell Strode, spokesmen for the business leaders group, could not be reached for comment early today.

The petition had about 200 signatures Thursday morning and members of the group planned to circulate the petition during Thursday's basketball game between Western and Murray State University.

Accountability said concern of most universities

By ANGELA GARRETT
The Daily News

12-22-91

Two former Western Kentucky University presidents say audits and accountability are concerns at most universities and worries that an audit at Western is aimed at current President Thomas Meredith could be premature.

"We're having painful reviews of our programs as we look at programs and possible cutbacks here," Dr. Donald Zacharias said Thursday from Mississippi State University in Starkville. "It's a sign of the time in most universities across the country."

Zacharias left Western in 1985 to assume the presidency at Mississippi State.

Dr. Kern Alexander, who took over Western's presidency after Zacharias left, left Western in 1988 to accept a teaching position with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Va.

But while at Western, Alexander often was called upon to respond to questions of accountability, he said.

"Questions of accountability always are before the board," he said. "That is a major question of all public boards — the pure and simple issue of being accountable to the public. There are numerous issues that arise around that question."

Alexander and Zacharias both declined specific

comment on the situation between the board of regents and Meredith, saying they have not been in contact with anyone in this region and are unaware of details of the issue.

A group of business leaders who are concerned that members of the board are harassing Meredith have circulated petitions requesting Gov. Brereton Jones to ask that board Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd resign.

Iracane and Mrs. Judd have denied that the audit is aimed at Meredith, saying only that they are attempting to make university accounts as efficient as possible and Jones has said he will not intervene in a university matter.

Attempts to improve accountability are good, Alexander said.

"I think those are legitimate kinds of questions a board should ask," he said. "The public has a right to know about the accountability question. Any kind of improvements in the accounting system are good, and

attempts to improve accountability are the goals of a public agency."

Meredith was an administrator at the University of Mississippi when Zacharias became president at Mississippi State, Zacharias said, adding that they became acquainted during the three years before Meredith came to Western.

"Everything I know about him (Meredith) is of the finest character," Zacharias said. "I saw him handle some difficult situations while he was here, and he handled them all with professionalism."

As for the audit procedure and findings, it will have to be resolved within the university, Zacharias said.

"It's something for them to resolve as they see fit," Zacharias said.

Alexander agreed that only the board members involved could be sure of their motivation.

"I would think you would have to take the board at its word and Dr. Meredith at his," Alexander said.

Petition asking WKU resignations mailed to governor

By ANGELA GARRETT
The Daily News 12-23-91

A petition containing 329 signatures has been mailed to Gov. Brereton Jones' acting press secretary, asking that the governor request the resignations of Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd.

"It either went out Friday or first thing this morning," said Bob Aldridge, a spokesman for a group of business leaders who circulated the petition. "We had hoped to get 200 to 250 signatures, so getting well over 300 was a nice surprise."

Jones has said he supports Western President Thomas Meredith but will not get involved in the case, because he doesn't think it's his place to interfere in the running of the university.

The group is seeking Iracane's and Mrs. Judd's resignations because of what it sees as their continued

harassment of Meredith.

Mrs. Judd recently requested an audit of some university accounts, most of which are under Meredith's control. Members of the group and some members of the board of regents have decried the audit as a witch hunt, saying they don't disapprove of the audit itself but of the public way in which it's being handled.

The business group has been criticized by Western faculty members who think they should stop trying to run the university without being involved in its day-to-day operations.

The business leaders will meet next week to discuss further action against the regents and to respond to the criticism, Aldridge said. The group is trying to let the debate rest during the holidays, he said.

Petition on WKU regents on its way

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A petition asking Gov. Brereton Jones to request the resignations of Western Kentucky University board of regents Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd has been sent to the governor's office.

The petition, which was circulated by a group of business leaders, contained 329 signatures, the group's spokesman said.

The group is seeking the resignations because of what it says is the two regents' continued harassment of WKU President Thomas Meredith.

Jones has said he supports Meredith but will not get involved because he doesn't think it is his place to interfere in the running of the university.

Judd recently requested an audit of some university accounts, most of which are under Meredith's control. Members of the group and some members of the board of regents have decried the public way in which the matter is being handled.

C. J. 12-27-91

WKU audit cost report is expected

12-30-91
A Daily News report

A letter outlining the cost and time frame of an audit of some Western Kentucky University accounts could be given to members of the audit committee within days, but the audit itself is still some time away, according to Western Regent Fred Travis.

The committee requested the estimate from Baird, Kurtz and Dobson Certified Public Accountants when it outlined during a Dec. 10 meeting the areas to be reviewed — mainly accounts controlled by Western President Thomas Meredith.

"They sent us a letter saying they'd have that to us soon, so I'm hoping it will be around the first of the year," said Travis, a member of the audit committee. "They working on it."

The audit stirred debate after some regents and members of the business community labeled it as a witch hunt aimed at Meredith. They said they are not concerned by the audit, which Meredith supports, but with the public manner in which it has been handled.

Business leaders submitted a petition to Gov. Brereton Jones asking that he request the resignations of board Chairman Joe Iracane

and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd, citing what they perceive as continued harassment of Meredith.

But Jones, who has said he supports Meredith but does not think the governor should become involved in micromanagement of universities, will continue to take a hands-off policy in the situation, said Bill Griffin, Jones' acting press secretary.

"We received the petition the 23rd or 24th (of December), and I'm in the process of drafting a response saying we're in receipt," Griffin

96
said today. "Gov. Jones has made his position clear before."

The business leaders, who were considering meeting this week to consider further action, will wait for the audit results before deciding on future steps, spokesman Bob Aldridge said today.

"We're inclined to think our objective has been achieved in terms of focusing on the activities of the board," he said. "I think we're just going to let this thing lie for a while and let things develop from the audit."

Regents bring varied backgrounds to Western

Profiles of the members of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents:



Peggy Loafman

Peggy Loafman Chairwoman

Peggy W. Loafman of Bowling Green is the Bowling Green region president of Trans Financial Bank.

She is a 1971 graduate of Western with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her other activities include Leadership Bowling Green (1986), Leadership Kentucky (1991), Business Woman of the Year (1988), chairwoman of the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce (1992), Kids on the Block (1996-96) and United Way vice chair

(1988).

She and her husband, Gerald, have three children.



Cornelius Martin

Cornelius Martin Vice chairman

Cornelius A. Martin of Bowling Green is president of Martin Automotive Group, which includes dealerships in Bowling Green; Lexington; Dayton, Ohio; Hurricane, W.Va.; and Des Moines, Iowa.

He began working in the automobile business while attending Wright State University and is a graduate of the General Motors Dealer Academy.

He was named Small Business Person of the Year in 1989 by the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce and his

Dayton Saturn dealership was one of 10 Good Housekeeping and Automotive News Automotive Dealership Service Excellence Award winners for 1996. In 1997, he was named Black Enterprise Auto Dealer of the Year.

His civic activities have included service on the Kentucky Governor's Commission on Quality and Efficiency in State Government; chairman of Bowling Green Municipal Utilities; and a board member for the Bowling Green-Warren County Arts Commission, National Corvette Museum, United Way of Southern Kentucky and the South Central Kentucky Minority Economic Development Council.

He and his wife, Gail, have three children.

Kristen T. Bale

Kristen T. Bale, a resident of Glasgow, holds a bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Her memberships have included The Kentucky Museum Advisory Board, the education committee of the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce, the Barren County Bicentennial Committee, Leadership Kentucky, the Pritchard Committee and the Glasgow Group Home Board.



Kristen Bale

She is the bookkeeper for Glasgow Family Physicians, which includes her husband, Phillip. They have four children.

Keith Coffman Student regent

Keith Coffman of Russellville is the student regent and president of the Student Government Association. He is a senior majoring in marketing.

Robert Earl Fischer

Robert Earl Fischer of Owensboro is president of Western Kentucky Gas. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Brescia College in Owensboro and began



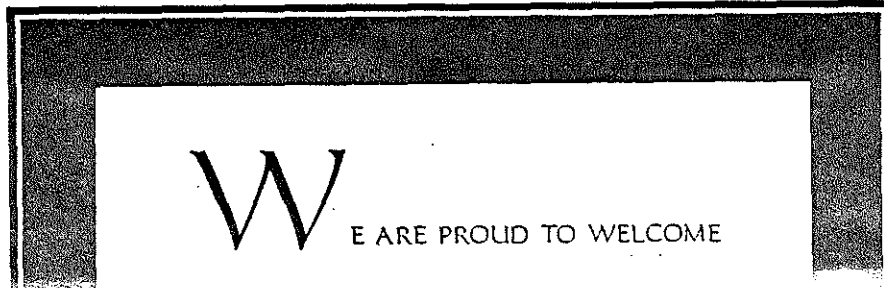
Robert Earl Fischer

working for Western Kentucky Gas in 1962 in its general office accounting department.

Fischer is a former chairman of the WKU Board of Regents, the Governor's Task Force of Business and Industry on Post Secondary Education, Industry Inc. of Owensboro and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. He has also been on the board of trustees of Brescia College and a director of Owensboro National Bank, the Owensboro-Daviess County Industrial Foundation and Junior Achievement of Owensboro. He was named the 1994 Volunteer of the Year by the Southern Industrial Development Council.

He and his wife, Sally, have

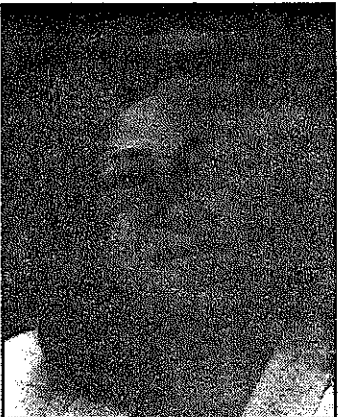
See REGENTS, Page 11



REGENTS

From Page 10

three children and two guardian children.

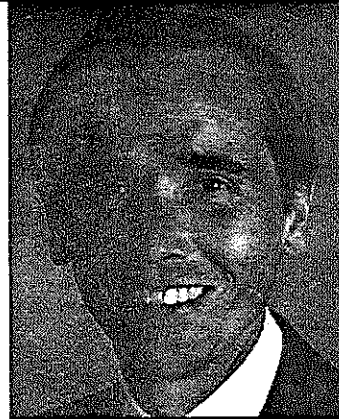


Joy Gramling

Joy Gramling Staff regent

Joy Gramling of Scottsville is the first elected staff regent at Western. She is a WKU graduate, with a degree in general studies.

Gramling works in the Department of Facilities Management as head painter in building maintenance and repair. She has served on the Women's Alliance Advisory Committee to the President and has been a member of the Women's Alliance Membership Committee.



C.C. Howard Gray

C.C. Howard Gray

C.C. Howard Gray of Lexington is president and CEO of James N. Gray Construction Co., which provides comprehensive management services for the design and construction of large building projects. He attended Transylvania University and received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Western in 1971. Gray serves on various organizations and boards, including Trans Financial Bank in Bowling Green and Bluegrass Hospice of the Bluegrass. He is a former chairman of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Cassandra, have four children.

Lois W. Gray

Lois W. Gray of Hardin County is the superintendent of Hardin County schools. She has spent 34 years in education, 14 as a teacher and 20 as an administrator.

Her civic activities include the Radcliff Woman's Club, the Elizabethtown Rotary Club, the Hardin County-Elizabethtown Chamber of Commerce, the Radcliff/Vine Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Hardin County United Way.

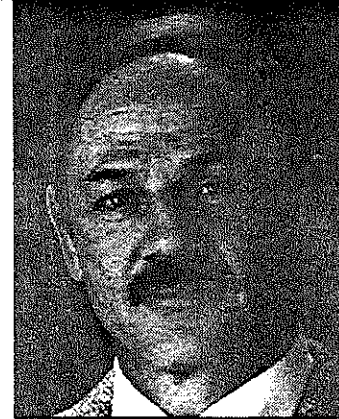
She was recently named Kentucky Administrator of the Year by the Kentucky Association of Educational Office Professionals, Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals and State Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators and The Servicemaster Co.

She and her husband, David, have two sons.

Sara Lyle Hulse

Sara Lyle Hulse of Owensboro is a psychologist and a 1961 Western graduate. She is the former executive director of Owensboro-Daviess County Labor Management Committee in Owensboro. She has also served on the advisory board for the WKU-Owensboro campus.

She has three children.



Raymond Mendel

Raymond Mendel faculty regent

Raymond Mendel, a professor of psychology at Western, is the faculty representative on the Board of Regents. A native of London, England, Mendel joined the faculty at Western in 1972.

His degrees include a bachelor's degree from Grinnell College and master's and doctoral degrees from Iowa State University. His memberships have included Sigma Xi and Phi Kappa Phi.

He is married to Colleen Mendel, who is director of Training and Technical Assistance Services at Western.

Burns E. Mercer

Burns E. Mercer of Hardinsburg is president and



Burns Mercer

CEO of Meade County Rural Electric Coöperative Corp. He is a 1972 WKU graduate with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

He is chairman of the Breckinridge County Development Authority and vice chair of the Breckinridge County Development Corp. and is on the boards of United Utility Supply and the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives. He is a former chairman of the WKU Board of Regents and has served on the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, Leadership Kentucky and Kentucky Educational Television Board.

Mercer and his wife, Marcella, have two children.

If you want to see some schoolwork, just pick up the paper.



In classrooms across Warren County, the Daily News is an important part of education.

Because of the unswerving support of area

July 19, 1998

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Patton makes university, fair board appointments

FRANKFORT (AP) — Gov. Paul Patton replaced 11 university board members and retained seven others in appointments announced Friday.

Eastern Kentucky University: Appointed Daisy French, Lexington, to replace Irving Rosenstein, Lexington; reappointed Alice Rhodes, Ashland.

Kentucky State University: Appointed Nancy Lovett, Murray, to replace Curtis Sullivan, Bowling Green; and Roger Reynolds, Louisville, to replace Newton McCravy III, Louisville.

Morehead State University: Appointed Madge Walters Baird, Pikeville, to replace John Rosenberg, Prestonsburg; reappointed Buckner Hinkle Jr., Lexington.

Murray State University: Reappointed Sid Easley, Murray, and Wells Lovett, Owensboro.

Northern Kentucky University: Appointed Mary Alice Hasty, Louisville, to replace Karen Bear-den, Louisville; reappointed Alice Sparks, Crescent Springs.

Western Kentucky University: Appointed James Tennill Jr., Louisville, to replace C.C. Howard Gray, Lexington; and Ronald Sheffer, Louisville, to replace Burns Mercer, Hardinsburg.

University of Kentucky: Appointed Marian Moore Sims, Lexington, to replace Kay Bell, Georgetown; reappointed Elissa May-Plattner, Camp Springs, and Robert Meriwether, Paducah.

University of Louisville: Appointed William Mulloy Sr., Louisville, to replace Minx Auerbach, Louisville; Joyce Schifano, Louisville, to replace Harry Jones, Louisville; Linda Cauble, Louisville, to replace Olga Peers, Louisville.

The terms for all the university board members expire June 30, 2004.

Patton also reappointed Lanny Dale Greer of East Bernstadt to the state fair board. He appointed Charles Hamilton of Shepherdsville to replace David Hall of Louisville to the fair board.

WKU regents want school's visibility to rise

■ Board increasing presence in parts of state that can boost future plans

By ROBYN L. MINOR
The Daily News

July 22,
1998

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will take its show on the road next week to increase the school's profile.

Regents, including three new ones who will be sworn in at the meeting, will gather July 30-31 in Owensboro, where the university has an extended campus.

"It is important for our board to be visible across the state, especially in areas that are central to our mission," President Gary Ransdell said.

Owensboro is important because of Western's extended campus and because of a new facility it wants to construct there with Owensboro Community College and the state vocational school, Ransdell said.

The group will tour prospective facility sites and will push for the project to be on a legislative agenda when the General Assembly reconvenes in 2000.

Western and Owensboro Community College for years have talked

about the importance of the new facility.

Western was successful in getting two such projects approved by the General Assembly this year — one in Glasgow between itself and the vocational school system and another in Elizabethtown.

Regents also will discuss a review of the university's athletic system and a strategic plan.

Committee meetings and tours will be held at various locations in Owensboro.

Outgoing board members Burns Mercer of Mercer County and Howard Gray of Lexington will be recognized during a luncheon July 31 at Summitt Country Club. That will be followed by the swearing in of new regents Ronald Scheffer, a Louisville attorney; James Tennill, vice president for the Louisville investment firm Advest Inc.; and student Regent Stephanie Cosby, a Greenville senior.

The two citizen regents will serve through June 30, 2004, while the student regent position is an annual term.

The regular meeting is expected to begin about 2 p.m. July 31 at the country club.

The October board meeting is expected to be in Louisville, Ransdell said.

Regents right to raise visibility

◆ Topic

Western Kentucky University's regents are making themselves – and Western – more visible in the region the school serves.

◆ Where we stand

The region's – and the state's – responsibilities to Western should be made clear if Western is to achieve its goal of excellence.

In their desire for greater recognition for Western Kentucky University, the school's regents have pinpointed one of Western's crucial needs.

No matter how much more outstanding a university Western becomes, its success must be measured in the quality of the students it attracts and the contributions it makes to the region, state and nation.

The regents will raise the school's visibility with a series of meetings and tours in Owensboro, where the university maintains an extended campus that is increasing in importance, and in Lexington.

This is a good step, and the regents surely must be considering future meetings at other areas in the state where Western's presence is strong, such as in Glasgow and Elizabethtown. Demonstrating to parents and potential students across Kentucky that Western is a friendly, up-and-coming institution of higher learning can only help when enrollment decisions are to be made.

Appearances do count. Excellence in education also counts.

Three new regents are joining Western's board, and they undoubtedly are aware of the decisive action taken by the board to enhance Western's standing in the academic community, including the laying out of priorities that emphasize Western's continued growth into a university of distinction.

The decision of the regents to get out and on the road will contribute to the fulfillment of such goals.

Money also will help, as will timely decisions as to the order in which academic programs should be promoted to the state.

Gov. Paul Patton's educational reform act extends to state universities the potential for substantial financial assistance in achieving academic distinction in disciplines of the universities' choosing.

Western needs matching funds in order to qualify for state funds in all areas it designates for consideration. It also must decide a reasonable sequence in which the programs are to be promoted to the state so that it does not dissipate its efforts on too many programs at any one time.

The role of regents on the road surely will be threefold: to garner general support for the university, to beat the bushes for financial support for the university generally and for the selected programs, and to beat the bushes for good students for these and other programs.

Practitioners in the disciplines Western designates for programs of distinction no doubt can be of help in raising the prerequisite matching funds.

But the region Western serves – and we take this region to be all of Kentucky and then some – also has a stake in helping the university achieve the academic goals it has set for itself.

We trust those associated with the university are making this regional responsibility, financial and otherwise, clear.

Regents

Aug. 2,
1998

want more

■ Programs outline ambitious goals for Western's Board of Regents

By JILL NOELLE CECIL
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University will work to attract more students, especially higher-quality students, in the next several years as part of the university's strategic plan.

"Challenging the Spirit," which was passed by the board of regents Friday in Owensboro, outlines several goals for the university in the next five years. Part of the plan includes increasing enrollment by 1,000 new students each year and increasing the ACT score gradually each year to 23 points by the year 2003.

The plan calls for more accountability through broader evaluations for the quality of instruction, student learning and faculty review.

Also in development are department and unit plans, which will be submitted to the board in December and are expected to be approved in April.

Staff members from many departments have already been working on their reports. Sharon Dyrsen, academic services director, said that in the past four months her staff has made plans to increase enrollment by making staff members more accessible. She said information about Western will be available on CD ROM for high school students and more college fairs will be held. Admissions staff members will also have laptop computers to take with them to help their presentations.

"I think this is a very good start for getting that cycle going effectively," Dyrsen said.

A big portion of the plan will focus on fund-raising efforts. In the next five years, Western's combined endowment is expected to increase to \$50 million from the current \$20 million. Twenty-five new endowed faculty positions will be created to assist in that goal. Private gifts are expected to increase from \$3 million to \$10 million annually.

Wires crossed about funding announcement

By the Daily News

News that Western Kentucky University was getting \$12 million for construction of an alumni center was a surprise to many, including the university.

Gov. Paul Patton announced the funding Tuesday while in Bowling Green. Patton included the alumni center among items that would be funded with surplus state revenue.

An apparent mixup in lists provided to the governor's office by the Council on Post-secondary Education is being blamed for the erroneous announcement.

If such a new center were built, it will be constructed with private funds, according to Bob Skipper, director of media relations for the university.

Skipper said the university is in the early stages of planning a new alumni center and has it on a long wish list of capital construction projects.

"But we are no where near having a cost estimate for the project," he said. "A funding proposal hasn't even been submitted to the state and we wouldn't be seeking state funding anyway."

Missing from the governor's list of projects was funding for Western's extended campus in Glasgow, which would be about \$12 million.

It's likely the two were confused, Skipper speculated.

In other business, new officers for the board of regents were named. Cornelius Martin was named chairman, Kristen Bale was named vice chairwoman and Lois Gray was named secretary.

Gray is also the new chairwoman for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Earl Fisher is the new chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and Peggy Loafman is the new chairwoman for the Institutional Advancement Committee.

Correction

Aug. 5,
1998

An article in Sunday's Daily News misidentified the secretary for Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents. The secretary is Liz Esters.

Also in the article, the university's strategic plan will increase the number of applicants for enrollment each year by 1,000 students.