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Meredith's approval rating up dramatically

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith's approval rating among faculty members has improved dramatically since 1991, according to a survey released Thursday by the Faculty Senate.

The senate, which conducts an annual non-scientific survey of

4-1-92
DN
faculty opinion, received 326 responses to questionnaires sent to 549 Western faculty members.

Meredith's job performance was rated as very good by 35 percent, compared with 5 percent in 1991. Twenty-seven percent gave him a good rating and 22 percent an acceptable rating, compared with 14 percent for good and 37 percent for acceptable in 1991.

"I'm pleased with that," Meredith said.

Seven percent gave him a poor rating, compared with 23 percent in 1991. Eight percent of the respondents gave him a very poor rating, down from 21 percent in 1991.

Meredith said improved communication between the faculty and himself might have contributed to the higher approval rating.

"(Faculty Senate) Chairman (Arvin) Vos and I have had a good working relationship," Meredith said.

In other business, Faculty Regent Eugene Evans expressed concern that money might be taken from the school's \$2 million Reserve Fund to

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MEREDITH

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help football if the athletics department cannot come up with \$315,000 in additional funding.

But Meredith told senators that the \$450,000 in university support approved by the Board of Regents was the maximum amount the school will give football in 1992-93. The remaining money for the program must come from ticket and concession sales, game guarantees, personal contributions and corporate financial gifts.

Evans, who voted against the budget plan, said football was the biggest issue the board dealt with in deciding to approve the plan.

"I think there are some unanswered questions. It's a riverboat gamble," Evans said.

The quality of the football program was not debated, he said.

"I don't think we'll have to worry about a drop in quality. I think they've already accomplished that," Evans said.

The regent added a moment later, "I should take that back, because that's a cheap shot."

Regents approved recommendations from the school's Budget Committee by a 6-4 vote. Their one exception to a April 13 budget recommendations memo from Meredith was to allow football

to continue if the program can raise additional money to cover its costs.

The \$450,000 would have been spent anyway because of players' scholarships and coaches' contracts, which the school must honor.

The 1992-93 budget will be hampered by a \$6.1 million shortfall that is the result of \$4.6 million in decreased revenues and \$1.5 million in increased expenditures.

The school's Budget Committee came up with about \$4.3 in cuts and \$1.8 million in projected revenue increases. Those cuts include the elimination of 51 positions, 26 of which are already vacant. Sixteen non-academic units will become or move toward financially self-supporting status, and seven offices or services will be eliminated.

The Faculty Senate reaffirmed by a 30-13 vote its stand that the football program should be eliminated. The senate had voted in March to support the elimination of football at Western.

Thursday's meeting was the last for the 1991-92 Faculty Senate. Senators named Sally Kuhlenschmidt, an assistant psychology professor, as chairwoman of the 1992-93 Faculty Senate.

Marriott contracted to operate food services at WKU

4-2-92 DN

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

The Marriott Corp. will operate food services at Western Kentucky University beginning July 1.

Marriott was awarded a five-year contract today by Western's Board of Regents. The international food

and hotel service company will pay Western \$200,000 a year to rent food facilities on campus.

Two percent of net sales will also go into Western coffers.

Marriott will invest \$1 million in facility improvements during the next five years and another 2 per-

cent of net sales will go toward buying new equipment, according to John Osborne.

Osborne chaired a university committee that studied the Western's food services and alternatives to the in-house management of that department.

The committee received six proposals, including one from Western's food services department, before recommending that Marriott operate dining facilities and snack bars on campus.

Concessions and vending at the university will not be included in the

contract, according to university President Thomas Meredith.

The snack area at Downing University Center will be turned into a food court. Burger King, Taco Bell,

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Subway, Pizza Hut and Dannon Yogurt will have booths at the center, Osborne said.

"It's what Marriott calls a branded concept. There may be more outlets later," Osborne said.

Twelve board plans will be offered to students. The plans would be purchased for a certain number of days and meals. Board plan meals would offer all-you-can-eat, according to Osborne.

"I think its important to note that Marriott will place an emphasis on healthy foods (in the dining centers)," Meredith said.

"It's a little bit of everything for everybody," Osborne said.

The cost to students for the new services will either stay the same, or in some cases go down, Osborne said.

University food service employees are guaranteed one year of employment at their present wages. They will be retrained and in some cases promoted to other jobs, the committee chairman said.

Marriott plans to expand the hiring of students for part-time food services jobs. The university's home economics department might even be able to send hotel and restaurant management majors to Marriott facilities for internships in the near future, Meredith said.

The proposal was ironed out with representative's of Marriott's Charlotte, N.C., office, Osborne said.

New regents Burns Mercer and Howard Gray were sworn in at the meeting. They replace former regents Danny Butler and Fred Travis.

Both said they were pleased to be named and that they had no planned initiatives.

Food services is one area being reviewed by Arthur Andersen and Co. The Louisville auditing firm expects to complete a review of those accounts, along with all presidential and food services accounts, within the next two weeks, according to university administrators.

4-12-92
DN



Stacy Curtis ©1992 DAILYNEWS

Editorial

A committee searching for a way to implement a \$6.3 million state-mandated cut from Western Kentucky University's budget has taken aim at the university's football program.

Rather than act with the skill of a fine surgeon and his scalpel, the committee will recommend to the Board of Regents the entire program be cut. That is more like the fast swing of an executioner and his broadax.

Though changes might be needed in Western football, such a cut would precipitate a series of disasters.

Those students who are on scholarships could be hurt if those scholarships are withdrawn. The university has an obligation to keep its word to those young men. They chose to play football at Western, rather than somewhere else. Any career they had hoped to make in professional football might be destroyed if football is eliminated at Western.

Also, how many students would not have gotten a higher education had it not been for the Western program? How many won't get that education if football is nixed?

Western's football program complements the balance of traditional college sports, including basketball and baseball. School's without such a balance are often considered lacking appeal with potential students.

Obviously, the prestige and recognition Western strives for would be diminished should football disappear.

What about Western alumni who look forward to Homecoming festivities each fall when they can return to the campus and renew friendships with former classmates, friends and faculty?

Football Homecoming gives the university a chance to showcase itself to alumni, who usually follow through with continued support.

Homecoming focuses almost entirely around laid-back anticipation of a Saturday football game. And weather is usually conducive to all outdoor activities. It's doubtful that a

Homecoming centered around basketball would share those factors. It could make the event a bust.

Then, too, the loss of football would be felt economically throughout the Bowling Green business community.

There have to be other solutions that will allow Western to keep football.

Western's football budget for the 1991-92 fiscal year was \$530,397, not including scholarships. The scholarships, budgeted in the school's general scholarship fund, came to \$395,470.

The total expenditure for football was \$925,867. The program returned \$96,000 in gate receipts for the 1991 season.

However, former Athletic Director Jimmy Feix estimates Western would lose close to \$400,000 of more than \$50 million in state appropriations, which are based on several factors, including enrollment.

Western also receives \$7,000 for football from the NCAA.

The NCAA also reimburses member schools for full athletic scholarships on a sliding scale. Western got \$67,500 in scholarship money from the NCAA during the last fiscal year. Loss of football's 67 full grants would mean a loss of \$54,360 from the NCAA.

However, some scholarships could be cut or phased out through attrition. Staff and salaries also could be cut. More emphasis needs to be placed on increasing attendance, making each game an event for the public.

Also, the return to the Ohio Valley Conference has been mentioned as a possibility with many advantages for football, including reduced travel expense and increased attendance resulting from more natural rivalries.

Regardless of the solution, one must be found to keep Western's football program alive. To kill it would cut beneath the skin of athletics and into the vitality of the university and Bowling Green.

Lexington businessman, ex-head of education council join WKU board

Associated Press

4-2-92
LHC
FRANKFORT — Howard Gray, president and chief executive officer of James N. Gray Construction Co. in Lexington, has been appointed to Western Kentucky University's board of regents.

Also appointed was Burns Mercer, a former chairman of the state Council on Higher Education.

An executive order making the appointments Tuesday was released yesterday by Gov. Breerton Jones' office.

Mercer, of Hardinsburg, is a certified public accountant. He replaces Danny Butler of Greensburg, whose term expired.

Gray replaced Fred L. Travis of Glasgow, whose term also expired.

Budget questions remain

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

4-2-92
DN

Western Kentucky University Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said he is satisfied with most of the budget recommendations delivered last week to regents.

"I'd say right now that I could be for 65 to 75 percent of them. I think we should have a special meeting of the board so that we can discuss these items publicly and see which ones could be sent back to the budget committee for further study," Iracane said Sunday.

He did not specify about which items he had questions.

"I think we should look at the whole picture first and then we can start narrowing things down," Iracane said.

Iracane said he did not know when the special meeting would be called.

"The date that's looming before

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us is April 30. I think we should meet before then," Iracane said.

The regents' quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 30. University President Thomas Meredith said in an April 13 memo to regents that the school's 1992-93 budget should be approved at that meeting because budget recommendations "will impact many lives and programs."

Regents did not approve the 1991-92 budget until July 29.

Patsy Judd, the board's chairwoman, said today that she was go-

ing to begin looking at the recommendations from the school's Budget Committee this week.

"I wouldn't want to speculate on various recommendations. When all the board members get together, we can form a consensus on what would need to be done with the recommendations," she said.

Regents will have to deal with more than \$6.1 million in budget cuts to this year's spending plan.

Other regents and Meredith were unavailable for comment.

Jones replaces 2 WKU regents, offers advice

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY, Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Gov. Breereton Jones yesterday replaced two Western Kentucky University regents whose terms had expired and told the new board members "to come into the situation with open minds."

The new regents, Howard Gray of Lexington and Burns Mercer of Hardinsburg, will be sworn in today at a special board meeting. Gray is president of James N. Gray Construction Co. Inc., and Mercer is administrative services director for Meade County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp. Both are graduates of Western.

They succeeded Danny Butler and Freddie Travis, both of whom were appointed to the board by former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Butler and Travis had aligned themselves with opposing factions in an ongoing controversy over some spending accounts, a number of which are controlled by Western President Thomas Meredith. Butler joined regents Chairman Joe Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd in pushing for an audit and hiring former Gov. Louie Nunn to supervise it. Travis, while voting initially to hire Nunn, otherwise voted with the minority regents

See WKU'S
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WKU's two new regents advised by Jones to keep 'open minds'

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faction led by Stephen Catron.

The spending accounts are being reviewed now by a team from the accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co.

Jones has asked Gray and Mercer "to come into the situation with open minds, to represent the best interests of Kentucky taxpayers," said Jones' press secretary, Frank Ashley.

In an interview, Mercer, 41, appeared to be following Jones' request.

"Generally, my philosophy is to support management up until the point I think management is not correctly guiding or leading (their) organization," he said. "Then I'm for making a change. But as long I'm convinced they're doing the right kind of job, then I'm going to support management."

Mercer also said he didn't think regents should "micromanage whatever they're in charge of" — a reference to what some Bowling Green civic leaders have accused Iracane and Judd of doing.

Iracane and Judd have denied that charge and said they wanted only to ensure that Western spends its limited money efficiently.

Mercer said he thought regents should provide "broad-based goals for the university, and look out a few years ahead to see what direction the university ought to be going in. They should be supporting efforts (to secure) adequate funding, and also be making sure every dol-

lar is spent wisely for that university."

Gray, 42, was traveling yesterday and couldn't be reached for comment.

The appointments drew praise from Gary Cox, director of the Council on Higher Education, and Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Tom Emberton, president of Western's alumni association.

Cox called Mercer, a former

is active in several professional organizations and on several boards of directors, including Leadership Kentucky, the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, Hospice of the Bluegrass and TransFinancial Bank of Bowling Green. Former Regent Wendell Strode, a Meredith supporter and vocal critic of Iracane, is senior vice president and retail banking manager of that bank.

Mercer has been a member of the Kentucky Educational Television board, the Kentucky Bluegrass State Skills Corp. board and the Hardinsburg City Council. His current memberships include the executive committee for Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and the Salmon P. Chase College of Law Board of Visitors.

Campaign-finance records show that Mercer gave \$590 to Jones during the 1991 primary campaign and that Gray gave Jones a total of \$3,000 last year for the primary and general election. Gray also gave Jones' 1987 campaign for lieutenant governor \$2,000.

The regents' special meeting, called to award a food-services contract, likely will place all food sales except for concessions and vending in the hands of a private outside contractor. Iracane said earlier this week that the idea to contract out the cafeterias and snack bars was proposed long before the audit controversy, which includes questions about major losses in food services

Jones has asked Gray and Mercer "to come into the situation with open minds . . ."

Press secretary Frank Ashley

chairman of the higher-education council, "top-notch."

"He'll be willing to ask the tough questions when they're hard to ask," he said.

Emberton predicted that Gray, a member of the alumni association's executive committee, would be objective, provide "well thought out" views and be "a strong supporter of whatever's best for Western."

Gray received a business administration degree from WKU in 1971, and Mercer, an accounting degree in 1972.

Gray, a former Glasgow resident

U of L plan shrinks or cuts 5 departments

Associated Press

4-3-92
EHL

LOUISVILLE — The University of Louisville sent shock waves through the ranks of its employees by proposing another cutback that would eliminate five academic and service departments.

The plan also would sharply reduce several departments in the next year to save \$1.5 million.

These would be in addition to more than \$5 million in cuts planned largely by U of L's schools and administrative departments.

Under the cuts announced Wednesday, the number of academ-

ic advisers apparently would be cut in half over three years. Faculty members in the respiratory therapy program would lose their jobs because their department will be shut down or cut back.

University President Donald Swain declined to say how many jobs would be cut under the plans, explaining that some would be transferred to other departments and that none of the proposals is final.

Based on university directories and information from the budget department, however, at least 12

faculty positions could be eliminated in the departments proposed to be shut down or cut back.

More than two dozen jobs would be affected by the elimination and consolidation of student-service departments, including the International Center, advising centers, the Center for Academic Achievement and the Preparatory Division.

Swain said he would start making final decisions April 15, and the plan would not become final until a board of trustees meeting on April 27.

U of L cuts ⁴⁻³⁻⁹² are shocking to employees

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — University of Louisville employees said they were stunned by the administration's proposal for another cutback that would eliminate five academic and service departments.

The plan also would sharply reduce several other departments in the next year to save \$1.5 million.

These would be in addition to more than \$5 million in cuts planned largely by U of L's schools and administrative departments.

University President Donald Swain declined to say how many jobs would be cut under the plans, explaining that some would be transferred to other departments and that none of the proposals are final.

Swain said he would start making final decisions on April 15, and the plan would not become final until a board of trustees meeting on April 27.

Under the new budget cuts announced Wednesday, the number of academic advisers apparently would be cut in half over three years. Faculty members in the respiratory therapy program were stunned by plans to eliminate their jobs as their department will be shut down or cut back.

"The sudden announcement was a shock," said Jim Carter, assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences who is in charge of academic advising.

"I'm still trying to adapt to this," said Jerry Walker, an associate professor of respiratory therapy whose job would be eliminated.

Based on university directories and information from the budget department, at least 12 faculty positions could be eliminated in the departments proposed to be shut down or cut back.

More than two dozen jobs would be affected by the elimination and consolidation of student-service departments, including the International Center, advising centers, the Center for Academic Achievement and the Preparatory Division.

Burger King on the Hill

Fast-food restaurants coming to WKU campus

By Bill Estep

South-central Kentucky bureau

4-3-92
HL

Western Kentucky University students will be able to get to fast food faster under a plan approved yesterday to bring Pizza Hut and Burger King to campus.

Western's Board of Regents gave the Marriott Corp. a five-year contract to operate the school's food services. Under the plan, Marriott will bring franchises for Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, Burger King, Dannon Yogurt and Subway onto campus, said Jerry Wilder, vice president for student affairs at Western.

Marriott proposed creating a food court at Downing University Center for the franchises. The plan could include other franchises and other locations on campus, a news release said.

Louis Cook, Western's director of Food Services, said the national fast-food franchises will resemble express outlets like those in malls and airports.

Cook said he thought the University of

Louisville is the only other Kentucky college with fast-food outlets on campus.

The plan also contains something tasty for Western — elimination of chronic deficits in the Food Services Department.

Food services at Western lost more than \$1 million in the last decade under the school's management.

Under the new contract, Marriott will operate all cafeterias on campus and assume all risks.

Marriott agreed to spend \$1 million to renovate facilities and to pay Western \$200,000 a year in rent and a 2 percent commission.

Wilder said students' food costs will remain "relatively the same."

Marriott also guaranteed to provide jobs for all current Food Services employees for a year.

Cook, however, said Marriott will bring its own director. He said he thought he would stay on in some other capacity.

Football cuts discussed

By JOE MEDLEY
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith and Athletics Director Louis Marciani discussed today a plan to drastically cut the school's football budget, the Daily News has learned.

Marciani said nothing conclusive came from the meeting.

"We talked about a game plan, and he sent me back to do more homework," Marciani said. "All Tom did was say we need to look at this area and that area, and now I've got more work to do."

The plan that is being drawn up by Marciani and football coach Jack Harbaugh is an attempt to save the 1992 season. Western's Budget Committee has recommended suspending football to help meet a state-mandated \$6.1 million in cuts for fiscal year 1992-93. The Board of Regents will vote on the committee's recommendations April 30.

In a letter attached to the committee's recommendations, which were mailed

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FOOTBALL

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Monday to regents, Meredith said he asked Marciani to work with Harbaugh on an alternative for suspension of the program because Western will incur football expenses in fiscal 1992-93, which begins July 1, even if the program is suspended.

If the board suspends football, Western must honor more than \$300,000 scholarships and Harbaugh's salary of \$65,232. Three assistant coaches would be kept on the payroll until Oct. 1 so they'll have time find work elsewhere, and Western has committed to games amounting to \$110,000 in guarantees.

In his letter, Meredith said he asked Marciani to offer a plan that would spend no more than the expenses that would be incurred regardless of the board's vote.

"I believe this could be accomplished," Meredith said in his letter. (See Page 1-B for more on Western football).

Western's football budget for 1991-92 was \$525,479. Athletics scholarships are budgeted in the school's general scholarship fund.

When Marciani's plan is finalized, Meredith is expected to present it to regents before the April 30 vote. Several regents have expressed interest in hearing alternatives to suspending football.

The football team is going through spring practice drills, which will conclude with a spring game in L.T. Smith Stadium on April 23.

David C. L. Bauer, city editor

WKU audit might be finished next week

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Arthur Andersen and Co. should complete its review of certain Western Kentucky University accounts in six to 10 working days, Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said today.

"I spoke with them by phone and that's how long I think they'll take," Iracane said.

Arthur Andersen began an on-campus review of all presidential, food services and physical plant accounts on March 30. The review

also will look at expenses charged to the school by regents.

Regents approved the review March 23.

Iracane said he plans to make the results and recommendations from Arthur Andersen public as soon as possible.

"My idea is to give everyone the same thing at the same time. The public needs to know about this. There is nothing secretive about this," Iracane said.

Regents also decided March 23 to appeal a decision by Warren Circuit

Judge Thomas Lewis, who ruled Feb. 28 that former Gov. Louie B. Nunn was hired illegally by the board to oversee the audit.

A motion to dismiss the appeal was filed last week by attorney John David Cole, who represents regents Steve Catron and Bobby Bartley in the lawsuit brought against Nunn's hiring.

Cole and Frankfort attorney Bill Johnson, who represented the board's majority in the suit, ironed out an agreement letter with Arthur Andersen on March 18.

The agreement ended five months of turmoil about procedures and accounting practices at Western. There was speculation that the move to have an audit was an attempt to force university President Thomas Meredith from office, but regents have said they only want to improve the way Western operates.

Meredith, Catron and Bartley have all said they support the audit. Catron and Bartley have only wanted the audit process to be fair, according to Cole.

Murray State faculty votes to support budget recommendations

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Murray State University's faculty members, considering a no-confidence vote on the school's administration, voted instead to back the administration's budget recommendations.

Ray Conklin, a music professor who heads the faculty senate, said the no-confidence resolution was not acted upon Monday and remain-

ed on the table.

The group voted 101-40 to support the administration's plans to restore some academic financing and begin looking at ways to cut spending on athletics.

"I think everybody wants to try to work in a cooperative spirit with the administration and with the board of regents," Conklin said.

The university is trying to find ways to save \$4.5 million. Faculty members had been upset by a cost-cutting plan they said would help athletics and not academics.

The regents at Murray, which has 7,810 students, are expected to approve a nearly \$70 million spending plan for the school next month. Of that money, 51 percent would go to

academic programs. *4-7-92 DN*

In October, then-Gov. Wallace Wilkinson ordered the school to cut spending 3.3 percent to help make up for a state revenue shortfall.

The 1992-93 budget approved by the legislature calls for an additional 5 percent cut in the fiscal year beginning July 1.

WKU faculty, staff won't take pay cut

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Staff and faculty at Western Kentucky University apparently will not fall victim to a budget cut, the school's executive vice president said today.

There has been talk that faculty members would take a 2 percent pay cut because of a more than \$6 million revenue cut to this year's budget. Some speculation remains that cuts are being examined for departments that could affect specific staff and faculty.

"Through the life of the Budget Committee, when the issue of salary cuts came up, it was decided not to recommend that for anybody," Executive Vice President Paul Cook said.

The committee will make recommendations to the Board of Regents, which approves the budget.

Cook declined to name specific cuts that the committee will recommend to regents. An announcement on those cuts would have to come from university President Thomas Meredith, he said.

Meredith was unavailable for

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PAY CUT

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comment today.

Faculty Senate President Arvin Vos said Meredith has made a commitment not to cut into instructional funding.

"If that happens, it will be a first as far as I know," Vos said.

The percentage of money spent on instructional expenses at Western decreased between 1986 and 1990, although student enrollment grew, according to figures published in the April edition of the Faculty Senate's newsletter.

Instructional spending made up 43 percent of Western's expenditures in 1986. By 1990, that figure was 39.6 percent. From the 1985-86 to the 1990-91 school years, fall enrollment increased by 33.5 percent.

Full-time faculty at Western grew 4.4 percent from 1985 to 1990, but part-time faculty increased by 75 percent.

Instructional spending includes money for teacher salaries and academic department operations.

"As faculty, we're still sort of on pins and needles right now, wondering what will happen," Vos said.

Regents will consider the Budget Committee's recommendations at the board's quarterly meeting on April 30.

Western football awaiting its fate

4-8-92
DN

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University's Faculty Senate president wants to soften a resolution calling for the abolishment of the school's football program.

Instead, the resolution should call for the suspension of the program as one way to relieve the problem of more than \$6 million in budget cuts now facing the school, President Arvin Vos said today.

"I'm going to sound out our executive committee about that idea and get a feeling about how it might fly with the whole senate," Vos said.

The Faculty Senate meets Thursday at 3:30 p.m. in the Regents Room of the Wetherby Administration Building.

The resolution, which would be delivered to university President Thomas Meredith, if approved, was discussed at the Faculty Senate's March meeting.

"That was a kind of spur of the moment resolution that came up during our discussions at the meeting," Vos said.

Vos said he did not think faculty members were opposed to having a football program.

"It is taking a lot of money out of the general fund at the expense of the instructional budget. If there was

NG GREEN, KENTUCKY

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support for the program, it could become self-supporting," Vos said.

Steve Spencer, as assistant professor in the Physical Education and Recreation Department, said the Faculty Senate should stay out of the athletics situation at Western.

"We have an athletic director to handle this. The Faculty Senate telling athletics which programs it should have is like the Agriculture Department telling the English Department what courses they should teach," said Spencer, a

Faculty Senate member.

Spencer said the NCAA has scheduled a meeting in May about Division I-AA football programs. Those programs might be realigned at that meeting. The realignment might actually lead to lower operating costs for I-AA football programs like Western's.

"Part of our commitment at Western is service to the community. The football program is one of the ways we do that," Spencer said.

The Faculty Senate also will consider a resolution calling for increases in faculty travel allowances for trips to professional meetings.

There has been no increase in faculty travel funding since 1980, according to Vos.

"It's something we want considered in the near future. We're not expecting any action on it right now,

but when the school has more money, it would be good to see (the Board of Regents) increase the allowances," Vos said.

Some departments might lose about half of their faculty to retirement in the next few years, and new teachers might be hard-pressed to pay travel costs not picked up by the school, Vos said.

"They'll need to travel to present papers. That's one of the things that helps them get tenure. They make less than older professors and they'll find it harder to pay (for what the allowances do not cover)," he said.

Many faculty members now pay for part of their travel expenses out of their own pockets because the cost of travel has risen in the last 12 years while allowances have not, Vos said.

Lean times ahead for UK; state budget cuts are cited

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — The University of Kentucky faces lean times in the wake of budget cuts, but it might come out better as a result of the hardship, university President Charles T. Wethington told trustees.

Wethington said Tuesday that budget cuts will have a "significant negative impact on the university."

He said the university faces a total reduction of more than \$26 million from the original budget of \$261.8 million for the main campus and medical center that was approved by the trustees last July.

The university had \$11.8 million trimmed last November by then-Gov. Wallace Wilkinson after a \$155 million state revenue shortfall, and another \$11.5 million last week by the General Assembly. The UK Community College system also had \$3.2 sliced from its budget.

"The budget cuts are real," Wethington said.

4-8-92 DN
State appropriations for UK's 1992-93 budget beginning July 1 will be \$238.9 million and the following year will be \$246.3 million.

"It requires that we re-examine ourselves," Wethington said. "I'm confident it will make the University of Kentucky a stronger university in the future."

Wilkinson, now a UK trustee, issued a proposal to the trustees at the close of the meeting to look at the need for reform in higher education, including rising costs, higher dropout rates and the importance of teaching.

Wethington said "much of Wilkinson's agenda has been addressed in the strategic plan for this university" in areas of statewide service, research and increased teaching.

Wethington said he would make a report on Wilkinson's proposals at the May meeting of the trustees.

Abolish football, WKU body asking

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

4-10-92
DN

Western Kentucky University's Faculty Senate voted Thursday to recommend that the school's football program be abolished.

"I was surprised. The faculty is obviously frustrated and simply not in a conciliatory mood (toward the football program)," said Arvin Vos, president of the Faculty Senate.

Vos had said he favored a resolution asking that the football program be suspended. That resolution, and another recommending that the athletics department set a spending cap on the football program, were rejected by the senate.

The resolution will be forwarded to university President Thomas Meredith for his consideration. The school's Board of Regents will decide what to do with the football program, however.

The football program might be eliminated as part of reductions brought on by a more than \$6 million budget cut.

"We had speeches (from teachers) that were very eloquent about the

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FOOTBALL

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subject. They felt that we shouldn't spend money on football when we didn't have enough for our classes," Vos said.

Steve Spencer, an assistant professor in the Physical Education and Recreation Department, introduced the resolution calling for a spending cap.

"They passed (the abolition resolution) with a lot of levity, like it was just an exercise. They're dealing with people's lives here," Spencer said.

Western's Associated Student Government has come out in support of the football program, but Vos said he feels that support is not grounded on good information.

"I don't think students have access to much of the information on this. It may be just an emotional decision for many of them," he said.

Economics professor Robert Pullsinelli was one of a team of Western economists who did a report in 1990 that refutes claims that football is an economic drain on the university.

"The way the accounting system

is set up, there's an overestimating of cost and an underestimating of revenue," Pullsinelli said.

Pullsinelli estimated that Western would only save about \$100,000 if the football program were abolished.

"That's being as generous as possible" to those who would like to see football dropped, he said.

Only 70 of 115 Western football players were on scholarship when Pullsinelli conducted the study.

"The rest paid their own tuition. If accounting procedures (at Western) were properly set up, the source of that tuition money ... is the football team," the economics professor said.

Pullsinelli estimated that Western received about \$60,000 in tuition revenues from those players not on scholarship.

Vos said a Faculty Senate report done by a member of the marketing department refuted the economists' report.

"We can bring in three students for every grant-in-aid (given to a football player)," Vos said.

Jones: No orders to two new regents

4-10-92
DN

BY EVANS DONNELL

The Daily News

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Breton Jones said Thursday that he gave no instructions to two new Western Kentucky University regents when he appointed them April 1.

Jones also said former Warren County Jailer Bobby Bunch made the right decision when he decided not to appeal the governor's March 27 order ousting him from office.

Jones talked with the Daily News about turmoil at Western and the Bunch case after a meeting with editors and reporters from some of the state's regional newspapers.

"I feel it's a big mistake for a governor to attempt to micromanage a state university. I tried to make appointments of the highest quality and I told them to use their



BRETON JONES

best judgment. I didn't say, 'Be for or against the audit,' or 'Be for or against (University President Thomas Meredith),' " Jones said.

Jones appointed Burns Mercer of Har-dinsburg and Howard Gray of Lexington to Western's Board of Regents.

A special review of some university accounts has led to a lawsuit and two state attorney general's opinions. There has been speculation that the review would be used to pressure Meredith into leaving office, a claim disputed by regents who proposed the audit.

When asked why he signed the Bunch order, Jones replied, "It needed to be done."

Jones said he did not know that Bunch had decided not to appeal the executive order that ousted him from office.

"He made the right decision," Jones said.

Bunch was ousted from office for ne-

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Column 4, This Section

glect of duty because he beat and then denied medical treatment to a federal prisoner in March 1989. Bunch is serving an 18-month prison sentence.

Jones spent almost three hours with editors and reporters at the Governor's Mansion.

Jones began the meeting with an overview of his initiatives since taking office in December.

He signed a campaign finance reform bill into law Thursday that lowers contribution limits for governor and lieutenant governor's races from \$4,000 to \$500. The new law also provides partial public funding for those campaigns.

"I would have liked to see it lowered to \$100, but the process of writing legislation is compromise," Jones said.

The governor also signed Senate Bill 63 into law. That bill prohibits members of the executive branch from engaging in behavior that would constitute a conflict of interest, such as holding leases or other state contracts while in office or lobbying activities for one year after leaving office.

Both of the laws are first steps, according to Jones.

He wants to see political action committees eliminated and a legislative code of ethics established.

"I didn't want to call for a legislative code until we had one on the executive branch first," the governor said.

Jones said he plans to call a special session of the General Assembly to deal with legislative ethics legislation "when we feel the votes are there to get it done."

Health care is the top priority for state government, according to Jones.

"Now that we've had education reform, we need to deal with health care issues. We have waited long enough for Washington to take the lead in this, and they haven't," Jones said.

A special legislative session on health care will be in November, the governor said.

Western's faculty senate and its chapter of the American Association of University Professors have called on administrators to eliminate football. The student newspaper has editorialized against football; the student government has gone on record in favor of it.

Meredith, who heads the budget committee, was out of town last week and could not be reached.

Other members of the committee said they will not talk about proposed cuts until after they give the list to the regents this week.

Regents declined to say how they would vote.

Western's football program spent eight times as much money as it took in last season, according to a faculty senate report. The loss — \$776,000 — is close to half of Western's \$1.6 million athletics deficit.

"Football is worth that much to our institution," said Jimmy Feix, Western's former football coach and retired athletic director.

Feix, who started the letter-writing campaign, said football attracts students and gets publicity for the university.

A faculty senate report finds such claims "dubious," said senate president Arvin Vos, a philosophy professor who helped write the 52-page report.

Vos said attendance at Western's football games is declining, so it would seem unlikely that students choose the school because of its football team.

Fan interest declines

Football's supporters say fans began to lose interest in 1981, when Western left the Ohio Valley Conference so the basketball team could join the Sun Belt Conference.

"Football's been struggling ever since," Harbaugh said.

When it was part of the OVC, Western's football team had a healthy rivalry with other state schools, including Eastern, Murray and Morehead.

The Toppers made it past rival OVC schools before losing in national championship games in the NCAA's Division I-AA in 1973 and 1975.

But when Western joined the Sun Belt, the football program became independent.

It still played schools such as Eastern, but the games didn't mean as much because a conference championship wasn't at stake, Feix said.

Western's football team, which finished with a 3-8 record last year, hoped to recapture some fan interest by joining the Gateway Conference in the fall.

But Western is having second thoughts about joining the conference because of the budget crisis.

The Gateway Conference is made up of schools in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri.

That means the Toppers would have to make costly plane trips to play some games.

If the Toppers remain independent, Harbaugh said, they could cancel some of the most distant away games and reduce their schedule to eight games.

The school could save more money if it doesn't fill one of its coaching vacancies and cuts back on equipment.

Those and other possible cuts would save about \$100,000, Harbaugh said.

Western's athletic director, Lou Marciani, said he plans to take those suggestions to Meredith next week.

If the regents spare the football team, critics say, the board must take the money out of other programs, possibly academics.

Harbaugh said he doesn't like such complaints.

"All I've heard is, 'You ain't cuttin' my program! You ain't cuttin' this! You ain't cuttin' that.'"

Vos, the faculty senate president, said faculty members want the school to be focused on academics.

He said he is encouraged that Western's budget review committee is considering eliminating football.

"For the first time," he said, "they are showing that they are more interested in academics than athletics."

Clock might be running out on Western's football team

Tight budget forces some to look at athletics

By Todd Pack *4-13-92*
Herald-Leader staff writer *LHL*

BOWLING GREEN — The Hilltopper football team gathers in the dying afternoon sun to practice punting, throwing and catching, getting ready for a season that might never begin.

The Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers — who have con-

sistently lost money and, lately, consistently lost games — might fall victim to state budget cuts.

Western's problems aren't unique, but its proposed solution — scrapping the football program — might be.

Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State and Murray State also are looking at ways to save money in

athletics — fewer scholarships, less travel.

But Western is the only state school seriously thinking about dropping its Division I-AA football team.

The issue came up last month at Murray State but died after the school's president agreed to look at various cost-saving measures.

Some Hilltopper fans are unhap-

Please see **WESTERN**, A6

You have to decide whether you can keep paying for entertaining students, the community and alumni.

— Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

py.

More than 2,000 signed petitions last week. Dozens wrote school officials. One scratched a message in a campus elevator: "SAVE THE FOOTBALL TEAM PLEASE!"

Jayne Petett, a senior who started the petition drive, said Western would not be the same without the Toppers' Saturday games in 20,000-seat L.T. Smith Stadium.

"You think of college, you think of football," she said.

The heart of the matter, however, lies deeper than preserving a tradition.

It is about schools deciding what is important — not just at Western, but at Kentucky's other universities.

If that means choosing between an academic program and a sports team, the schools should choose academics, said Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

"You have to decide whether you can keep paying for entertaining students, the community and alumni," he said.

The issue is greater at the regional schools than at the state's two largest universities, which have profitable football and basketball programs.

The University of Kentucky's and the University of Louisville's sports programs combined for a \$6.3 million profit in 1989-90, the most recent year for which figures are available from the state Council on Higher Education

In the same year, Western and the other five regional universities, including Kentucky State and Northern Kentucky, were losing a total of \$7.1 million in sports.

The financial losses are covered by taxpayers' money and student fees.

"That's an excessive amount of public dollars," said A.D. Albright, a former president of Morehead State and Northern Kentucky.

Northern doesn't have a football team.

"I think we get along great," said Jane Meier, Northern's athletic director.

Football: the biggest loser

Except at Northern, the sport that loses the most money at the regional schools is football.

It has more players, more scholarships and more equipment.

Jack Harbaugh, Western's head football coach, said that has made the Toppers an easy target.

"We're vulnerable," he said.

He said President Thomas C. Meredith told him two weeks ago that the budget review committee would ask the regents to dump football and several other academic items.

Western, like the state's other public universities, must get by with 10 percent less money than it had a year ago.

At Western, that's a loss of more than \$6 million. The school has 15,700 students.



FOLLOWUP

Western budget recommendations being finalized

4/14/92 DN

Recommendations from Western Kentucky University's Budget Committee to the university's Board of Regents are still in the process of being finalized, according to a university administrator and two regents.

"As far as I know, nothing's been finalized. The decision-making process between President (Thomas Meredith) and the board is ongoing," said Cecile Garmon, Western's budget and planning director.

Regents Burns Mercer and Monnie Hankins said they have not received a budget recommendations package from Meredith's office.

"I think talk is premature. Nothing's set in concrete anyway," Mercer said.

Reports about specific actions the board will take to deal with more than \$6 million in spending cuts are erroneous, Hankins said.

"I don't see how any (reports) could be valid at this point," Hankins said.

Hankins said regents get progress reports from Meredith, but those reports are "presenting ideas for discussion and not telling us what will necessarily be recommended."

Regents are expected to consider budget proposals at an April 30 meeting.

Western budget recommendations

Here are the specific recommendations and explanations of costs and savings made by Western Kentucky University President Thomas Mercein to regents:

- THAT the faculty-staff dining room in the Academic Complex be eliminated. This would save the university \$57,800 in expenditures. The school would lose an estimated \$20,000 in revenues.
- THE Distance Learning Basic Skills Project should become self-supporting, with projected revenues and expenditures equalized at \$60,000. If the project takes in more revenue than \$60,000, they can spend that as well.
- THE football program's suspension would lead to a savings of \$437,976 in 1992-93. The total revenue decrease resulting from the suspension of football would be about \$121,000.
- THAT the University's Farm have its projected revenue figure reduced by \$20,000 and its projected expenditures reduced by \$50,000. The net reduction in the loss of the farm would be \$30,000 less than last year's projected loss of \$147,000.
- THE school should introduce a master of accountancy program for the new school year. The accounting department would need \$41,500 to start the program.
- THE Department of Teacher Education should be given \$88,000 for additional advisors. Non-faculty advisors hired last year to supplement faculty advising in the department should be retained at a cost of \$40,000, with the remaining \$48,000 used to hire more advisors.
- THE budget should contain \$10,000 to provide help in moving expenses for new employees.
- THE school should increase by \$15,000 the amount of money designated for minority graduate assistantships.
- OUT-OF-STATE graduate assistants receive a tuition reduction to the in-state level. Past budgets have not kept pace with the tuition differential between in and out-of-state students, so \$65,000 should be appropriated to cover the difference.
- THE allocation to dean's offices for instructional equipment in various departments should be increased from \$122,000 to \$222,000.
- THE total allowance for instructional departments' operating budgets should be increased by \$25,000.
- ALTHOUGH Western hopes to cut its dependency on part-time instructors by requiring full-time faculty to teach more classes, \$50,000 should be allocated to increase stipends to part-time teachers.
- REGENTS should allocate \$25,000 to cover salary inequities in the last year's compensation schedule.
- INTERACTIVE television outlets should be established in classes on the Glasgow campus and interactive television lines should be expanded to the Owensboro campus. This would cost \$82,200.
- THE College of Education will seek a reaccreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education in 1992-93 and an estimated \$10,000 will be needed to cover expenditures.
- THE university will spend an estimated \$30,000 next year as it goes through its reaccreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- THE school is required by federal law to provide support for disabled students, and \$3,000 should be allocated for a deaf student on campus.
- THE Raymond B. Preston Student Health and Activity Center will open this fall and the budget should provide \$400,000 for programming and personnel.
- THERE should be \$5,000 budgeted for the part-time secretary and operational support provided by the school to the on-campus office of the Kentucky High School Speech League.
- A postage increase of \$5,000 for mailings required by the Student Financial Assistance Office should be continued.
- A \$5,000 increase made last year for postage costs in the Accounting and Budgetary Control Office should be continued. Students' bills are mailed from the office.
- THE Counseling Services Center needs \$4,800 for the stipend to a Bowling Green psychiatrist who counsels students.
- THE Development Office should be given a \$50,000 increase to aid in productivity.
- A projected increase of \$142,000 is needed to pay the university's share of state retirement benefits to non-faculty employees.
- THE amount budgeted for one-half tuition grants to children of Western employees should be increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.
- THE university should budget \$50,000 for the increase of health insurance premiums for its employees beginning Jan. 1.
- LIFE insurance for disabled retirees should be budgeted at \$8,000.
- CHANGES in the rate structure for FICA are projected to cost the university \$65,000 next year.
- THERE should be \$388,000 budgeted for Workers' Compensation claims.
- STUDENTS have been employed since last year to perform certain Physical Plant chores, such as picking up paper and replacing air conditioning filters. \$40,000 should be budgeted for these student employees.
- THE KECKET computer system shared with seven other state universities will no longer be paid for by the Council On Higher Education. Western's cost for its share of the system would be a maximum of \$13,000.
- PROMOTIONS in rank to faculty members will cost the school about \$30,000 in 1992-93.
- CONTINGENCY Fund would be cut from \$918,000 to \$818,000.
- PARKING fee would be increased by \$5, bringing in an estimated \$40,000 in revenue.
- ALUMNI Affairs would give the school about \$155,000 through a long-distance telephone affinity program. The details of that program have not been worked out.
- THE Sponsored Programs office which helps find grants for faculty research would be closed, saving \$63,795. Staff members and services would be absorbed by the Development office.
- THE University Attorney's office would be closed, saving \$60,000.
- THE university's print shop, duplicating services and central stores would all become self-supporting, saving the university \$475,425.
- INCENTIVE grants for students from 14 counties in Tennessee and Indiana would be dropped, which would save \$400,000.
- THE graduate dean's office would be closed, saving \$98,613. Dean Elmer Gray would return to full-time teaching.
- VACANT positions and fringes would be eliminated, saving \$465,482.
- \$57,200 would be saved by cuts from Physical Plant, custodial service, grounds and building maintenance and repair offices.
- UNIVERSITY Relations would see a \$20,000 cut in its budget.
- COMMUNITY College budget will be reduced by \$30,186.
- EXTENDED campus at Fort Knox will reduce its expenditures by \$15,000 and the Owensboro campus will reduce its expenditures by \$25,000. There will be no decrease in operating expenditure for the Glasgow campus because of growth there.
- A \$15,000 cut is recommended for the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. An \$800 cut is recommended for the President's Home and Office.
- ABOUT \$300,000 will be cut from the budget because a reduction in the cost of electricity to the school.
- ABOUT \$100,000 will be saved this year because of reductions in telephone costs to Western.
- THE university will reduce its contribution to Western's public radio and television stations by \$40,000.
- A \$75,000 student employee pool established last year should be eliminated.
- THE Correspondence Study program's allocation can be reduced by \$10,900. The program should be self-supporting.
- ADMISSIONS staffers in Louisville and Nashville would be employed on 10-month contracts instead of 12-month contracts, saving the university \$13,000.
- THE university should eliminate half of the support it gives to the school's annual, *Talisman*, saving \$16,500.
- TRAVEL would be cut and one position left unfilled in the Office of Vice President for Technology and Telecommunications, saving \$71,900.
- TWO assistant deans would be dropped from the Office of the Dean of Ogden College, saving \$55,000.
- AN assistant dean's position would be left unfilled and a secretary's job eliminated in the Business College, saving \$71,990.
- THE Institute for Economic Development would see a \$25,000 cut.
- THE Continuing Education Office would see a \$20,000 cut.
- REGISTRAR'S office would have to reduce by \$16,380.
- CAMPUS information center would have to cut \$3,000.
- AN assistant dean's position will remain unfilled and a secretary's position eliminated in Student Life Office. It would save \$44,192.

WKU budget suggestions are outlined

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Tennessee and Indiana students at Western Kentucky University might end up having to pay \$200 more each year under a recommendation being made by Western's Budget Committee to its Board of Regents.

The \$200 fee is being considered to combat an estimated \$6.3 million in budget cuts that will have to be made by the board April 30.

"On or around April 13, you will receive the detail surrounding our budget recommendation. The purpose of this confidential memo is to make you aware ahead of time of several of the key recommendations that you will receive from the Budget Committee," President Thomas Meredith said in a letter to regents.

Meredith makes 17 specific recommendations in the memo. He also said two additional actions were recommended which would have a "secondary impact."

Those recommendations would reduce many library faculty and staff from 12-month to nine-month status and return all faculty to full-time teaching loads.

"During the academic year, our enrollment is nearly 16,000 students. During the summer months, it drops to 5,000. The savings will be earmarked for acquisitions only," Meredith said.

No release time would be granted to faculty without full documentation and approval through the Vice President for Academic Affairs office if regents approve the recommendation on faculty loads.

"I will also review the proposed list before approval is given. This should dramatically decrease our use of part-time faculty and decrease costs," Meredith said.

Among other recommendations is that the university's football program should be suspended.

"I am sorry that this was leaked to the press before you heard from me. I have discussed this with each of you. There is a movement to counter this recom-

WKU

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mendation," Meredith said.

Athletic Director Louis Marciani and football coach Jack Harbaugh have developed a scaling-back proposal for the program that they will submit to Meredith this week. They have declined to discuss details of that proposal.

The surcharge for off-campus courses should increase from \$15 to \$25 per course, according to the memo.

The offices of university attorney, graduate dean, sponsored programs and extended campus instruction are recommended for closing.

At least two and possibly three assistant dean positions should be eliminated, according to the memo. A large number of vacant non-faculty, as well as two faculty positions, have been frozen, Meredith said.

The student health service should raise fees to become self-supporting, and the university's duplicating services, central stores and print shop should also become self-supporting.

The committee also planned to recommend that the school's Contingency Fund be reduced from \$910,000 to \$710,000. It was also recommended that \$500,000 be taken from the Reserve Fund.

In addition, the office of alumni affairs would be asked to provide \$155,000 toward its budget.

These recommendations and others in the final recommendation report mailed to regents this week will be considered at the board's April 30 meeting.

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Football suspension being recommended

4-16-92
DN

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Final budget recommendations sent to Western Kentucky University regents call for suspension of the school's football program, increased workloads for faculty and administrators and some higher student fees, the *Daily News* has learned.

The budget recommendations were mailed Monday from President Thomas Meredith to regents for their review prior to an April 30 meeting at which the board will pare about \$6.1 million from Western's operating expenses for the coming year.

The recommendation to suspend the football program means a savings of \$437,976 in 1992-93, but player scholar-

ships and football coach Jack Harbaugh's contract would still be honored.

The football program's budget this year was \$525,479. Roughly \$300,000 was spent on player scholarships in addition to that amount.

All faculty would return to full-time teaching loads, with exceptions granted only after reviews by the offices of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the President.

Administrators with faculty rank would teach at least one class unless their schedules indicated a less than optimum performance in the classroom, according to the

Continued Back Page
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Budget memo.

"There will be a number of people granted release (from the new teaching requirement), but everybody will have to go through the procedure outlined (in the memo)," Meredith said today.

The president said he did not know what monetary impact the new teaching directive would have. It is expected to reduce Western's dependence on part-time faculty, however.

Student fees will be raised from \$70 to \$103, with the biggest change coming in the student health service fee. That fee will rise from \$2.50 to \$23.00 if approved by regents.

The increase is an attempt to make the student health service self-supporting.

The fee for the Raymond B. Preston Student Health and Activity Center would be raised from \$5 to \$10. The center should open by fall, according to university administrators.

Increases also are recommended for student residence halls. Non-air-conditioned halls would go from \$495 to \$555 per student and air-conditioned halls would go from \$510 to \$580. The cost of living in McLean Hall would rise from \$495 to \$605 and the cost of living in Schneider Hall would go from \$510 to \$630.

Meredith said he hopes regents will approve a 1992-93 budget hampered by a state revenue shortfall and rising costs at its April 30 meeting.

"Too many people will be deeply effected by the decision that's reached, and some may need the time to make plans to deal with it," Meredith said.

Regents did not approve last year's budget until July 29.

Western's budget will be adversely affected by more than \$4.6 million in decreased state funding and about \$1.5 million in increased expenditures. That places the total negative impact on this year's budget at more than \$6.1 million.

Faculty senate meet hopes to calm library fears

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

H-20-92
PN

Western Kentucky University's Faculty Senate president said today that he hopes a special meeting of the group will calm fears about the job futures of library employees.

"Fears have caused turmoil and I hope this meeting can clear things up," Faculty Senate President Arvin Vos said.

A special meeting concerning the implications of a possible shift of \$250,000 from the personnel to the operating side of the library budget will be April 28.

"I think this is a case where no one has all the information," Vos said.

The senate president said the meeting "was simply to allow people to present their perspectives on this matter."

The shift of funds was discussed by university

President Thomas Meredith in an April 13 budget recommendations package sent to the school's regents.

The money would be used for acquisitions only, according to Meredith. Regents would have to approve the transfer of funds from one part of the

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library's budget to another.

The shift of funds would not directly impact this year's budget, according to Executive Vice President Paul Cook.

There has been speculation that some library employees might be converted from a 12-month to a nine-month work schedule. Some librarians have wondered if their jobs might be terminated to accommodate the shift in funds.

The school's dean of libraries said today that he submitted a plan for handling the shift of funds to Meredith's office at the end of last week.

"I've been working ... to keep as many faculty and staff as I can employed for 12 months and at their present salary," Dean Michael Binder said.

Binder said he could not offer specifics of the plan until Meredith allowed him to do so.

"Until I receive a response from him, it would be premature to do so," Binder said.

Binder said he would attend the Faculty Senate meeting.

"If the libraries are discussed, I plan to be there," he said.

Meredith was unavailable for comment.

Auditors apparently finish work on WKU campus

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

4-22-92
DN

Arthur Andersen and Co. auditors apparently have finished their work on Western Kentucky University's campus, according to Western administrators.

"They're not on campus now. We don't know when they'll have (the report) written up," Executive Vice President Paul Cook said.

Western administrators said last week that representatives of the Louisville firm were still on campus, looking at food service, presidential and physical plant accounts as part of an audit of some university accounts.

The firm also was looking at any expenses charged

to the school by regents.

Board of Regents Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd said today she that understood that Arthur Andersen finished its work on campus Friday.

"I haven't talked with anyone at Arthur Andersen to know for sure," she said.

Mrs. Judd said she hopes to have the firm's report on certain university accounts by April 30.

"My understanding was that we should have it by April 30. But maybe it's wishful thinking," she said.

One of the firm's audit managers, David Calzi, denied comment on the audit. The firm's office managing partner, John Roeder, was unavailable for comment today.

Regents voted March 23 to hire Arthur Andersen for the review. That vote came after four months of squabbles between factions of the board over how the audit should be conducted and who should do it.

There has been allegations that the audit was a witch hunt designed to pressure university President Thomas Meredith into stepping down. Regents who pushed for the audit, including Mrs. Judd, said they only wished to correct accounting problems that had existed for some time.

Meredith had said he was in favor of the audit.

Arthur Andersen's review of accounts was ap-

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AUDITORS

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proved by regents after an agreement was ironed out by the accounting firm, Bowling Green attorney John David Cole and Frankfort attorney Bill Johnson.

Cole represented regents Steve Catron and Bobby Bartley in a lawsuit filed against the hiring of former Gov. Louie B. Nunn to supervise the audit. Johnson represented the board's majority in that lawsuit.

Warren Circuit Judge Thomas Lewis ruled Jan. 28 that Nunn had been hired illegally.

Regents voted 5-3 on March 23 to appeal that ruling. Regents Joe Iracane and Monnie Hankins were absent from that meeting.

Cole has filed a motion with the state Court of Appeals to dismiss the appeal on the grounds that the question of hiring Nunn is now moot.

WKU: Panel will urge university to give \$450,000

From Page B1

Football coach Jack Harbaugh said he thinks Hilltopper football fans will come through.

"I'll be most surprised if we can't sell 5,000 season tickets within a month, month and a half," he said. "What I've seen are people that want to help, they just need a detailed way in which to help, and I think that's been outlined for them today. Buy season tickets."

The university president urged Hilltopper supporters who have gotten free season tickets in the past to pay for the tickets this year. Meredith gets free tickets, but gave Marciani a check yesterday for two tickets for him and his wife, Susan.

Gov. Brereton Jones said he ordered two season tickets and called on others to support the team.

Marciani said he and football officials are shooting for a budget of \$765,000 to \$790,000 for next year's football team. Last year's football budget was \$925,867.

Harbaugh said he is trying to work out a schedule of four home and five away games. The team played 11 games last year, finishing 3-8.

If the team is to play, the school will have to raise the extra money — more than \$300,000 — from ticket sales, concessions, guaranteed payments for playing other teams and corporate sponsorships, Marciani said.

He also urged supporters to join the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation. The private foundation, that raises money for athletics at Western, has proposed giving the football program \$60,000 for football scholarships, Marciani said.

Spending on football has been controversial at Western in recent years as state money for higher education got tighter.

Faculty members have complained that the football program loses money — \$776,000 in 1991, according to a Faculty Senate estimate — and that university money used to subsidize the program could be better spent on academics.

The Faculty Senate endorsed elimination of football.

Opinions differ on how much the football program loses.

Supporters of the program, however, argue that it provides opportunities for students to attend college. It also enriches the social life of the campus and community and provides economic benefits for the community, they say.

Marciani said the campaign to sell season tickets amounts to a referendum on Hilltopper football.

"The only way we fall on our face is if, after a week, nobody's buying tickets, which we doubt."

LXL

WKU scrambles to get school, fans to save football

By Bill Estep

South-central Kentucky bureau

BOWLING GREEN — It's fourth and long for the Western Kentucky University football program, but officials yesterday called a play they hope will snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

A university budget committee recently proposed suspending the money-losing football program. The proposal was among several to reduce spending at Western by \$6.1 million because of state budget cuts.

However, athletics director Lou Marciani said yesterday that the budget committee will recommend that the university give the football program \$450,000 in next year's budget. Western would have to spend about that much to honor scholarships and contracts with coaches and other schools, even if the team does not play, Marciani said.

Western President Thomas Meredith said he thought the board of regents would approve \$450,000 for football.

That's not enough for Western to keep playing at the NCAA Division 1-AA level this fall, but Marciani also announced a campaign to raise private money for the football program by selling 5,000 season tickets. That would bring in \$150,000 for the program, Marciani estimated.

Western sold 1,400 season tickets last year, so selling 5,000 is a tall order.

■ **Athletic association to help U of L deal with cuts. Page B2.**

4-23-92
CJ

WKU fans exhorted to buy tickets, contribute to save football program

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Standing before a red banner that proclaimed, "Save WKU Football 1-800-5-BIG-RED," athletic director Lou Marciani and Western President Thomas Meredith yesterday urged football fans to buy season tickets and contribute to the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

"It's time to step up to the table, take charge of this thing and make sure we can have football for next year," Meredith said during a press conference held in the bleachers at L. T. Smith Stadium.

Because of a \$6.1 million budget shortfall, Western must sell 5,000 season football tickets and 3,000 memberships in the athletic foundation to maintain its current football program next fall.

Yesterday's event was designed to push ticket sales prior to a scheduled vote by the university's board of regents next week on several budget-cutting measures — including a proposal to suspend the football program.

The press conference did not provide much information on changes being considered in the football program to increase its viability.

Marciani said afterward that he and football coach Jack Harbaugh are working on a nine-game independent season with four home

games. Marciani said the schedule would include a home game with Eastern Kentucky University and an away game at Murray State, two of Western's natural rivals.

Harbaugh also said negotiations were under way on an away game at Southwestern Louisiana. He said the Louisiana school was offering Western a guaranteed game income of \$80,000. However, it would cost the team about \$35,000 to fly to Louisiana, he said.

Harbaugh also said Western might play some Gateway Conference teams because Western's withdrawal from the conference had left open dates in their schedules. Northern Iowa, for example, had scheduled Western for its homecoming game, he said.

Western must schedule at least nine games; otherwise it will lose \$70,000 in NCAA scholarship money, Harbaugh said.

Even if the football program is suspended, Western will honor football scholarships and Harbaugh's coaching contract next year. The university also will have to pay penalties for breaking its fall game contracts and for leaving the Gateway Conference — a total costs of about \$450,000, Marciani said.

If Western can raise about \$790,000, Marciani said he believed the football program could be saved. The current football budget is \$920,949, including student aid

grants, said Cecile Garmon, Western's director of budget and planning.

Marciani's plan to raise the money includes:

- Selling 5,000 season tickets, which he said would bring in \$150,000.

- Raising \$450,000 in contributions to the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and donating \$60,000 of that to support football scholarships.

- Increasing concession-stand sales, corporate sponsorships and game guarantees.

A ticket application distributed at the press conference yesterday offered three season-ticket prices for the proposed home schedule — \$50 for a reserved chair, \$40 for a reserved bench seat and \$20 for a reserved bleacher seat, plus a \$2 processing fee.

Memberships in the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation range from \$35 to \$5,000.

After mentioning that Gov. Brereton Jones had called Tuesday and bought two season tickets, Meredith wrote out a check for his own two season tickets, which he previously had received free as an athletic foundation member.

"If you're in any kind of position to get free tickets, don't take them anymore," Meredith said. "Buy your tickets. Give us a check."

Editorials

4-26-92 DN

Season ticket sales important to WKU

“Save WKU Football!”
We hear the cry from The Hill.

Western Kentucky University is facing \$6.1 million in budget cuts for 1992-93, among those cuts is a recommendation to suspend its football program.

Football is important for many reasons — important enough to warrant the school's expenditure of \$450,000 to operate the program for another season.

A plan by athletics director Louis Marciani would combine money from the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, the university budget, ticket sales, concessions, game guarantees and corporate sponsorships.

It's a long pass on a wide field, but those groups being asked to help should take the ball and run with it.

Those who can be the biggest help are those who can buy season tickets to Western's home games.

The sale of 5,000 season tickets — up from 1,400 sold for the 1991 season — is a bold initiative. However, it can be reached.

Western will offer a four-

game package for season-ticket holders for \$20.

Season tickets may be purchased at the WKU ticket office in E.A. Diddle Arena or by telephone — 745-5222 or 1-800-5-BIG RED.

Football season ticket applications also are being accepted at regular ticket office hours, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at L.T. Smith Stadium.

President Thomas C. Meredith has said the tickets must be bought to save football.

The Board of Regents will meet April 30 to decide the fate of Western football: a large boost in gate proceeds before then would show regents that people believe in the program.

“There's no longer time to talk,” Meredith said. “It's time to act ... We can no longer afford to give football the kind of institutional support we have in the past.”

Football plays an important part in the university's education role and it also contributes to Bowling Green's economic vitality. Those who care about either, should buy tickets soon.

4-26-92
LH

Berea College board installs chairman

BEREA — David S. Swanson of Cincinnati was installed as chairman of the Berea College board of trustees yesterday.

Swanson, a trustee since 1985, succeeds Kate Ireland, chairwoman for the last five years.

College President John B. Stephenson said Alice R. Manicur of Frostburg, Md., and Fred Dupree of Lexington were elected alumni trustees. Manicur, vice president for student and educational services at Frostburg State University, has begun her term. Dupree, vice president of Dupree and Company Inc., will join the board in October.

Re-elected to six-year terms at yesterday's meeting were trustees James Bowling of Darien, Conn.; Billie Davis Gaines of Atlanta; and Juanita M. Kreps of Durham, N.C.

Swanson was senior vice president and a member of the Procter and Gamble board of directors when he retired last year. He has degrees in chemical engineering from Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Ireland, a trustee since 1971, will continue on the board. She is an officer of the Frontier Nursing Service.

EKU board approves reduced budget

RICHMOND — Eastern Kentucky University's board of regents approved a \$107.4 million budget for the coming fiscal year that does not include a pay raise for faculty and staff.

The new budget is 10 percent lower than the amount initially appropriated for this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Besides not giving pay raises, the budget reduces operating expenses and travel by 5 percent and defers equipment purchases and maintenance projects. It will not require any layoffs.

"This basic continuation budget reflects a planned expenditure of available resources designed to help protect the quality of our programs, services and personnel," EKU President Hanly Funderburk said.

The regents also established a Master Teacher Development Program to help carry out the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

Model Laboratory School at EKU will recruit eligible teachers when positions become available in the school.

Lees College president, board censured by professors' group

By IVONNE ROVIRA
Associated Press

4-26-92
CJ

The state chapter of a national professors' organization voted unanimously yesterday to condemn the president and board of trustees of Lees College.

The Kentucky Conference of the American Association of University Professors, at its annual meeting in Louisville, based its vote on an investigation it conducted in February into the Jackson, Ky., college.

The national organization already has announced that it too will investigate the school. Its associate secretary, Robert Kreiser, attended the Louisville meeting.

"The kind of systemic problems that have been charged against the administration are quite serious," he said. "... It's an institution in obvious great distress."

The state probe looked into the tiny, two-year college's extraordinarily high turnover and into allegations that included nepotism, infringements of academic freedom and firings of faculty members and staff on whim. During the investigation, John DeMarcus, a member of the state AAUP executive committee and a history professor at Northern Kentucky University, was ejected from the campus at the order of college President William B. Bradshaw.

Soon thereafter, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting agency, also visited Lees. The agency's team looked into the bitter faculty-administration feud, among other things.

J. Phil Smith, chairman of Lees' board of

See LEES
Page 4, col. 1, this section

Lees College president, board censured

Continued from Page B 1

trustees said yesterday he had no comment on the state AAUP's condemnation.

The national AAUP wrote Bradshaw earlier this month that it was launching an investigation.

Kreiser said an ad hoc committee from the organization will visit Lees in late May or early June.

Yesterday, several members of Lees faculty recounted allegations that erupted almost immediately after Bradshaw became president of the private college in 1988.

Faculty members said about 130 faculty and staff employees had left during Bradshaw's tenure, with many staying just a year before moving on. College spokeswoman Susan Herald acknowledged recently that only nine of Lees' 27 faculty members have been at the college five years or longer.

Faculty members also pointed to

a faculty handbook crafted — except for one page — by Bradshaw. The booklet says that it can be changed at any time and that none of its terms are binding.

At Lees, "you have a new definition of tenure. It's annually renewable," said Jim Wilde, associate professor of communications since 1990.

Faculty members say Bradshaw has stretched the period before professors are considered for tenure from the standard seven years to nine. Bradshaw included guarantees of tenure and academic freedom only in 1992-93 contracts offered to instructors who sued Lees last spring, faculty members said.

Bradshaw also hired his daughter, Rebekah, to teach speech even though she didn't meet the accreditation agency's requirements.

A statement released by Lees College Thursday on the state AAUP investigation promised cooperation

with the accrediting agency but made no mention of whether the administration would cooperate with the national AAUP.

The national AAUP investigation eventually could lead to including Lees on a list of schools that aren't in compliance with AAUP practices. That list — published in the national AAUP's journal, *Academe* — would circulate among the organization's 41,000 members.

That would bring the problems to the attention of the academic community and "make prospective faculty members think twice" about coming to the school, Kreiser said.

A determination of whether Lees is in compliance with AAUP standards wouldn't come until the November-December issue at the earliest, he said.

The organization also can censure colleges and universities at its annual national meeting.

Football suit voted

4-27-92
DN

By JOE MEDLEY
The Daily News

What Coach Jack Harbaugh hoped would be an informational session for Western Kentucky University's football players turned into a vote to file a class action lawsuit against the university.

After asking Harbaugh and his staff to leave Western's locker room after Thursday night's Red-White intrasquad scrimmage at L.T. Smith Stadium, Bowling Green attorney Kelly Thompson Jr. made emotional appeals to Western's players and won a resounding voice vote to pursue action against the school on their behalf.

Thompson told the Hilltoppers he'll go to a "state court," apparently meaning Warren Circuit Court, legal sources say, to seek a restraining order against Western's Board of Regents. He's hoping to put off

Keeping WKU football important
— See editorial, Page 4-A

the board's Thursday vote on a Budget Committee's recommendation to suspend Western's Division I-AA football program.

Saying the budget committee pursued a bias against football players and that suspending football would break promises made to players when they sign their national letter-of-intent to accept an athletic scholarship, Thompson wants to negotiate a financial arrangement for football. He wants no

Continued Back Page
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Others maintaining football

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Representatives of the four other state regional universities that have football programs say they are not going to drop the sport at their schools.

One of those schools, Morehead State University, is not considering suspending football because of cost-cutting measures enacted there, according to school administrators.

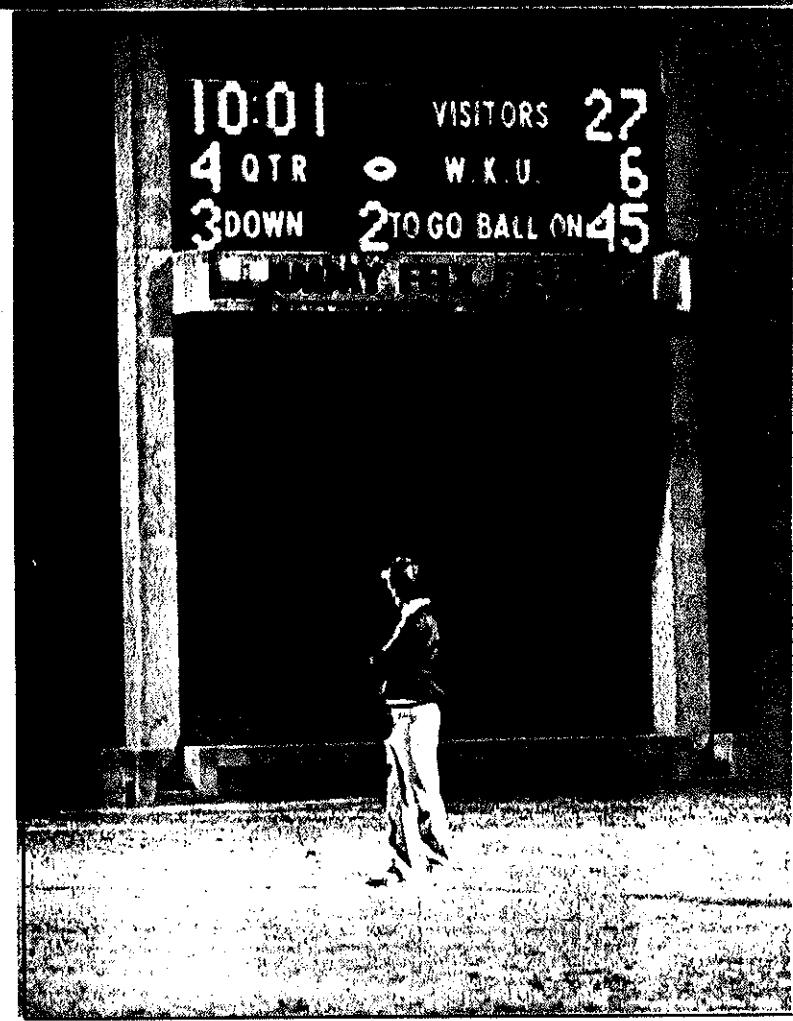
"We are not going to do away with football," said Judith Yancey, Morehead's media relations director.

"We feel we're making progress in making all our athletic programs more accountable and cost effective," said Keith Kappes, the school's senior administrator for athletics.

Western's Board of Regents will consider Thursday whether to accept a recommendation from the university's Budget Committee that the school's football program be suspended.

Five of the six state regional universities have

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Staff Color Photo by Chris Bir

Western Kentucky University football coach Jack Harbaugh looks at the scoreboard during a scrimmage Thursday at Smith Stadium.

FOOTBALL SUIT

continued from Page 1

more than 10 percent sliced from the \$920,000 spent on football in fiscal year 1991-92.

Thompson said if football is suspended, he'll move litigation to a federal court and argue that having no football means a drastic drop in scholarships and enrollment for minorities.

Thompson also got a loud affirmative voice vote for his proposal to offer 10 road games against Division I-A opponents in 1993 and one home game — homecoming.

"If we can get 10 I-A schools to pay us \$100,000 apiece to come play them, that's \$1 million we've raised," he said to the team. "When I go to court, can I tell them that you're willing to do that to play football in 1993?"

The team burst into cheer of approval.

Harbaugh said he'll never make such a schedule.

"I'm the football coach," he said. "I'll make the schedule and that'll never happen."

Harbaugh also said he doesn't want a class action lawsuit against the school.

"What I wanted an attorney from downtown to do was go in there and explain to the kids what their legal options are," Harbaugh said. "I had some players come to me and ask about it, so I brought in Kelly because I knew he was someone who had ties to the university."

Apparently, some of those players also spoke with Thompson.

"I've had four come to me about this," he said. "I'm not going to name them because I don't want to see members of the faculty retaliate against them."

All of Thompson's comments were made to the team. He declined to comment after the team meeting.

He said he's pursuing litigation because he feels Western would break a commitment to its football players by suspending the program.

The Budget Committee has recommended honoring all 67 football grants-in-aid through fiscal year 1992-93, but Thompson said scholarships should be honored as long as those players would've been eligible to play.

By NCAA guidelines, athletic scholarships are for one full school year. Scholarship athletes apply for renewal at the end of each school year.

Thompson said athletes sign a letter-of-intent under the assumption their scholarships are good as long as they play their sport.

He also said a football letter-of-intent binds a school to have a football program.

"What you've got is a bunch of elitist pseudo-intellectuals ... who think you're nothing but jocks, and they don't think you belong here," Thompson said to the team. "They think you have to be some kind of rocket scientist to go to Western, so they try to kick you all out."

During Thompson's speech, he suggested a yay-nay vote. But after many of Western's players voiced their approval for legal action, he said, "then it's done" and walked out of the locker room. There was no call for dissenting votes and no chance to ask questions.

Western President Thomas Meredith was out of town today and unavailable for comment. Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said Thompson's statements were unfortunate.

"It's a shame that a person from town who knows nothing about the issues involved has to come up there and continually cause an uprising," Iracane said. "I'm sorry his name has been brought into this."

Thompson is the son of former Western President Kelly Thompson Sr.

Iracane also said he has no immediate plans to deal with Thompson's threatened litigation.

"I don't have any real legal opinion," Iracane said. "Until something of a bigger magnitude comes to light, I'll consider this just an unfortunate incident that occurred last night."

Harbaugh regrets the outcome of the team meeting.

"This is my fault," he said. "I took a real chance when I did this. This is not what I wanted to happen."

He also said he'll take steps to head off legal action against Western, though he didn't say what those steps would be.

"My feeling on this whole football matter is that we've made our pitch and now it's out of our hands," he said. "We'll talk about it and do what we can to keep football here, but it's now up to the board. That's how it should be."

OTHERS

continued from Page 1

football programs. Four — Western, Morehead, Eastern and Murray State — are NCAA Division I-AA programs.

Kentucky State University's football program is in NCAA Division II. Northern Kentucky University does not have a football program.

Morehead's regents decided in 1989 that 33 percent of the total athletic budget had to come from that department's own revenues. No more than 3.6 percent of the school's Educational and General Fund could be used for athletics.

The athletic department has exceeded the revenue figure and kept below the 3.6 percent cap since that time, Kappes said.

In 1990-91, in-house revenue made up 39.1 percent of the athletic budget. That figure is projected to rise to 41.8 percent for the 1991-92 school year.

In 1990-91, 2.9 percent of the school's Educational and General Funds went to athletics. This year, that figure should drop to 2.8 percent, according to Kappes.

Morehead spent \$810,000 on football, including \$395,000 on scholarships, during this school year. Western spent \$920,000 on football-related expenses, including about \$300,000 for scholarships from the school's general scholarship fund.

Western had a fall enrollment of 15,767, compared with 8,812 at Morehead.

Morehead offers fewer football scholarships than

Western — 63 to the Hilltoppers' 67 — but 44 of those scholarships are out of state.

"There's a \$2,600 difference right now between in- and out-of-state tuition," Kappes said.

Tuition rates for all state universities are set by the state Council on Higher Education.

Western is looking at a \$6.1 million budget cut because of state cuts and increased fixed costs. Eastern is looking at a \$6.4 million shortfall.

Murray will have to cut \$4.4 million from its budget, while Northern will have a \$3.7 million shortfall. Kentucky State, the smallest state regional university, will have to deal with \$1.6 million in budget cuts.

Morehead is looking at a \$4.8 million budget cut, Kappes said.

"It's easier for Western to consider dropping football because they're not in the (Ohio Valley Conference) like ourselves, Murray and Eastern," Kappes said.

The OVC requires its schools to participate in all of the conference's sports. Western left the conference in 1982 and now plays football as an independent.

"We've discussed having (an Educational and General Fund) cap like Morehead's, possibly at 3 percent," said Don Kassing, Murray's vice president for university relations and administrative services.

Students hoping for minimum in budget damage

4-27-92

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith hopes higher education funding will start an upswing in two years.

Some Western students said they aren't thinking that far ahead — they just hope budget cuts will do as little damage as possible to academic areas.

Two Western regents said there might be a silver lining to financial woes, however — they think tightening Western's belt will help them see which school services deserve top priority.

The school is faced with a \$6.1 million budget shortfall for the 1992-93 school year. Previous cuts and no money for growth — the school's enrollment has grown by 40 percent in the past five years — have meant leaner and leaner times at Western.

"The big problem is lack of revenue in the state. Our state's economy needs to improve before our situation improves. I hope that will happen in the next biennium (1994-95)," Meredith

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STUDENTS

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said.

State budgets are passed in two-year increments.

"I remain positive that the impact of higher education in the state will be recognized and that it will receive appropriate funding as a result," the president said.

Some Western students said they hoped the Board of Regents followed the budget recommendations of the school's Budget Committee. That committee is recommending cuts in some service areas and activities while proposing an increase in instructional materials funding.

One of the cuts most on the mind of students is the recommended suspension of the school's football program.

"I think the reason we're here is to get an education, not to play sports or watch sports, which doesn't happen," said Maria Burnham, a freshman majoring in journalism and English.

"I think the cuts are happening all over the country. I think with the new regents coming in

... that will have a big effect on what decisions are made, and I think the right cuts will be made," said Alicia C. Mantia, a freshman majoring in theater.

Ms. Mantia said she was "not for cutting the whole football program, but I think cutting back on it will be a positive thing.

"I hope (the regents) make more cuts like that and don't cut academics."

"I think the cuts we're receiving are going to hurt us as far as keeping good teachers at Western. I think students will be less likely to come here when they can go somewhere that pays the top salaries and gets the good teachers," said Donald Sorrels, a junior majoring in fi-

nance.

Two Western regents said financial strains at the school will force them to take a long look at the university's various programs.

"It could have the benefit of making us scrutinize why we have certain programs and if those programs are needed," Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd said.

"I think that's the upside of it, that we'll be looking at priorities. Western can't be all things to all people," Burns Mercer said.

Western's regents will consider 1992-93 budget recommendations at meetings Wednesday and Thursday.

Bowling Green lawyer to sue to save Western football team

Associated Press

4-27-92 LHC
BOWLING GREEN — A Bowling Green lawyer has told Western Kentucky football players that he will file a lawsuit to try to keep the school from suspending its football program.

The players met with lawyer Kelly Thompson Jr. after a scrimmage last week and voted to have him pursue action against the school on their behalf.

Thompson told the players Thursday night that he would seek a restraining order against Western's regents, who are scheduled Thursday to consider a budget committee's recommendation to suspend the school's Division I-AA football program.

Coach Jack Harbaugh had asked Thompson to meet with the players and explain their legal options. But he said he regrets the outcome of the team meeting.

"This is my fault," he said. "I took a real chance when I did this. This is not what I wanted to happen."

He also said he would take

steps to head off legal action against Western but did not say what those steps would be.

Thompson, the son of former Western President Kelly Thompson Sr., said the committee pursued a bias against football players and that suspending football would break promises made to players when they signed their national letters of intent to accept an athletic scholarship.

Thompson said he wants no more than 10 percent taken from the \$920,000 spent on football in this fiscal year.

He said that if football is suspended, he will move litigation to a federal court and argue that having no football means a drastic drop in scholarships and enrollment for minorities.

Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said Thompson's statements were unfortunate.

"It's a shame that a person from town who knows nothing about the issues involved has to come up there and continually cause an uprising," Iracane said. "I'm sorry his name has been brought into this."

Western regents to hold special session on budget

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

4-27-92
DR

Western Kentucky University regents think it will take more than one meeting to deal with a \$6.1 million budget shortfall, so they will hold a special session.

The Board of Regents will discuss recommendations for the 1992-93 budget in a special meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The board's regular quarterly meeting begins at 10 a.m. Thursday and is expected to be punctuated by discussion of budget cuts.

Regents have been urged by university President Thomas Meredith to pass the budget at Thursday's meeting. In an April 13 memo, Meredith said the budget needed to be passed Thursday because of the impact the budget "will have on many lives and programs."

Western's financial situation is strained because of \$4.6 million in decreased revenue and \$1.5 million in increased fixed costs.

The school's Budget Committee has come up with about \$4.3 in savings through proposed decreased expenditures. The committee's plan projects \$1.8 in in-

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REGENTS

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creased revenues.

"Basically, I want to get a better understanding of what was proposed. I don't want to hurt any academic areas," board Chairman Joe Iracane said today.

Iracane said he is concerned with "fringe areas," which he defined as supporting services.

"We have to look at the value to the student that these services provide. I think the administration needs to tell us what these things cost and who's using them," Iracane said.

He declined to specify which service areas he had questions about.

"I'll have to wait and see what areas the chairman has in mind. We feel the Budget Committee has looked at those areas, but we're

open to any areas that any (regents) want to have looked at," Meredith said.

Board Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd declined to comment about any questions she might have for Meredith or Budget Committee members.

"I'm working on it. What I prefer to do is hold comment until the special session," Mrs. Judd said.

Regent Burns Mercer said he had no questions now about the recommendations.

"As we get into discussion, I may have some questions," he said. "I hope we can get something passed Thursday, so people can know what's taking place and prepare accordingly."

Library funds shifted

4279
DW

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Money for library acquisitions at Western Kentucky University will initially come from funds set aside for four vacant positions, the school's vice president for academic affairs said today.

The money will provide more funds for library acquisitions during the 1992-93 fiscal year.

"There will be no terminations and no one will work a shorter schedule. These positions are unfilled," said Robert Haynes, vice president for academic affairs.

Haynes said he met with library personnel on Thursday to discuss the fund shifting plan.

Three professional and one clerical positions now vacant will remain unfilled, giving the library \$126,000 for acquisitions, according to Dean of Libraries Michael

LIBRARY

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Binder.

About \$96,000 will be used to compensate for inflation in the price of books and subscriptions. The remaining \$30,000 will be used as enhancement money for collections and to provide more books and subscriptions, Binder said.

There had been speculation among some library employees that their jobs might be terminated or that their work schedule might be reduced from 12 to 9 months.

Western administrators have set a goal of shifting \$250,000 from the personnel costs of the library budget to library acquisitions. Haynes said he hoped a plan for shifting the rest of the money could be developed by early fall.

"That money would impact the library in 1993-94," Haynes said.

The Library Budget Committee recommended the capturing of funds from the four vacant positions on Wednesday, according to Binder.

University President Thomas Meredith told Board of Regents members in an April 13 memo that the shift of funds would allow the library "to continue to move forward during our budget crisis."

"(Meredith) has informed the board and will answer any questions they have about the plan," Haynes said.

The shift of funds has no direct impact on the school's 1992-93 budget because it does not reduce the library's overall allocation.

Western is grappling with a \$6.1 million budget shortfall that is the result of \$4.6 million in decreased revenue and \$1.5 million in increased fixed costs.

The school's Budget Committee has come up with about \$4.3 in savings through decreased expenditures. The committee's plan projects \$1.8 million in increased revenues.

The decreased expenditures and increased revenues will make up for the budget shortfall, according to the committee.

Endowments wouldn't sustain football

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Western Kentucky University's football program would not last long on money from endowments and a trust fund earmarked for the sport.

"The endowments are not a large area of income," said Associate Athletic Director for Business Barry Brickman.

Western's Budget Committee has recommended that football be suspended during the 1992-93 school year. It projects that the school would save \$437,976 if regents approve the recommendation.

About \$920,000 was appropriated for football during the 1991-92 school year. That figure includes more than \$300,000 for player scholarships that came from the school's general scholarship fund.

Western would still honor grants-in-aid to players, coaches'

contracts and game guarantees during the 1992-93 school year.

Suspending football is one of the cuts the Budget Committee has recommended to help Western deal with a \$6.1 million budget shortfall.

Two of the athletic department's 22 endowed scholarships are earmarked for football. Each will have a principal of \$35,000 on maturity, according to Hilltopper Athletic Foundation Director Gary West.

One of the scholarships will reach maturity this year, while the other will mature in 1993.

Interest from the two endowments is used for player scholarships, according to West.

That interest money is somewhere between \$1,500 and \$2,000 each for the two endowments, Brickman said.

A perpetual trust set up by family and friends of the late Thomas D. Zoretic also provides money for the

football program. Zoretic was a standout running back who lettered in football from 1938 to 1940.

The trust, which now has a little more than \$10,000 in it, was established after Zoretic's death Oct. 19, 1990, according to College Heights Foundation President Dero Downing.

The College Heights Foundation administers the Zoretic Trust in the form of scholarship money to a football manager, trainer or walk-on player who has made a significant contribution to the team, Downing said.

"Whether there are any others, I don't recall," Downing said.

Ticket sales would not provide much money to fund the football program either, based on 1991's figures.

About \$85,000 in football tickets

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FOOTBALL

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were sold for the 1991 season. About \$48,000 of that amount came from the sale of 1,400 season tickets, according to ticket manager Bobby Houk.

Season tickets for chair seating in 1991 were \$57.50. Bench seats cost \$40 for the season and bleacher seats went for \$30.

Football proponents at the school have set a goal of selling 5,000 season tickets for the 1992 season. Chair seating will cost \$50, bench seats \$40 and bleacher seating \$20.

The school's Budget Committee projected that Western would lose \$96,000 in lost ticket revenue if football were suspended. The tick-

et-selling goal for 1992 is to have total ticket sales of \$150,000, Houk said.

The athletic department is advertising for bids on football equipment and uniforms, but that process began in January, according to Brickman.

"The earlier you start, the better prices you get," Brickman said.

KSU board OKs plan for national black culture center

By Eric Gregory

Herald-Leader education writer

FRANKFORT — Kentucky State University aims to become a national center for black culture, research and history, under a plan approved by the school's board yesterday.

"This is not something that is here only for Kentucky State," said President Mary Smith. "It's going to be a center for the commonwealth of Kentucky, and hopefully beyond the state."

KSU hopes to raise \$5 million over three years to fund the Center of Excellence, which would act as a clearinghouse for black history. Most of that would come from private gifts.

Smith said donations have been coming in since she announced the idea last year as one of her pet projects. KSU spokesman Ken Miller said at least \$2,500 has been donated.

KSU: Board OKs plan for culture center

From Page One

Smith outlined the center for the school's board of regents yesterday. The plan includes:

- An archives that would house collections, artifacts and documents related to black history.
- Seminars and festivals to increase awareness about the roles of blacks in Kentucky and the world.
- A program in black studies that would be a liberal studies requirement.

KSU, which was founded in 1886 as the state's only school for blacks, does not have a black studies program.

The school hopes to hire a director early next year to develop the center.

In other action yesterday, the board:

- Approved the school budget, which rules out layoffs next year,

as well as ruling out faculty and staff raises.

Operating expenses in all departments will be reduced by at least 5 percent; no state money will be spent on capital projects; routine maintenance will be eliminated, except for emergencies; and employees will have to pay for any increases in health insurance.

- Announced a new committee system. The board has previously acted as a committee of one. The new committees will be personnel, finance, student affairs and academic affairs.

• Adopted a "plan of direction" for the university, which includes greater emphasis on minority recruitment and retention and the development of an international studies program.

- Announced the resignation of Rodney Ratliff, a Frankfort businessman who has several state leases. Ratliff was appointed by former Gov. Wallace Wilkinson in December.

No reason was given for his resignation. Ratliff could not be reached for comment.

Trustees at U of L declare emergency

Associated Press

4-29-92
LHC

LOUISVILLE — The University of Louisville Board of Trustees has declared a fiscal emergency, a move university President Donald Swain says will help make changes that have been approved in principle for 1993.

Those changes include a detailed study of U of L's student-advising services, review of the International Center for restructuring by next year and standardizing pay methods for professors who teach extra summer and evening courses.

The fiscal emergency was declared Monday because of an 11 percent reduction in state funds for the school this year. The board made the declaration as part of the approval of a finance committee motion to drop one program and reduce or transfer four others.

The U of L administration is trying to cut pay for teaching some courses, lay off some untenured faculty members and take other steps to pare the budget by \$6.7 million.

Sue Bennett to offer first 4-year degree in business

Associated Press

4-29-92
LHC

LONDON — After nearly losing its identity as a private institution, Sue Bennett College announced yesterday that it had won four-year status for one of its degree programs.

The Kentucky Council on Higher Education has extended the small junior college's license to offer a bachelor of arts degree in business administration.

"This is a milestone in the history of Sue Bennett College," said Sandra McLendon, vice president for academic affairs at the 96-year-old school. She said the school will begin enrolling students for the new degree program this fall.

Facing financial problems, the school's board of trustees voted in late 1990 to merge with the University of Kentucky's community college system.

However, the United Methodist Church, which owns the buildings and grounds, objected, and the board later rejected the plan.

Several of the trustees resigned over the controversy, and a handful of employees contended that they were fired over their support of the proposal.

McLendon said Sue Bennett is also applying to offer a two-year nursing degree. She said an advanced nursing course would be added next fall.

The school has 500 students.

WKU football cut but kept

By JOE MEDLEY
The Daily News

4-30-92
DN

It appears there will be a 1992 football season for Western Kentucky University, but the Hilltoppers will likely play on considerably less money than was given them in fiscal year 1991-92.

Western's Board of Regents approved today a Budget Committee's plan to cut \$6.1 million for fiscal year 1992-93 with one exception — football won't be suspended.

The program will receive \$450,000 in university funds as the committee recommended to cover scholarships, coaches' contracts and game guarantees, but football will be allowed to make up nearly

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\$315,000 in non-university funds.

Western President Thomas Meredith introduced the alteration in the Budget Committee's plan, which allowed football at least a yearlong stay of suspension.

Meredith's proposal includes \$450,000 in university funds plus a projected \$150,000 in ticket sales, \$85,000 in game guarantees, \$10,000 in concessions, \$60,000 in Hilltopper Athletic Foundation money and \$10,000 in corporate sponsors.

Meredith projects \$765,000 for football in school year 1992-93. If the program is unable to raise \$315,000 to add to the \$450,000 coming from the university, football must make budget adjustments.

"What we're saying here is that if we can't raise the money, then that

makes a statement," Meredith said. "If we can, then roll on along."

The Budget Committee's recommendation to suspend football has been in the works for some time. Meredith said he wanted the issue resolved in December.

"The regents weren't ready to deal with it then," he said.

The Budget Committee completed its recommendation on football in late March. Meredith informed football coach Jack Harbaugh on March 23 in a meeting in Meredith's office.

The public show was then on as several people — usually those in favor of keeping football — spoke out passionately.

Petitions circulated on campus and around town supported football,

as did red baseball caps with the message "Keep Western Football."

On April 21, athletic director Louis Marciani called a news conference to announce a plan to use season tickets, gate receipts and corporate sponsorships to offset nearly \$475,000 to be sliced from football-related expenditures.

Meredith supported the plan, which football supporters hoped would save the program.

The football debate turned ugly April 23 when Bowling Green attorney Kelly Thompson Jr. rallied Western's football players behind a class-action lawsuit against the school. Called on by Harbaugh to inform Western's players of their legal options, Thompson dismissed Western's coaches from a locker-

room meeting and used emotional appeals to drum up a resounding voice vote for such a suit.

Thompson based the proposed lawsuit on breach of promise, saying players were promised a scholarship for four years when they signed their national letter-of-intent to accept an athletic scholarship at Western. The Budget Committee proposed honoring football grants-in-aid only through the 1992-93 school year.

Thompson also threatened litigation based on the loss of minority enrollment and scholarships he said would arise from suspending football. The suits were not filed, and Thompson said they won't be if Western maintains its football program.

Western regents approve budget recommendations

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

4-30-92
DN

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents voted 6-4 today to approve recommendations to pare \$6.1 million from the school's budget for the coming year.

Regents agreed to all of the proposals mentioned by President Thomas Meredith in a April 13 memo, with one exception — regents adopted an alternative plan to save Western's football program.

The football program — which had been recommended for suspension by the Budget Committee, which developed the other budget recommendations approved — will see \$450,000 in university funds in the coming school year. The remainder of the program's \$765,000 budget will have to come from ticket sales, concessions and personal and one-

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porate contributions.

The Budget Committee's recommendations covered 68 areas. Some of those recommendations included raising fees students pay for services such as parking and health care, leaving some vacant positions unfilled, consolidating some sectors and decreasing funding to others.

Voting for the budget proposals were regents Bobby Bartley, Steve Catron, Howard Gray, Monnie Hankins and Burns Mercer and Chairman Joe Iracane. Voting against the recommendations were Patsy Judd, Heather Falmlen, Robert Chambless and Eugene Evans.

The budget recommendations were outlined earlier to regents and were discussed during a special meeting Wednesday. Iracane was the only regent to propose specific changes to the Budget Committee's recommendations during the special session.

Iracane had suggested the university eliminate the athletic director's position and dip into more of its \$2 million Reserve Fund. The Budget Committee is recommending that \$55,407 be taken from the reserve to help balance the budget.

Iracane also suggested that the offices of University Relations and Alumni Affairs and Development be consolidated and that the College Heights Herald, the school's student newspaper, become financially self-sufficient.

Meredith said he was working on a plan to consolidate the three of-



Staff Photo by Chris Birks

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY President Thomas Meredith (from left), Regent Joe Iracane and Elizabeth Esters, the Board of Regents' secretary, discuss the board's agenda before today's meeting.

fices, but he wanted more time to develop that plan.

"I'm looking at it from the perspective of reorganization. It may save money ... but I'm looking at making it more efficient," Meredith said.

Meredith also said he opposed taking more money out of the school's Reserve Fund than the amount proposed by the committee.

"That would be financially detrimental to the university," he said.

Iracane had wanted to postpone today's meeting until May 8 because he said Arthur Andersen and Co. representatives told him Tuesday that a special review of some university accounts would be ready in about a week.

The Louisville firm completed work on Western's campus two weeks ago. It is looking at all presidential, food services and physical plant accounts, as well as any expenses charged to the school by regents.

"I'd like to get the audit involved. I'd personally like to wait a week," he said.

"I think it's a little imprudent to ask a bunch of reasonable men to reconsider ... the work they've done on this," Evans said.

A motion to postpone the meeting failed 6-3.

The Budget Committee met for about two hours Wednesday after the two and a half hour regents' meeting.

Nunn's report surprises WKU

Continued from Page One

think might be beneficial to Western, things that might be protective of the taxpayers' money," Nunn said Wednesday in an interview.

"Now that I've gotten interested in it, why, I expect to pursue my interest. I hope an awful lot of citizens will do likewise."

Nunn said he summarized his independent findings for the regents and "just dropped it on them."

"I didn't get into any specifics," he said. "I just thought if they wanted more information... Well, the board can't come to me. The board's enjoined" by the court ruling. "I don't know how they could find out."

Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said he was "shocked" to get Nunn's letter.

"I swear I had no idea," Iracane said. "I haven't spoken to him in many, many months. No contact whatsoever. I would have thought we were winding down."

When asked what he wanted the regents to do with his report, Nunn said: "I don't care what they do with it. They hired me and I did my work and I reported to them. It's up to them to do whatever they want to. If they want to sit there and let themselves be liable but not make an inquiry or do anything, that's all right with me."

The second paragraph of his letter reads:

"In spite of the concerted efforts on the part of board members (Stephen) Catron, (Bobby) Bartley, (Western President) Dr. (Thomas) Meredith, and others, I have been able to ascertain some very significant irregularities at Western which should be called to your attention prior to the ending of your terms and matters for which you could be personally liable unless corrective action is taken... prior to the termination of your term."

Nunn indicated that the irregularities he had found might lead to a

lawsuit. When asked if he knew if any such suit was being prepared, Nunn said: "I'm saying just if one was filed. I don't even know if there will be a taxpayer suit filed. I'm not taking any steps to do anything, except discharge my duties for which I was employed."

It was unclear what the legal basis for such a suit would be, since Kentucky law appears to assign the responsibility for such actions to the state attorney general.

After saying that the rationale for "it has been going on before" in explaining questioned practices "does not appear to be a very valid defense" — the administration and some former regents have said some accounting practices that were reviewed began before Meredith arrived at Western — Nunn notes in the letter that Iracane "has served for an extended period of time" and that Meredith "has

served for at least three years." Then Nunn lists a series of questions challenging both Meredith and Iracane to explain what each has done to deal with those problems.

Iracane said he has been trying to schedule a regents meeting at which Arthur Andersen would present its final report. He said that he would respond to Nunn's report at that time.

"I think there are serious accounting concerns that need to be addressed, and that's the value of this audit." But Nunn's report, Iracane said, "throws a completely new wrinkle in it, I think."

Meredith said he had not seen Nunn's report, and added, "I don't think it's necessary for me to respond to Mr. Nunn's comments."

Catron, who along with Bartley won the court ruling voiding Nunn's hiring in February, said he gave Nunn's report little consideration and simply filed it away. Bartley and faculty regent Eugene Evans said they had not received a copy.

Regent Burns Mercer, who joined the board after the audit battle, got a copy but declined to comment on it, as did regent Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd. Other regents could not be reached for comment.

A month ago, Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Alan Wilson wrote Nunn a letter saying that Western's campus police had learned that Nunn "interviewed suspects in a criminal investigation" then under way at Western. Wilson asked Nunn to turn over any information he had in the matter.

About a month later, Nunn replied that he would supply the information, "if you will appoint me as your (unpaid) Assistant Commonwealth Attorney." His other conditions included "the impaneling of... a fair, unbiased" grand jury and an investigation into Western's hiring of another individual under a personal-service contract.

Wilson said he chose to drop the issue with Nunn. No arrests have been made.

WKU to decide today whether to play or pay to end football

By Bill Estep

South-central Kentucky bureau

4-30-92
LHL

BOWLING GREEN — The future of football at Western Kentucky University will become clearer today when regents decide whether to give the program money next fall to play or cover shutdown costs.

Regents will consider proposals to cut \$6.1 million from Western's budget — money lost to state budget cuts and higher operating costs. At a discussion meeting yesterday, President Thomas C. Meredith presented a budget-balancing proposal that includes higher student-health fees; higher fees for off-campus classes; higher dorm-room rates; elimination of 51 jobs, 26 of which are already vacant; and greater workloads for professors.

"We are going to be a leaner institution," said Steve Schnacke, a Western administrator and member of the budget committee. "The question is where."

The budget committee recommended suspending the football program, which loses money. There is, however, an alternative budget proposal under which the team could keep playing if the school can raise about \$350,000 through increased ticket sales, concessions and corporate sponsorships to augment university money.

Either way, Western will give the football program \$450,000. That would save \$437,976, according to the proposed budget.

If the regents vote to suspend football, that money will cover the cost of salaries, scholarships and game guarantees to other schools while phasing out the program.

A vote to continue the program would mean a recurring cost for the school in the future.

The athletic department and Hilltopper Athletic Foundation are working to increase football ticket sales and membership.

Supporters are trying to sell 5,000 season tickets. The school sold 1,400 last year.

Robert Hansen, an accounting professor and member of the budget committee, said there seemed to be little support on campus for the football program.

But regents Chairman Joe Iracane, a supporter of the program, said many people had expressed support for football to him.

Iracane sought to delay today's scheduled meeting until a week from tomorrow.

By then, he said, a special audit of some university accounts will be finished and could provide insights on ways to reduce the budget.

Iracane also asked that the budget committee have time to study whether money could be diverted from Athletic Director Lou Marciani's office to football; whether reserve money could be used in the budget; whether Western's Alumni Affairs, public relations and development offices could be combined to save money; and whether the College Heights Herald, Western's student newspaper, could be made self-sufficient.

Regents voted 6-3 against delaying today's vote on the budget.

Iracane said later that he wanted the newspaper to be self-sufficient and wanted the savings to the school diverted to the journalism department.

Bob Adams, publications director and adviser to the newspaper and yearbook, said the newspaper pays its production costs and has bought much of the equipment in the publications office. It does not pay the salaries of two advisers and a secretary who work with the newspaper and the Talisman, Western's yearbook.

It was unclear exactly what Iracane wanted done with the paper, but Adams said he did not think the newspaper could be self-sufficient if it had to pay those salaries.

Meredith said the budget committee did its best to protect academics in making recommendations for the painful cuts.

"What happens in the classroom is the bottom line," he said.

Keeping football a good decision, but requires effort

Western Kentucky University football players, coaches and supporters are breathing sighs of relief. The Board of Regents decided Thursday to give the program another year as an alternative to suspension.

The board voted to give football \$450,000 in university funds and to allow it to try to raise an additional \$315,000 — rejecting a university budget committee's recommendation that the program be suspended. Suspension of the program would have helped trim \$6.1 million from the 1992-93 budget. The cut was needed to help the state adjust to a \$155 million shortfall in its budget.

The decision to keep football comes as good news to those who believe the program can be made to better

5-3-92 PN
support itself through outreach to supporters. Yet, the revelry should be kept to a minimum. The task that lies ahead for the football program will not be an easy one.

Football supporters must prove that they can raise the money to sustain the program. This should be looked upon as a long-term commitment, rather than a one-year delay. That commitment will be appreciated by fans. However, some university departments might have to do with less because of the decision to keep football.

It will be up to members of the football program and its supporters to prove that the activity can increase its appeal, while becoming less of a financial burden to the university.

university leaders said was a witch-hunt against the president — has yet to receive a copy of the draft audit report.

All presidential, food services and Physical Plant accounts were audited for the fiscal years 1989 through 1991. Expenses charged to the school by regents also were examined.

“It was agreed that I would have an opportunity to react to the report for accuracy before the final draft was prepared and before it was released. I have yet to see the draft. I am terribly disappointed that the agreement was violated,” Meredith said.

The tentative Arthur Andersen report is for discussion purposes only.

Included in the executive summary of the tentative Arthur Andersen report were the following recommendations:

—THE PRESIDENT’S Unrestricted Account should be closed, with any remaining funds transferred to the Unrestricted Current Account. In addition, the Board of Regents should set a formal policy for the allocation of investment earnings from the school’s Agency Fund.

—THE ANNUAL allowance given to the Meredith and his wife, Susan, has been treated as compen-

sation for accounting purposes but should not be.

That annual allowance — which the summary said totaled \$56,340 for the three years ended June 30 — was stopped by Meredith in the fall.

—THE UNIVERSITY should monitor the Physical Plant to make sure it complies with departmental requisition procedures and that all sectors include, within their budgets, amounts estimated for capital improvements at the school.

—THE UNIVERSITY’S accounting system is capable of producing reports that compare the amount of money budgeted for a department with the amount of money actually spent by that department.

—THE UNIVERSITY should monitor any non-university related expenses in food services because of the legal and tax implications. From 1989 to 1990, \$11,500 was spent by an unaffiliated third party, Classic Catering, for prepared food and other items.

Food services will be run by the Marriott Corp. beginning July 1.

—ALL UNIVERSITY purchases of goods and services should follow procurement procedures established by the school’s purchasing department. Policies for travel expenses and reimbursement should be applied consistently for all employees and regents.

NUNN

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vestigating the matter. Capt. Richard Kirby, head of the investigations division for the campus police, declined to name the source of the allegation.

“If anyone has any leads, we’d like to know what those leads are,” Kirby said.

Horace Johnson, Western’s police chief, said that his department had received no information from Nunn or any other source outside the university.

Nunn was unavailable for comment.

Two break-ins, one on April 19, 1989, and the other between 1 p.m. Dec. 17 and 10 a.m. Dec. 18, 1991, remain unsolved.

“We’ve interviewed lots and lots of people, but the cases are still open,” Kirby said.

A safe in an office between the grill and the cafeteria on the first floor of Downing University Center was burglarized on both occasions. The first break-in resulted in the loss of \$1,163.70. The second break-in led to a loss of \$2,048.

There were no signs of forced entry, Kirby said.

“They would have had a key and known what the combination to the safe was,” Kirby said.

Eight food services employees and one physical plant employee have declined to take polygraph tests, he said.

Nunn was hired in January by Western’s Board of Regents to oversee an audit of some university accounts, but Warren Circuit Judge Thomas Lewis ruled Nunn was hired illegally by the board.

Audit of WKU contains few surprises

Nunn told to hand over information

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

5/8/92

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn has been told to hand over any information he might have on break-ins at Western Kentucky University's food services offices.

Warren County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Wilson said today that he wrote Nunn a letter about three weeks ago telling him to forward any information he had to Western's Police Department.

"I told him if he had information concerning a criminal investigation, he should turn it over to them because it was their business, not his," Wilson said.

Western police requested that Wilson write the letter after hearing that Nunn had allegedly told someone on campus that he was in-

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Column 5, This Section

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

A long-awaited and highly debated audit of some Western Kentucky University departments contains few surprises but a lot of recommendations, the Daily News has learned.

The audit was begun in March by Arthur Andersen and Co. of Louisville after being approved by Western's Board of Regents initially in December. The audit started and was later stopped by legal action and then switched hands from former Gov. Louie B. Nunn to Arthur Andersen.

The draft recommendations made by the accounting firm are similar in

scope to those made in an internal October audit report — including that university expenditures should be accurately recorded and properly classified and that proper university practices should be applied consistently to all university departments.

The internal audit also noted that university accounting practices and policies used now were put in place before President Thomas Meredith took office in 1988.

Meredith, who controls most of the accounts targeted by the special audit — which some community and

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Column 4, This Section

University boards need more women, two officials say

By FRAN ELLERS, Staff Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The committee that will select a pool of nominees for university board positions should recommend at least one woman per seat to Gov. Brereton Jones, two state officials say.

Under a new state law, Jones must choose from among the nominees to fill all appointive seats on university boards by July 1. As of this spring, there were only 13 women among the 81 board members across the state. That percentage should be closer to half, say Marsha Weinstein and Penny Miller, director and chairwoman, respectively, of the Kentucky Commission on Women.

Jones, who appointed Weinstein and Miller, has made no commitment to name a specific number of women to university boards beyond a general pledge to name more women to appointive positions.

"Gov. Jones has a very strong commitment to bringing women into state government and onto boards and commissions, but we have never established a certain percentage target," said Diana Taylor, his chief of staff.

However, the administration has no problem with Weinstein's approach, Taylor said. "She is the head of an agency that is very proactive. He (Jones) knew that she would be proactive."

Weinstein said she won't ask the governor to commit to a number of women, even though she is making such a plea to the Higher Education Nominating Committee, which Jones appointed. The committee, made up of five men and two women, must make its recommendations by June 1.

"I'm just going to encourage him to choose as many women as possible," she said yesterday. "I believe that he will."

Nominating Committee Chairman Wilson Wyatt Sr. said this week that he is "very favorably inclined" to include as many women as possible in the pool of nominations. But Wyatt added that the nomination process will be like assembling a complicated jigsaw puzzle because of the different requirements for board members. Merit will be the prime consideration, and Wyatt said the committee's ability to include women

Officials want women on boards

Continued from Page B 1

will also depend in part on how many women applied or were nominated. Weinstein said that the commission on women actively recruited women for the list.

The committee will meet tomorrow and expects to begin filtering through the 500 applications in private, Wyatt said.

In a letter dated May 5, Weinstein and Miller urged the committee to make at least one of the three nominees for each seat a woman. (Actually, the committee will nominate only two people for each seat this year because of a requirement in the law that half the board members appointed be incumbents.)

That requirement will constrain Jones' appointments somewhat; however, because the appointment

system is being restructured, this is the only time that a single governor will have sweeping authority to appoint all university board members.

During the legislative session, the appointment process was changed, along with some of the qualifications for board members.

In the past, the seats were to be distributed about equally between Democrats and Republicans, but the distribution is now proportional to registration, which favors the Democrats.

Senate Republicans tried to embarrass the Democrats during the session by attempting to amend the bill to also require proportional representation of women on the boards — which would be about half. The attempt failed.

Jones has gotten mixed reviews for his efforts to involve women in policy-making roles.

According to the National Women's Political Caucus, Kentucky ranks 15th among 43 states surveyed in the number of women in

cabinet positions. That's a big jump from 1991, when it was 33rd.

But Jones has been criticized for appointing mostly white men to two panels that will make recommendations for what he intends to be the hallmark of his administration — reform of the health-care system. Health-care problems in Kentucky disproportionately affect women and minorities, statistics show.

Jones appointed only one woman, Weinstein, and one African-American, deputy general counsel Stephen Réed, to the 28-member Commission on Health Care Reform, which is made up of legislators and government officials and will make the final recommendations.

He initially appointed six women and one African-American to the 45-member task force made up of health-care providers, business representatives and other interest groups. In recent weeks that task force has been expanded, and Jones has quietly added four women, two of them black.

5/8/92

WKU regents get drafts of special audit

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY
Staff Writer

5/9/92

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's regents have received preliminary drafts of a special financial review of some university spending accounts, and regents Chairman Joe Iracane expects to call a meeting on the matter next week.

While Iracane said he had not yet read the preliminary recommendations of the 60-plus-page report, done by the accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co., regent Stephen Catron said they appeared to mirror the results of an internal audit Western's regents commissioned last October.

The October internal audit report discussed payments made to Susan Meredith, the wife of Western President Thomas Meredith; improvements to the Merediths' offi-

cial residence; and the creation of a "President's Unrestricted Account" with interest earned on other university accounts. The internal audit report recommended generally that some Western accounting procedures be improved and noted that some of the practices being questioned were started before Meredith came to Western.

More specifically, that report recommended converting the payments to Susan Meredith into either increased pay to her husband or a system of reimbursement. It also recommended that all expenses incurred at the president's home be charged to the president's home account and that expenses incurred by Meredith in his official university capacity be charged to the president's office account.

The report said the interest funding Meredith's unrestricted account should first be

recorded as income and then budgeted, and the unrestricted account closed.

Some regents, such as Catron and Bobby Bartley — and a Warren County grand jury — said the internal audit report showed no evidence of improprieties, only matters that could have been handled internally. But a majority of other regents, including Iracane and Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd, called for a further review. The new audit went over the same areas covered by the internal audit, as well as reviewing the budgets of Western's physical plant and food-services department; the travel expenses of the Merediths and the regents; and the spending of unrestricted private contributions.

Iracane said yesterday that he planned to call a regents meeting Wednesday or Thursday and that representatives from Arthur Andersen would attend.

Nunn won't hand over information

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn said Friday he will not turn over information he has regarding break-ins at Western Kentucky University's food services offices to Warren County Attorney Steve Wilson.

"If they want any evidence, they can get it for themselves. It's there," Nunn said.

Wilson said Friday that he wrote Nunn on April 16 asking him to turn over any information he had regarding break-ins in 1989 and 1991 that resulted in a loss of \$3,211 from a food services safe at Downing University Center.

Western Police asked Wilson to write the letter after Nunn supposedly told someone on campus that he was investigating.

Nunn said he had information from informants about the break-ins and that "there are more than just those two."

The former governor said he would write a response to Wilson regarding the letter "now that the media has it."

Campus police say they are looking for new information to solve both cases.

Wilson declined comment on Nunn's statements.

5/10/92

Meredith not surprised by firm's audit findings

5/12/92

By EVANS DONNELL

The Daily News

Western Kentucky University President Thomas Meredith said today he has found no surprises in his review of the Arthur Andersen and Co. draft report on certain university accounts.

"I'm pleased with what I've read so far. I'm going through it ... for the purpose of making sure the audit is accurate. It's as we expected," Meredith said.

Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said today he hopes to call a special meeting of the board either this week or early next week so that Arthur Andersen representatives can explain their findings.

The meeting will be for informational purposes only, Iracane said.

"They'll discuss what they've found, and there may be some other things," he said.

Iracane would not elaborate on what the "other things" were.

The audit was begun in March by the Louisville firm after being approved initially by regents in December. The audit started and was later stopped by legal action and then switched hands from former Gov. Louie B. Nunn to Arthur Andersen.

Meredith said he received his copy of the draft report Friday, the same day that recommendations from that report were made public in

the Daily News.

"I'm ready to deal with this and get this behind us," Meredith said.

Meredith said he was going over the report with Executive Vice President Paul Cook, Accounts and Budgetary Control Director Thomas Harmon, Budget Director Cecile Garmon and Internal Auditor Warren Irons to ensure its accuracy.

Meredith said he would finish his review of the draft report "in the next several days."

All presidential, food services and physical plant accounts were audited for the fiscal years 1989 through 1991. Expenses charged to the school by regents also were examined.

The tentative Arthur Andersen report is for discussion purposes only.

The draft recommendations made by the accounting firm are similar in scope to those made in an internal October audit report — including that university expenditures should be accurately recorded and properly classified and that proper university procedures should be applied consistently to all university departments.

The internal audit also noted that university accounting practices and policies used now were put in place before Meredith became president in 1988.

Nunn offers to serve as Wilson assistant

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

5/13/92

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn has offered to serve as an unpaid assistant commonwealth attorney in an investigation of alleged criminal activity at Western Kentucky University.

However, Warren County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Wilson today told the Daily News he won't accept Nunn's offer.

"Any information I need from him, I'll get from a grand jury," Wilson said.

"I think they should be more interested in looking at Western and not at people," Nunn said when he heard Wilson's response.

Nunn made the offer in a letter he wrote Monday to Wilson. Wilson received the letter Tuesday.

Wilson asked Nunn to turn over any information he had on two break-ins at a food services office in Western's Downing University Center. The break-ins, which occurred in 1989 and 1991, resulted in a total of \$3,211 being taken from a safe in that office.

Wilson told Nunn in an April 16 letter that his office understood that Nunn had interviewed people in an investigation of the break-ins.

"It is also the information of this office that you have in your possession taped interviews of an informant or informants that

indicate criminal involvement in food services," the letter said.

Wilson concluded the letter by saying he knew Nunn would "not do anything to further hinder the investigation of possible criminal activity" at the school.

Nunn responded by saying that he "was not aware of any investigation at Western University and, therefore, could not have in any way hindered the so-called investigation."

The former governor offered to serve as assistant commonwealth attorney at no cost to the state. He also said his employment was conditioned upon impaneling a fair, unbiased panel of grand jurors to examine evidence of possible wrongdoing at the school.

Nunn's letter also said Wilson's office should look at a personal service contract between Western and David Jones, a private grantsman from Mississippi.

A grantsman works with public and private agencies to help them get grants and loans.

Nunn claimed today that university President Thomas Meredith had paid Jones with a contract not authorized by the school's Board of Regents. Nunn said he thought the contract was for \$10,500 plus expenses, "although I'm not sure about

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that."

Nunn said he asked university administrators "some time ago for a copy of that contract and they turned me down."

"Mr. Jones is a grantsman who worked with us to successfully obtain a \$3 million low-interest federal loan in 1989, which received a lot of publicity. I don't think I need to comment further regarding Mr. Nunn's statements," Meredith said.

The loan has been used to help provide laundries, life safety equipment such as smoke detectors, and

cable television and computer systems for residence halls at Western.

Nunn, who was hired in January by regents to supervise an audit of certain university accounts, lost that position in February when Warren Circuit Judge Thomas Lewis ruled he had been hired illegally.

His letter made indirect mention of the public turmoil that has surrounded Western since regents voted to have an audit of accounts, most of which are controlled by Meredith, in December.

WKU spending controls lax, auditors say

5/14/92

By CYNTHIA CROSSLEY, Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A special financial review of Western Kentucky University's administration has found loose management controls over spending in some accounts, and the auditors have urged Western's regents to tighten budgeting practices, according to a preliminary report.

The report, mailed last week to regents, contained no major surprises or allegations of wrongdoing. Instead, its findings appeared to reflect casual accounting procedures.

For example, the report said, university administrators should be required to provide an explanation with documentation, when an account runs significantly over budget. The report from the Louisville office of Arthur Andersen & Co. said that's not the case now.

"There were no formal procedures to document the reasons for significant differences between the approved budget and the actual expenditures incurred," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by The Courier-Journal. "We were informed by university personnel that this was the case throughout the university. . . ."

The regents also should tighten controls over

Review reveals lax controls

Continued from Page One

paying the president's official expenses, the report said. The current system of making an allowance available to President Thomas Meredith and his wife, Susan, and providing reimbursements to cover official entertaining expenses creates "confusion," the report said. Also, it appears to violate Meredith's employment contract.

The report, which the regents have informally called an audit, mostly covers university spending from 1989 to 1991. It closely tracks the expenditure of about \$2.4 million during the period. (The university's annual budget exceeds \$100 million.)

The report comes after nearly six months of controversy which sharply divided the regents and led some regents to accuse others of being on a "witch hunt" against Meredith. Regents Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd, who led the push for the audit, has repeatedly denied that allegation and said she was merely trying to ensure that university funds are spent efficiently.

Regents Chairman Joe Iracane, who has voted with Judd on the issue, said yesterday that he is trying to schedule a board meeting, perhaps for next week, at which Arthur Andersen officials would publicly review the report's findings.

Until that review, Meredith, Iracane and other regents say they won't comment publicly on the report. "There was a formal agreement that no information was to be

released or discussed until the (final) report was issued," Meredith said yesterday. "I'm deeply distressed that agreement has been violated."

Iracane also said he was upset that a copy of the preliminary report had been provided to the news media.

The report provides more details on some matters discussed by an internal audit conducted last October.

For example, it details \$42,700 worth of interior decorating bills from the president's official residence since 1989 and notes that \$15,032 — including money for a television and stereo cabinet, upholstered chairs, a sofa and recliners — was paid out of a development fund created from private contributions.

Andersen's auditors questioned whether university policy allows development funds to pay such expenses, although the policy they attached to illustrate their point also says such funds can be spent at the discretion of the president "to support activities related to recognition of contributors."

Some of the home expenditures include bills for items used for the President's Club garden party. The club recognizes donors who give Western more than \$1,000 a year.

The internal audit also had raised questions about how expenses were being paid at the official residence, but not in that much detail.

The report also cites many situations in which the university's purchasing procedures were simply not followed, including the use of a personal-service contract without going through state procedures. That was the central issue in the legal dispute earlier this year over the regents' hiring of former Gov. Louie Nunn to

supervise this particular audit.

In instances where development funds and a fund called the President's Unrestricted Account were used to pay bills, the report notes that university officials could bypass normal purchasing policies. In some cases, those policies require competitive bids or quotes.

Other issues covered in the report include:

- Western's food services department, including a private catering service once run within the department, overspent its budget by as much as \$326,000 in 1989 — without any explanation. But auditors made no recommendations regarding this department, because Marriott is taking over the food service operations July 1.

- Western's physical plant lost about \$1.15 million over the three-year period, primarily because it has been absorbing the costs of renovations for other departments, including those at the president's residence. The auditors recommended that each department include in its budget money for repairs and physical improvements, and that the university track how well departments stay within their budgets.

- The regents need to establish a policy to direct how Western budgets and spends the interest it earns on accounts such as student housing deposits, student organization funds and faculty grants. Some of this interest money is now transferred to the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, some to a President's Unrestricted Account and some to a general university unrestricted fund, the auditors said. The auditors agreed with the internal auditor in recommending that the President's Unrestricted Account be closed.

Budget news boosts WKU faculty morale

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Faculty morale might not be as bad as figures from a faculty survey indicate, Western Kentucky University's Vice President for Academic Affairs said.

"You probably have to look at all the factors in that survey and when the survey was taken," Vice President Robert Haynes said.

The April survey of 326 faculty members by the school's Faculty Senate was completed before a \$6.1 million budget reduction plan was approved.

"I think there was concern over funding for instruction, but once we decided to protect instruction and make mostly non-academic cuts, ... morale is not as low now as it was

5/19/92 then," Haynes said.

Thirty percent of those who responded to the poll said faculty morale was very poor and 38 percent said it was poor. That compares with respective figures of 20 percent and 41 percent in 1991.

Ratings for the school's president and administrative responsiveness to faculty improved, however. Twenty-six percent said responsiveness by the administration to faculty worries was acceptable, while 33 percent said it was poor and 29 percent said it was very poor. Eleven percent said it was good and 2 percent said it was very good.

In 1991, 19 percent gave an acceptable rating to administrative responsiveness, while 42 percent

said it was poor and 34 percent said it was very poor. Five percent of those surveyed rated responsiveness good, but no respondents gave it a very good rating.

President Thomas Meredith's approval rating improved dramatically in the 1992 survey. Eighty-four percent of the faculty respondents gave him either a very good, good or acceptable rating this year, compared with 56 percent for those three rankings in 1991.

Incoming Faculty Senate Chairwoman Sally Kuhlenschmidt said worries about state funding cuts for Western probably played the largest role in sinking faculty morale.

The state cut \$4.4 million from its funding appropriation for Western's 1992-93 school year.

"I think the faculty are discouraged by the current financial situation in terms of state funding, and I think they see a downward trend in funding for the classroom," Ms. Kuhlenschmidt said.

Increased instructional funding for departments in the 1992-93 budget will mean an average of \$600 more in instructional equipment funds for each department, she said.

"But with the move to make the print shop and central stores self-sufficient, that will mean (departments) costs will go up. I doubt we'll see an increase in funding for new equipment or an increase in funding to replace old equipment," Ms. Kuhlenschmidt added.

Regents to study audit of accounts

By EVANS DONNELL *5/19/92*
The Daily News

The chairman of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents said today that he hopes to have a special meeting as early as Friday to discuss a private firm's audit of some university accounts.

Chairman Joe Iracane said Frankfort attorney Guthrie True mailed a letter to Bowling Green attorney Charles English Sr. late last week asking that university President Thomas Meredith complete his review of the audit's preliminary findings by today. The audit, which has been surrounded by controversy since its approval, targeted many university accounts under Meredith's control.

English represents Meredith. True is part of the Stoll, Keenon and Park law firm that has represented the board's majority since it was sued in January over the hiring of former Gov. Louie B. Nunn to supervise the audit.

Nunn's hiring was ruled illegal by Warren Circuit Judge Thomas Lewis in February. Arthur Andersen and Co. of Louisville completed the audit, which found no major problems but did make recommendations for tighter accounting procedures.

"We asked Dr. Meredith to finish his review and submit anything he had to Arthur Andersen by today so that we wouldn't drag our feet on this thing," Iracane said.

Iracane said he might have some things to add to the audit findings. He declined to elaborate.

The board chairman said he hoped to set a date for the meeting Wednesday.

"I'll be tickled to death to have this whole episode completed. I think Western will be better for it," Iracane said.

Iracane wanted to call a board meeting last week, but decided to wait when Meredith requested more time to review Arthur Andersen's preliminary findings.

The audit was initially approved in December, but questions about Nunn's hiring — and the hiring of Arthur Andersen in February — delayed the start of the audit until March 30.

The audit primarily deals with the first three years Meredith was in office. He took office in September 1988. It focused on all presidential, physical plant and food services accounts. The Louisville firm also looked at expenses charged to the school by regents.

The preliminary report from Arthur Andersen was completed two weeks ago. Its report and recommendations were similar in scope to an internal audit completed in October.

The internal audit said that university expenditures should be accurately recorded and properly classified. It also said that proper university spending practices should be applied consistently to all departments and personnel at the school.

The internal audit said accounting practices questioned in its report were in place before Meredith took office.

Nunn sees problems at WKU ^{5/24}

A Daily News
and AP report

Former Gov. Louie Nunn has surprised Western Kentucky University regents with a report alleging "very significant irregularities" in the handling of money at the school.

In his letter, which he labeled a report, Nunn listed 11 problems and indicated they might lead to a lawsuit.

Western President Thomas Meredith said he had not seen Nunn's report and added, "I don't think it's necessary for me to respond to Mr. Nunn's comments."

A preliminary review of university accounts done by the Louisville office of Arthur Anderson & Co. found loose management controls over some accounts and urged the regents to tighten budgeting practices.

The board originally wanted Nunn to supervise the review. It tried three times in January to hire him, but the hiring was vetoed by

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Warren Circuit Judge Thomas Lewis in February. The ruling has been appealed.

Nunn — who said he has not seen the Arthur Anderson review — said he is still looking into matters at Western.

The former governor has never been paid by Western for investigating accounting practices at the school, according to university administrators.

Nunn offered May 11 to serve without compensation as an assistant commonwealth attorney investigating Western, but that offer was not accepted by Warren Commonwealth Attorney Steve Wilson.

Among the problems Nunn said he has found at Western are "a violation of one or more state laws," "transfer of state funds for personal use without proper authority," "expenditure of unbudgeted monies in the millions of dollars" and "irregular use of money from the Food Services."

Nunn said he summarized his in-

dependent findings for the regents and "just dropped it on them.

"I didn't get into any specifics," he said. "I just thought if they wanted more information. ... Well, the board can't come to me. The board's enjoined" by the court ruling. "I don't know how they could find out."

In the letter, Nunn said that despite the efforts of some, "... I have been able to ascertain some very significant irregularities at Western which should be called to your attention prior to the ending of your terms and matters for which you could be personally liable unless corrective action is taken. ..."

Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said he was shocked to get Nunn's letter.

"I swear I had no idea," Iracane said. "I haven't spoken to him in many, many months. No contact whatsoever. I would have thought we were winding down."

Regents Vice Chairwoman Patsy Judd said she had received Nunn's

letter, but declined comment on it until the regents meet to discuss the audit.

When asked what he wanted the regents to do with his report, Nunn said: "I don't care what they do with it. They hired me and I did my work and I reported to them. It's up to them to do whatever they want to. If they want to sit there and let themselves be liable but not make an inquiry or do anything, that's all right with me."

Iracane said he has been trying to schedule a regents meeting at which Arthur Andersen would present its final report. He said that he would respond to Nunn's report at that time.

Iracane said Wednesday that he hoped to have that meeting about June 1.

"I think there are serious accounting concerns that need to be addressed, and that's the value of this audit." But Nunn's report, Iracane said, "throws a completely new wrinkle in it, I think."

Nunn alleges 'significant irregularities' on WKU money

Associated Press

5/24/92

BOWLING GREEN — Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn surprised Western Kentucky University regents with a report alleging "very significant irregularities" in the handling of money at the school.

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But Nunn — who said he has not seen the Arthur Anderson review — says he is still looking into

matters at Western.

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"I swear I had no idea," Iracane said. "I haven't spoken to him in many, many months. No contact whatsoever. I would have thought we were winding down."

Nunn told to 'put up or shut up' over claims

By STEVE CHAPLIN
The Daily News

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn is pressuring Warren County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Wilson to pursue allegations of wrongdoing at Western Kentucky University, but Wilson said Saturday it's time for Nunn to put up or shut up.

"He can talk all he wants to, but it's time to deliver," Wilson said of allegations made by Nunn of illegal personal service contracts and break-ins at the food services office in Western's Downing University Center.

In a letter to the *Daily News*, Nunn said Wilson was "more interested in talking and protec-

ting than acting and exposing." Information that Nunn gave Wilson about a personal service contract between David Jones of Atlanta and Western President Thomas Meredith was adequate for the commonwealth attorney to act upon, the former governor said.

"Not only is the contract

allegedly in violation of state laws, but it was not paid in the regular course of business by Western University," Nunn's letter said.

Jones is a grantsman who in 1989 assisted Western in suc-

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cessfully obtaining a \$3 million low-interest federal loan that was used to provide laundries, cable television, computer systems and life safety equipment such as smoke detectors for residence halls.

Nunn has alleged the contract with Jones, possibly worth as much as \$10,500, was not approved by the university's Board of Regents.

"That is being looked into, but there is no need for a grand jury action at this time," Wilson said Saturday. "I hate to even comment on it, though, because

we haven't seriously looked into it yet."

If Nunn has specific information about wrongdoing at Western he should do what Wilson asks any other citizen to do, the prosecutor said.

"All I've ever wanted from any citizen, if they have a complaint, is to give us specifics and we will look into it," Wilson said.

"Until he gives some specific information, I'm not going to convene anything. Make it public, don't merely say people are violating this and that," he said.

But in his letter to the *Daily News*, Nunn said it's not his responsibility to do the work of others.

"As a private citizen I feel no necessity to spoon-feed paid public officials to perform their duties.

"The commonwealth attorney is a paid public official to serve the public interest. All laws are equally applicable to board members, presidents, former governors and other citizens. To do otherwise destroys confidence in our judicial system," Nunn's letter said.

WKU says budget strain won't cut vital services

By EVANS DONNELL
The Daily News

Personnel cuts might be the saddest result of budget reductions at Western Kentucky University, but administrators there said the school will maintain vital services.

"The college and university will survive," said business college Assistant Dean James Oppitz, who will retire June 30 from Western after 27 years at the school.

His position will not be filled, and the secretary's position to the college's undergraduate adviser will be eliminated.

"I suspect there'll be a lot of things that won't get done," Oppitz said.

The business college is one of several units on campus that will have to deal with about \$4.3 million in cuts. Those cuts, coupled with about \$1.8 in expected increased revenue, were approved April 30 by Western's Board of Regents to deal with a \$6.1 million budget shortfall at the school.

The shortfall is the result of about \$4.6 million in decreased revenues and \$1.5 million in increased fixed costs.

Regents also decided to close the graduate college dean's office. Dean Elmer Gray will return to full-time teaching in the agriculture department after serving as dean since 1973.

"The graduate college itself is not being demolished. The leadership structure is changing, but programs will continue," Gray said.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Livingston Alexander will assume many duties now held by Gray. Other duties will be assumed by the offices of various colleges at Western, Gray said.

"The biggest thing is that support staff will be cut in half," he said.

Two staff assistants, one with 12 years' experience and one with four, will lose their jobs. One of those assistants is a single mother with two children, Gray said.

"It's one thing when you're going back to teaching as I am. When you're losing your job, it's much

more serious," Gray said.

Gray said the staff assistants' jobs were so specialized that it would be difficult for them to get a job in another part of the university. Secretaries who lose their positions might find another one at Western because the school has a high turnover rate among secretaries each year, according to Gray.

"There's certainly a sadness involved in seeing this come to an end, but I look forward to teaching full-time again," said Gray, whose instruction and research centers on plant science.

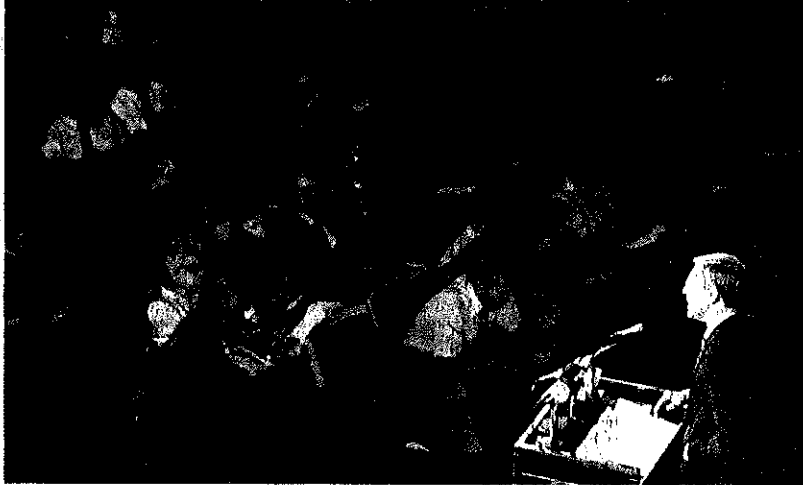
Another cut is the closing of the Sponsored Programs office, which will save \$63,795.

Director Chuck Eison will return

to full-time teaching in the psychology department, while the assistant director and one secretary will move to the school's development office to continue their work in connecting faculty with grant providers for research. One secretary's position will be eliminated.

In all, about 40 positions will no longer exist when the 1992-93 budget year begins July 1, according to university President Thomas Meredith.

"Every individual at Western is important to us. This whole process has been very painful. Unfortunately, sometimes the human side gets lost and the focus is on dollars. All of these people have been excellent employees," Meredith said.



Staff Photo by Kevin Eans

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY President Thomas C. Meredith speaks to faculty and staff Thursday afternoon in Van Meter Auditorium. In the address, Meredith challenged professors to strive for excellence in the classroom and pledged his support in that effort.

Meredith challenges WKU staff, faculty to be the best

By PAUL BAUFF
Daily News Staff Writer
Western Kentucky University President Thomas C. Meredith on Thursday challenged staff and faculty to be the best in his first mass meeting with the groups.

"I believe in Western and I believe in you, and I mean that as sincerely as I can say it," Meredith told several hundred professors, administrators and other Western personnel gathered in Van Meter Auditorium.

"All I ask is this: that you treat every student as if he or she were your very own. Work them hard, but care about them, and help them ... Do your job each day the way you would want someone to do that job if you were the boss. I think if you'll follow those two things, this will be the greatest university that ever existed."

In a relaxed, wide-ranging speech punctuated by jokes and interrupted several times by applause, Meredith said he wants Western to be ac-

knowledged as being on the same level as the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

"In the same sentence, I also want people to think of Western Kentucky University when they think of higher education in this state ... I don't want us to be anything other than one of the best in this state," he said.

Meredith pledged his support to faculty to achieve that goal.

"I'll do all that I can within my power to do so to make sure that there are as few hindrances in your way as possible," he said. "I think that's primarily what I'm to be about — to set directions for this institution, then to make sure that all of those things that could be in your way to keep you from operating from your maximum are out of the way."

Meredith encouraged faculty to be "live professionals" — active in research, scholarly activities and public service — but made it equally

clear he expects excellence in the classroom.

"You must be good in the classroom," he said. "I can't think of any excuse for you not to be good in the classroom. Not average, not OK. I'm talking good in the classroom."

Meredith reiterated his commitment to Western's students in challenging faculty to take the time to personalize their teaching.

"Our students do not have to take just whatever they are given in the classroom ... They deserve the very best. We owe it them. They paid for it, you're getting paid for it, and we owe it to them."

As for his part, Meredith promised to "serve as a buffer for (faculty) in the political activities of this state," and said his first priority with Gov. Wallace Wilkinson and the legislature will be teacher salaries.

Meredith also pledged his help in recruiting students, securing additional out-of-state funding

and promoting Western across the state and nation.

"The Western story needs to be told, and that's part of my job," he said.

Meredith cited class loads as among the most serious problems facing Western, and promised not to forsake educational quality for growth.

"I won't sacrifice our reputation for the sake of size," he said.

That reputation, he said, is one he wants to protect.

"I want to continue to spiral upward, and I can't do that. I can take care of the visibility and I can take care of lots of other things, but it all rests with you. And I'll give you the support you need for that."

Concerning an NCAA investigation into Western's basketball program, Meredith asked for full cooperation from the faculty and staff.