5-27-1986

UA3/7/1 Band Uniform Report

Kent Campbell

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Memo To: Dr. Wayne Hobbs, Head
       Department of Music

From: Kent Campbell
       Director of Bands

Subject: Band Uniforms

For the fourth year our budget request for new band uniforms has not been funded. It is my opinion that we must reach the President of the University with the strongest possible appeal that the request be reconsidered. The national standard for the life of a band uniform is seven years. Our current uniforms are twelve years old, and because of the five to six months required for purchasing processes and manufacture, will be thirteen years old when replaced, even if funds are granted immediately.

The pride and overall morale of the band members have been affected to the point of devastation. They know that every state university in Kentucky has purchased new uniforms, and in some cases two new sets, since Western bought in 1974.* These students all come from high school bands with newer uniforms and better equipment than we are able to provide. It can be assumed that our recruiting is also suffering.

No organization on the campus is called upon to provide more service than the University Bands. Band members arrive on campus for rehearsals at least a week before classes begin in the fall. Many are required to be here during school holidays for basketball games, and the concert band remains for commencement in the spring. During the 1985/86 academic year, units of the band made 63 separate service and concert appearances.

If the football band experiences any growth for the fall of 1986, they may be forced to wear make-shift uniforms such as white shirts and dark trousers or blue jeans. This will be an undeniable situation for the fall of 1987.

* Purchase of new uniforms by state institutions

 WKU: 1974
    Murray: 1973; 1980
    Morehead: 1973; 1981
    UK: 1974; 1982
    EKU: 1976; 1986
    U of L: 1979 (the year their marching band initiated)
Current Uniforms: Description

The current Band Uniform consists of eleven elements. In 1974 150 complete uniforms were purchased at the cost of $165.73 each. In 1976 an additional 50 complete uniforms, except accessories, were purchased at the cost of $168.53 each.

The expense to the University has amounted to only pennies per student per wearing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost in 1974</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hat and plume</td>
<td>$14.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat and Overlay</td>
<td>$81.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoulder Awnings (2)</td>
<td>$12.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves (2)</td>
<td>$1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Trousers</td>
<td>$25.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spats (2)</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Trousers</td>
<td>$24.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow tie #1</td>
<td>$1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow tie #2</td>
<td>$1.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total cost</strong></td>
<td><strong>$165.73</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Uniforms: Inventory and Evaluation

Of the two hundred complete uniforms purchased, we have on hand the numbers listed below. The difference between the number listed and the original inventory of two hundred is due to items having been discarded as unusable, and in a few instances, lost.

Even these figures are misleading for at least two reasons; because the ratio of men to women in the band varies from year to year, and because the sizes of uniforms they need also vary, at least 15-20% more uniforms are needed in inventory than are being worn at any one time. Secondly, missing and badly worn components tend to occur in the most used sizes.

1. Coats: 181 All in fair condition
   Overlays: 193 33 are in fair condition
   128 are in poor condition
   32 are usable only in emergency
   All have faded colors

2. Shoulder Awnings: 152 All are in poor condition--
   colors are dirty and faded

3. Red Trousers: 190 66 are in fair condition
   126 are in poor condition
   8 are usable only in emergency

4. Hats: 167 118 are in fair condition
   49 are usable only in emergency
   Plumes: 141 All are in fair condition--
   color is faded

5. Spats: 150 All are in poor condition
   pairs

6. Gloves: 150 pairs Nearly all are unusable
New Uniform: Concept and Cost

A concept of simplicity must be of foremost consideration in the selection of new uniforms. The multi-piece uniform of twelve years ago would now be prohibitive in cost. A unit consisting of coat, trouser, shako, and three accessories would be only a few dollars more than our current uniform cost per unit in 1975.

The type of uniform pictured below is being considered for purchase in the event funding is forthcoming. All colors and decorations are a part of the basic uniform, with the only accessories being gloves, spats, and cumberbund. The black coats and trousers on hand will serve as tuxedo-type concert uniforms for several more years. The uniform, while being very traditional, yet always current in style, would be unique in regards to other state institutions, and thus identifiable as the Western uniform. The prices stated are very close to low bid prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hat</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feather plume</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic plume</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(for bad weather)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coat</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberbund</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trousers</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>$1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spats (2)</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$184.20</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uniforms for Non-playing Members

Uniforms for drum majors, flag corps, rifle line, and twirlers when used are constructed locally, generally each year. A few examples from previous years are pictured below. The typical cost for this type of apparel is $50.00 to $75.00 per unit. On several occasions in recent years, these students have paid for part or all of their uniforms themselves.

These uniforms must be replaced each year, or two at the most, because the very physical and energetic presentations within the band show by these units simply destroy the uniforms over a period of time. The budget request we have made included sufficient funds for new uniforms for these visual support units for this year.
1986: EMERGENCY

Because the University was unable to provide funds early in the year for complete new uniforms, we desperately need to make additions and replacements for this fall in the areas listed below. The new items to be purchased should be adaptable to the new uniforms.

Spats: 75 pairs @ $4.50 $337.50
Gloves: 150 pairs @ $1.75 $262.50
Uniforms for Drum Majors and flag corp est. $2,000.00
Purchase of buttons, straps, etc. for repair, and fund for seamstress for repair of existing units est. $1,000.00
Total $3,600.00