9-11-1978

UA3/4/8/5 WSGN Report Transcript

WSGN Radio Station

WKU President's Office - Downing

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Biographical/Historical Note:
The president's office was created in 1906. The search for the fourth president of WKU began with Kelly Thompson's resignation announcement May 21, 1969. Vice President for Administrative Affairs Dero Downing indicated that he would serve if asked. The Board of Regents elected him president on August 22, 1969. He served until his retirement in 1979.

Dero Downing was born September 10, 1921 at Fountain Run in Monroe County, Kentucky, and grew up at Horse Cave in Hart County. He enrolled at WKU in 1939 where he played basketball and earned both a bachelor's and master's degree. After serving in the Navy in World War II, he returned to Western as a mathematics teacher and coach at the College's Training School. He later became director of the Training School, college registrar, dean of admissions, dean of business affairs, and vice-president for administrative and business affairs. Upon his resignation as president in 1979 Downing became president of the College Heights Foundation, a position he held until his death on April 4, 2011.

Description: WSGN report regarding Dero Downing’s Resignation.

Date: September 11, 1978

Formats: audio cassette, wav file, mp3 file

Subject Analytics:
Audio recording
Downing, Dero Goodman, 1921-2011
Interviews

Oral history
Radio broadcasting
Resignation from office

Digital Commons Classifications:
Higher Education Administration
History
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Radio

Accession Information: These records transferred to the WKU Archives from the President’s Office in accordance with the records retention schedule.

Access Restrictions: none
Unidentified Announcer: In local news, Western president, Dr. Dero Downing resigned Saturday during an emotional Board of Regents meeting after serving as president for nine years. Downing has been associated with the university since he started his freshman year in 1939. In an interview yesterday at his home on his 57th birthday, Downing explained why he will be stepping down January 8th.

Dero Downing: The resignation was made after long and careful consideration. It basically is the result of my having arrived at the recognition that the cumulative effect of the incessant demands and duties and responsibilities of this position while raise (?) wise is having a detrimental effect on the state of my health. And in commenting in that way, there are those who may interpret that to mean that there is some immediate health problem and that is not the case. It is a long-range thing. It makes me feel that this is a timely decision. And I have made it on a positive note with a great deal of appreciation for the opportunity I had to serve in various positions I've held at Western Kentucky University.

Unidentified Announcer: Although he has tenure as a faculty member of the College of Education, Downing said he does not wish to serve in a full-time position. However, he will be available for part-time services and asked the Regents to grant him a sabbatical leave from January to August. Downing also will help pick his successor.

01:43 DD: I'm confident that there are a number of people, both inside and outside the university, who would be well qualified to fill the position effectively. And I'm sure the Board of Regents will identify that person and through this process will make the selection that will be in the best interest of Western Kentucky University.

Unidentified Announcer: The Regents appointed a committee Saturday to devise a selection procedure to fill the vacancy.