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## UA3/3/1 Integration

WKU President's Office - Thompson

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Ky 13

**COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**  
**WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**

Kentucky State College  
Frankfort, Kentucky  
January 26, 1959

President Kelly Thompson  
Western Kentucky State College  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

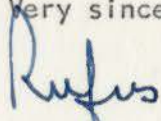
Dear Sir:

I have accepted the assignment of gathering the information requested on the questionnaire enclosed herewith. It will be appreciated if you will have someone in your institution complete the questionnaire and return same to me by February 10, if possible. Two copies are enclosed so that you can keep one for your file.

Also enclosed is a government franked envelope for returning the questionnaire.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very sincerely yours,



Rufus B. Atwood, Member  
Kentucky Advisory Committee  
Commission on Civil Rights

RBA:wts

Encls.

Questionnaire completed and returned January 28, 1959.

Ga.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Institutions of Higher Education.

FROM: Public Education Study Team, Commission on Civil Rights.

RE: Information Needed.

The Commission is charged by the Congress with the duty of studying and collecting information with regard to discrimination based on race, religion or national origin by states or any agency thereof. Additionally, the Commission is directed to appraise Federal laws and policies as they may relate to such discrimination. The information collected and studied will provide the basis for the Commission's findings and recommendations to the President and the Congress.

The repercussions resulting from the Supreme Court's decision in the Desegregation Cases have made the entire field of public education not only a logical choice for study but probably the most important aspect of the Commission's responsibility. The facts -- all the facts -- bearing upon equal educational opportunity throughout this nation need to be known and studied to provide a sound basis for recommendations directed to a solution of any problem of discrimination found to exist.

The attached questionnaire is being sent to all public institutions of higher education in the United States. Since state laws, customs and practices vary widely certain questions very pertinent in some parts of the country may be inappropriate in others. Please bear with us; uniformity is essential to give validity to a nation-wide study and simplifies the collection of data.

With regard to question no. 11 which requests a racial breakdown on enrollment for the last five years, we are aware that many institutions do not keep such records as a matter of policy or state law. We urge such institutions to give us their best estimates. Previous studies of higher education for Negroes have shown a very small enrollment of Negroes in northern colleges and universities, even in the absence of discriminatory admission practices. This was found to be due, in some cases, to non-academic discrimination, problems of housing, unavailability for non-white students, of facilities for the practice teaching required in such courses as teaching, medicine and nursing. In other cases, the Negro student sought in the segregated colleges of the South the social life not open to him in the predominately white college of the North. Our best information is that these factors are no longer determinative, at least in the same degree as in the past, but the facts on a nation-wide basis are not known and are needed to assess the dimensions of the present problem of higher educational opportunities for non-white persons.

The inclusion of questions nos. 13 to 20 does not indicate a determination by the Commission that all of the acts, policies, or conditions inquired into are necessarily discriminatory in a legal sense. We do believe, however, that information with regard to all of these matters has value in understanding the entire problem.

Your co-operation in completing the questionnaire will be deeply appreciated.

Copy

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

STATE OF Kentucky

(1) Name of Institution Western Kentucky State College  
Location Bowling Green, Kentucky

(2) Was racial exclusion practiced at this institution by virtue of state law, policy or practice within the last ten years?  
Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

(If the answer to the above question is "No" disregard items 3 through 8.)

(3) What race or races denied admission by virtue of state law, policy or practice? (Specify)  
Negro

(4) Is admission presently denied to otherwise qualified students because of race by virtue of state law, policy or practice?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

(5) If the answer to (4) is "yes", what race or races are being denied admission? (Specify)  
\_\_\_\_\_

(6) If there is no longer a denial of admission to otherwise qualified students by virtue of their race, when did this policy or practice become effective? 1956

(7) How did the above policy or practice first become effective:  
(a) Court Decision Supreme Citation \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Student or Students \_\_\_\_\_  
Actually admitted Summer school 1956  
Race of Admitted Student or Students Negro  
College, School or Department Admitted to:  
Undergraduate \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate (Specify) Yes  
Yes

(7) (b) Voluntary admission upon application of otherwise qualified students - Date of first admittance \_\_\_\_\_

Race of Admitted Student or Students \_\_\_\_\_

College or Department Admitted to

Undergraduate \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Place a check mark here if no applications leading to admission have been received from otherwise qualified and previously excluded racial group or groups.

(8) Is the present student body of the institution composed entirely of members of one race.

Yes(Specify) \_\_\_\_\_ No  X \_\_\_\_\_

(9) If the answer to the above question is "No", what races are presently represented in the student body? (Specify)

Caucasian Negro Yellow White

(10) What is the race of the majority of the present student body?

White

(11) Enrollment Statistics:

	School Year				
	: 54-55	: 55-56	: 56-57	: 57-58	: 58-59
Total	:	:	:	:	:
White	:	:	:	:	:
Negro	:	:	:	:	:
Other race	:	:	:	:	:

(Specify \_\_\_\_\_)

(12) Requirements for admission -- For residents of the state:  
 (Mark all applicable. If various combinations will meet admission requirements, indicate combinations by use of symbol "a" for one, "b" for another, etc.)

- 1. Graduation from state-accredited high school with specified type of diploma.
- 2. Specified minimum scholastic average in high school.
- 3. Recommendations of principal of high school.

- (12)  4. Subject examinations.  
 5. Scholastic-aptitude examination.  
 6. Other examination - Specify.  
 7. Recommendation of alumni.  
 8. Recommendation of others.  
 9. Personal interview.  
 10. Other - Specify.

- (13) Indicate below the present limitations or restrictions, if any, placed upon students who are members of a minority race at institution.

Permitted to live in dormitory without segregation.

Yes  No

Permitted to eat in institution's dining halls, cafeterias etc. without segregation.

Yes  No

Permitted to attend or participate in all academic or educational campus events without segregation.

Yes  No

Permitted to attend or participate in all campus athletic events without segregation.

Yes  No

Permitted to use the institution's swimming pool, if any, without segregation.

Yes  No

Permitted to attend all college social events.

Yes  No

Eligible for membership in honor societies.

Yes  No

Eligible for membership in all academic or special interest clubs.

Yes  No

- (14) If students who are members of a minority race are permitted to live in dormitories, indicate below how room assignments are made.

- Single room or roommate of same race.  
 \* Student choice or preference.  
 Assigned room without regard to race.

- \* Plus discretion of dormitory director  
(15) With regard to the student body as a whole, indicate below how dormitory room assignments are made.

- Assigned without regard to race, religion or national origin.  
 \* Assigned on basis of student's preference as to race, religion or national origin.

\* Plus discretion of dormitory director

(16) Are students who are members of a minority race admitted to places of public accomodation such as resturants and movie theatres in the immediate off-campus community?

Yes   X   No       

(17) Indicate below present limitations or restrictions, if any, imposed by the State or community by law, policy or custom in the off-campus professional training of students who members of a minority race at institution.

Practice Teaching

  X   No limitations because of minority status.  
       Permitted only in schools with pupils predominately of the same race as the student.  
       No local facilities available for training of minority race.

Social Service Field Work Do not offer

       No exclusion from any local institution or neighborhoods because of minority group status.  
       Permitted only in local institutions or neighborhoods where race of student is predominate.  
       No local facilities available for training minority race.

Medical Training Do not offer

       No exclusion from affiliated hospitals or clinics because of minority group status.  
       Permitted only in hospital or clinic predominately serving race of the student.  
       No local facilities available for training of minority race.

Dental Training Do not offer

       No exclusion from affiliated hospitals or clinics because of minority group status.  
       Permitted only in hospital or clinic predominately serving race of the student.  
       No local facilities for training of minority race.

Nurse's Training Do not offer

       No exclusion from affiliated hospitals or clinics because of minority group status.  
       Permitted only in hospital or clinic predominately serving race of the student.  
       No local facilities available for training of minority race.





WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE  
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 24, 1956

In compliance with the recommendations of the Council on Public Higher Education and in conjunction with all other State colleges in Kentucky, Western will accept colored students for matriculation beginning with the summer school, June 7.

According to present indications, 12 to 15 colored students, all in graduate work, will enroll for summer school.

Kelly Thompson  
President

KT:kw

*Integration*

September 19, 1955

Mrs. M. L. Crawford  
Fountain Run, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Crawford:

Your letter of September 14, addressed to this office has been referred to me for reply.

The question of admission of colored teachers to the public school system in Kentucky and to the state colleges also has not as yet been fully clarified or defined. The decision or opinion of the Supreme Court was not specific as to any time when so-called "integration" should be made completely operative. Many school boards, as well as the State Board of Education, have found that in order fully to qualify under every condition it would be necessary for a period of adjustment to intervene in order that all objections could be met.

It is entirely possible that Western State College has found that it would be for the better interest of the school to postpone this integration. In view of this, I am unable to give you a definite yes or not answer, and my only suggestion at this time is that at least prior to September, 1956, any adjustment must be worked out with the officials of the school itself.

Very truly yours,

J. D. BUCKMAN, JR.  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

W. Owen Keller  
Assistant Attorney General

WOK:lpr

*Integration*

September 15, 1955

Miss Irene Boyd  
Route #2  
Russellville, Ky.

Dear Miss Boyd:

Because of circumstances, one of which is the fact that we do not have a permanent president, our Board of Regents has not decided to change long standing policies at this time.

All of us at Western are conscientiously trying to work out college problems with a long range view and an announcement of any policy change will be made when the Board of Regents acts on the matter. In the meantime I solicit your patience and understanding.

Cordially yours,

Kelly Thompson  
Acting President

KT:kw

cc - Dean F. C. Grise  
Mr. E. H. Canon, Registrar

Kelly, I believe  
you should  
have said so

Route 2  
Russellville, Kentucky  
September 11, 1955

Dear Sir:

I am applying for admission  
to Saturday Classes at Western.

I am a Negro American. A  
graduate of Ky. State College. I am  
at present a teacher in Logan  
County.

yours truly,  
Gene Boyd

*Segregation*

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

September 7, 1955

OFFICE OF REGISTRAR

Mr. Kelly Thompson  
Acting-President  
Western Kentucky State College  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

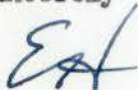
Dear Kelly:

The Negro Woman from Franklin who sought the privilege of attending Western the Fall Semester, 1955, is Mrs. Lillian Gumm, P. O. Box 41, Franklin, Kentucky.

In my conversation over the telephone to her at your suggestion I indicated that we are ~~waiting~~ waiting for instruction from the Attorney General and due to the brevity of time ~~before~~ now and the opening of school that there is little ~~chance~~ that any arrangement will be worked out for integration. She responded in a very satisfactory manner and stated on being asked that she understood the situation and she would cooperate with us by waiting.

I indicated at your suggestion also that there is a possibility of the problem being worked out before the beginning of the second semester.

Sincerely



E. H. Canon  
Registrar

EHC:elr