UA1F Kern Alexander Vertical File Part 3

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

Part of the Higher Education Administration Commons, Journalism Studies Commons, Leadership Studies Commons, Mass Communication Commons, Organizational Communication Commons, and the Public Relations and Advertising Commons

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

By DENISE PURCELL
Daily News Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University's Faculty Senate was asked Thursday to seriously consider the outcome of expanding the university to two campuses and 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

Faculty Regent Eugene Evans told the Senate he wasn't convinced the growth President Kern Alexander is predicting for the university, which currently has more than 13,000 students, would bring positive benefits to the school.

Evans cited a report from the New York Times that showed as institutions become larger there is a tendency for a decrease in quality.

"I'm not saying that diplomas would become morally equivalent to bumper stickers, but it is a question that needs to be asked," he said.

Evans said he feared that there would be excellence only in areas other than academics.

"I'm not sure being bigger is being better," he said.

Evans' report came after Senate Chairman Fred Murphy said Alexander recently told him to encourage more and bigger projects from the faculty.

"President Alexander was thinking expansively," Murphy said.

"We have the largest percentage (budget) increase in the commonwealth. We should not be working as a holding operation or thinking of cutbacks."

Murphy said the president was thinking in "larger terms."

"The forward enrollment projection will help in budgeting matters down the road," he added.

Also at the meeting the senate adopted a re-structured faculty award system that allows more faculty members to be recognized.

Joan Krenzin motioned that the outstanding faculty member in academic public service be recognized in the areas of public service and research and creative activity. The outstanding faculty member in each of the four academic colleges be recognized in the areas of public service, research and creativity and teaching.

The winners of these awards will become the pool for the three university awards.

Paul Campbell gave a report from a Lexington workshop on minority recruitment, retention and mobility.

He said that the ratio of black males to black females in Kentucky's public universities is 8 to 1.

Females represent 65 percent of black graduates from Kentucky's public universities, he said.

"On retention, 59 percent of black freshmen do not return for their sophomore year," he said.

Figures were different for black athletes where 93 percent return, he said.

Correction

A photo caption in Tuesday's Daily News said live catfish sold at the Farmer's Market was part of a state stocking program. Actually, it's a pilot project of Warren County's Extension Service to introduce farmers to alternative markets, such as raising catfish for sale.

Alexander's view of WKU's future seems optimistic

During the past two years, Western Kentucky University's enrollment has grown from about 11,000 in 1985 to a projected 13,400 this year.

Editorial

President Kern Alexander has led an effort that has increased not only the number of students enrolled at the university, but the quality as well. The average ACT score of an incoming freshman student at Western was 19.1 this year compared to 18.6 last year.

The growth is certainly encouraging for Western's future, and we hope the future will be as bright as Alexander predicts.

In his annual address to the faculty last week, Alexander said Western could have two campuses and more than 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

To meet the school's projected growth, Alexander wants to build three or four new residence halls at a cost of $15 million. He also wants to build a $16 million student activities center, spend $19 million on additional library facilities and construct an $11 million computer and communications center.

While we applaud Alexander's vision, we wonder how realistic his plans are considering Kentucky's economic problems and the uncertainties inherent in student recruitment.

For Western's enrollment to grow 80 percent or more between 1985 and 1995 would be remarkable, especially when other universities may be emphasizing student recruitment just as much as Western is.

And with state budget shortfalls and a unwillingness on the part of citizens to pay for new taxes, construction funding may be hard to obtain.

Looking at the situation realistically, it will take a combination of much hard work on Western's part and a lot of luck for Alexander's vision of the future to come true.

WKU chief sees growth by mid-1890s

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University's president told the faculty and staff yesterday to expect the school to expand to two campuses and 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

In his annual address to the professional staff, Kern Alexander said Western expected this fall's enrollment increase to equal last year's 6.5 percent expansion, the largest among the state's public institutions. Last fall, Western had more than 12,000 students.
Western is not bashful about recruiting students

By GEORGE GRAVES

This was no "college night" in some gymnasium or a casual get-together in some alumna's home.

This was college recruiting 1980s style. With the lights of the city and the nearby Ohio River glittering 29 floors below, Western Kentucky University officials and alumni threw a big party at the Jefferson Club on Monday night. The purpose: convince area high school students that Louisville is Western's turf, too.

A top the Citizens Fidelity building, sco re s of high school students ate finger sandwiches and bits of fruit and sipped non-alcoholic punch. Many had received personal invitations. Parents had been invited, too, as had guidance counselors, principals and vice principals.

"We don't really consider this (the University of Louisville's back yard)," said WKU President Kern Alexander. "It's always been Western's back yard, too."

"We lost a sizable number of students from Jefferson County when the University of Louisville became a state institution," added Anne Murray, Western's "enrollment manager."

And just a couple of years ago, U of L told WKU to stop offering graduate teacher-certification courses in Jefferson County high schools to eliminate duplication.

"I understand the importance and imperative of recruiting students," said U of L President Donald C. Swain, when asked about last night's Western reception. "I don't begrudge them."

He said U of L doesn't consider the Louisville area "untouchable territory," since a fourth of the state's population lives here.

After its enrollment declined about 2,700 over five years, Western reversed that trend last fall through lots of recruiting. And officials at the Bowling Green school don't intend to look back.

Murray, who helped plan Monday night's event, said she and other Western officials figured the bash was worth the time, effort and money.

Just how much money? After some coaxing she acknowledged "more than $1,000." The figure would have been much higher, she said, if a local alumna had not rented the club, and if the music were not free.

Murray was reluctant to mention a specific figure because some of the faculty might get upset at such elaborate public relations. Still, she said, "you have to spend a nickel to make a dollar."

Alexander asks backing for WKU

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander told a Bowling Green Rotary Club luncheon Wednesday community support is important if WKU is to progress.

WKU will need an estimated 400 new faculty and staff members over the next two years because of increased student enrollment, he said.

Alexander said he believes 20,000 students will be enrolled by the fall of 1996. He said he plans to seek state approval for the construction of $15 million worth of new residential halls to house the larger student population.

Western students help the Bowling Green economy with their spending, he added.

Nearly $62 million in capital construction projects are planned, with the highest priority given to a $16 million health and student activities building which would include an Olympic-size swimming pool. He said campus problems such as parking are problems the university likes to have because they indicate progress.

Western plans to request 32.3 percent more in additional state funds over the next two years over its present budget, Alexander said, but will be competing with the University of Louisville which has also requested 32 percent more and the University of Kentucky which has requested 29 percent more.

Alexander, who came to Western in 1985, said he has found unusual community support for the university, including successful efforts to install lights at Smith Stadium.

"I don't believe a university can have closer cooperation with a community than Western does with Bowling Green," he said.

But continued support is necessary, Alexander said.

"I do solicit your help and your support. We cannot increase in size, increase our budget, and continue to serve our region without your support."
Alexander says future of funding for schools remains uncertain

The chairman of a special committee appointed by a circuit judge to suggest ways of improving the state's method of funding public schools says the committee will consider the overall funding level as well as inequities within the system.

"The judge's opinion indicates there are two issues here," said Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander. "One is that the entire system is currently underfunded."

Alexander declined to speculate on what the committee might recommend and said he remains uncertain about what should be done to improve the financing system.

Alexander did say, however, a redistribution of currently-available resources is not a practical idea because there are so many poor school districts, and even what we consider to be the more affluent districts in Kentucky are not well funded."

All of which may mean the committee will have to recommend more spending on education, with the money coming from increased taxes or an increased percentage of currently-available money. "It's a question of not having enough resources at the local level for many of the poorer school districts," Alexander said.

"Then you've got to stand back and say, if you don't have enough money to redistribute in the present system, then how do you combine state and local resources to give the school districts the boost they need?"

"So I think inevitably you're talking about new resources or a new way of handling ... the local tax structure."

"What the question is, I think, is how much leeway would local school districts be given as far as school board levies (taxes)," Alexander said.
Eastern’s president also resigns; universities see funding challenge

BY ERIN RICHARDS
STAFF WRITER

Kern Alexander is not the only official who will soon step down from a presidential position of a Kentucky university.

Eastern Kentucky University President Bob Kustra said last week he intends to resign in June 2002. Although he originally said he did not plan to serve as president for more than five years, Kustra will be ending his tenure one year shy of that figure.

“Dr. Kustra always planned to spend the short term with us – it was a one contract time period,” said John Taylor, EKU Faculty Senate chair.

Eastern’s Board of Regents has 11 acting members, six of which were on the Board during Kustra’s hiring process in 1998. Kustra mentioned this as a contributing factor to his resignation.

“This essentially new board deserves the opportunity to hire a new president,” Kustra said in a statement.

Taylor said the Board was also preparing for a complete evaluation of the president’s effectiveness and his resignation would save them the cost of the evaluation.

But, like Alexander’s tenure, Kustra’s tenure has sparked controversy. He altered EKU’s structure by consolidating its nine colleges into five and reworking others, yet Taylor said he was only acting under the direction of the Board of Regents.

In addition, despite Kustra’s ambitions, Eastern’s enrollment declined from the fall of 1999 to the fall of 2000 by 2.7 percent, while Western Kentucky University and Murray State experienced enrollment increased.

Taylor defended Kustra and spoke about the difficulties involved with being president. He said Eastern had a decrease in enrollment, but a study by the state of Kentucky showed lower numbers of high school graduates and a good economy may be more responsible for the enrollment decline. Eastern has suffered from decreased revenue as well.

“The other aspect that makes the job difficult has been the funding for higher education,” Taylor said. “Some of the universities have been dealing with a decrease in funding from the state, and the only way you can go on is to increase tuition.”

Kustra’s 15-month notice should give the Board members time to search for a new president. Taylor said officials must first look at the future of the university and identify its priorities.
Public hearings to play part in Murray State president search

By MELONY LEAZER

When the Murray State University Board of Regents travels further with its search for a new president, public hearings in various communities will be a part of the process, including one in Hopkinsville.

That's the word from Elizabeth McCoy, a regent who lives in Hopkinsville.

"We don't know how long it will be until we find a new president," she said during a brief telephone interview on Tuesday. "We are going to hire a consultant and then eventually hold public hearings to solicit input. There will be one in Hopkinsville."

Regents voted last Friday to act as a presidential search committee to find a replacement for Dr. Kern Alexander, who announced last week he would retire on June 30.

Mc Coy said Alexander's decision to retire was understandable, but surprising. Alexander reportedly chose to retire to spend more time with his family.

"We were not expecting this. This is a sad loss for Murray State," McCoy said.

Alexander has had a bittersweet relationship with the public on a number of issues, dating back most recently to his presidency at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. However, McCoy acknowledged that when a person accomplishes great feats, some negativity will arise.

"His highest focus from the start was improving the enrollment at Murray," McCoy mentioned. "Look where we are now, with a regional campus here in Hopkinsville and other opportunities throughout the area."

The West Kentucky Regional Postsecondary Education Center, now under construction at Fort Campbell Boulevard and Lovers Lane on the former Graham Duncan farm, is expected to open for classes this fall.

In fact, Murray State was second to Western in enrollment last fall. The Council on Postsecondary Education recently released those figures, showing Murray with a 2.6 percent jump and Western at 2.7 percent.

"Next to Western, we are leading the state in enrollment. That's a lot to say," McCoy noted.

Locally, 250 students registered for classes offered by Murray State, which housed classes at Hopkinsville Community College last fall, according to campus officials. This spring, 243 students are taking Murray State classes at the community college, and about 250 Fort Campbell soldiers and dependents are enrolled in Murray courses at the post Education Center.
From Page 1
costs increased MSU's utility bills from $79,000 last December to $219,000 this December.

"We've suffered greatly," he said. "That's an area that elevates itself. We've got to have heating and air in the buildings.

Technology for the university's classrooms and libraries, fund-raising efforts, equity increases and employee reclassifications were also on the board's list of budget priorities for next year.

Alexander said MSU will also have to deal with categorical funds within its budget next year for the first time.

Approximately $1.6 million of the university's budget will be grouped into an action agenda program, which is required by the state to be used for teacher training, collaborations with other entities, recruitment and retention and improving community life, among other areas.

Alexander said 40 percent of the funds must be spent on the area of teacher training, although more could be used in that area if deemed necessary.

"Teacher salaries are so low that the rate of return that accrued doesn't compensate that teacher for the expenditure of time and money it took to go to college," Alexander said. "We've got to offset their college costs.

Alexander said the funds will not only be used for teacher training for existing teachers, but also to provide scholarship opportunities for those wishing to pursue degrees in education.

"It's not the same ball game it was 20 years ago, and everybody's had to adjust," regent Don Sparks said. "A lot of teachers don't even want to touch a computer, but you've got to do it today."

The board also passed some fee increases for the upcoming academic year. Costs for meal plans raised 2 percent, while a pre-registered supplemental fee will be established for students who stay in the university's dormitories longer than their designated time to remain there.

Perhaps most significant, though, was the board's decision to raise fees for double and single dorm rooms. Double rooms will see a 4 percent fee increase beginning with the summer 2001 semester.

There is a commensurate rise with the single rooms," Alexander said. "There's such a demand for the private rooms that we decided students would pay a little bit more for a room. We lose money on a single room." Student regent Michael Thorne said historically the university has had a market demand for dorm rooms, but helped introduce a proposal that could lead to higher student fees in the future.

"Every other university in this region...has facilities that were all built in the last five years," Thorne said. "If we're going to stay competitive... I see this as something that needs to be a priority. We're five to 10 years behind everybody else.

Figures were presented regarding other recreational facilities around the region. Western Kentucky University, for example, has a 112,000-square-foot facility that cost approximately $8 million to construct. Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky all have similar facilities.

While MSU's Carr Health Building is receiving renovations, Alexander said the building is too outdated to serve as a modern recreational facility.

"Because of the way Carr Health is constructed, it can be used as an instructional facility, but there are portions of it that need to be demolished," he said. "The cost of renovating it would be prohibitive." Thorne said the university's student government association is in favor of raising student fees if necessary to make the complex a reality.

Thorne said the university's student government association is in favor of raising student fees if necessary to make the complex a reality.

"That's how serious they are about that," Thorne said. "That's how seriously they are about it.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to establish a major in liberal arts.
- Voted to accept clean audit reports from WKMS radio station, the Kentucky Institute of International Studies Program, the MSU Athletic Foundation and a clean audit report from the NCAA.
Kern Alexander to resign as Murray State president

Continued from Page B1

a search committee that intends to meet this Friday. But Call said that means only one faculty member who sits on the regents, would be involved in the search, and he hoped “we would have more involvement.”

The past controversies involving Alexander were not mentioned during brief remarks he made at his office.

“The members of the board of regents have not only been enthusiastic and tireless supporters of the university, but for me, confidants, trusted colleagues and dear personal friends,” Alexander said. “It has been a pleasure to become close working companions with the most dedicated and knowledgeable faculty members with whom I have been associated throughout my long education career.”

Gov. Paul Patton said Alexander made important contributions to the two Kentucky institutions and “elevated important issues in higher education.”

MSU’s Alexander planning to resign

MURRAY (AP) — Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said yesterday that he would resign June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky University from 1985 to 1988, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member at Murray State. June 30 will also be Alexander’s seventh anniversary at the university, which has almost 9,000 students.

Referring to his presidency as a “singular honor,” Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander’s wife, Elizabeth, the Murray State president’s wife, rounded recently constructed wooden fences on campus. Some students and faculty have openly mocked the motivation behind building them and whether the aesthetic difference was worth the money.

Alexander is a native of Barrowbone, a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master’s degree at WKU and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky in the higher-education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.

While president at Murray and WKU, Alexander also had prickly relations with faculty and sometimes his own boards of regents.

The president of Murray’s faculty senate, William Call, said yesterday that “we certainly understand the president’s desire to spend more time with his family, but I would say that his relations with the faculty were strained.

“The relationship has never been good,” said Call, whose 40-member group represents the Murray faculty of about 350 teachers.

Call said relations with Alexander deteriorated during the 1998-99 school year when there were wholesale changes in the university’s health-insurance program, and then in 1999 Alexander further stirred dissent by making public faculty salary evaluations.

Call, an associate professor of electronics, said the faculty senate responded with a censure vote in 1999 and discussed a no-confidence vote on Alexander but never took one.

Call said his feelings on Alexander’s departure were mixed because “clearly he’s done some good things.” He noted Alexander’s efforts in fund-raising, building and lobbying in Frankfort, and his efforts to increase enrollment at Murray.

Call said that the school’s board of regents announced yesterday that it would become
Murray State president Alexander resigns

by THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MURRAY — Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said Tuesday he would resign on June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky from 1985 to 1998, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member. June 30 will also be Alexander's seventh anniversary at the university.

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth Alexander, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

"That made us realize that if you're going to be a university president and a pediatrician, you're not going to attend to crises in your family like you should because your responsibilities are too great," she told The Paducah Sun in a story to be published Wednesday. "And when you have seven children, who all have needs to be met, and you have limited time left yourself, you don't want to spend your remaining time arguing about fences."

She was referring to a debate surrounding recently constructed wooden fences on campus. Some students and faculty have openly mocked the motivation behind building them and whether the aesthetic difference was worth the money.

Alexander is a native of Marrowbone, a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While president at Murray and Western, Alexander also had prickly relations with faculty and sometimes his own boards of regents.

But the controversies were forgotten during brief remarks Alexander made at his office.

"The members of the board of regents have not only been enthusiastic and tireless supporters of the university but for me, confidants, trusted colleagues and dear personal friends," Alexander said. "It has been my pleasure to become close working companions with the most dedicated and knowledgeable faculty members with whom I have been associated throughout my higher education career."

Gov. Paul Patton said Alexander made important contributions to the two Kentucky institutions and "elevated important issues in higher education."
Murray State president resigns

Associated Press

MURRAY - Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said Tuesday he would resign on June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky from 1985 to 1988, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member. June 30 will also be Alexander's seventh anniversary at the university.

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander is a native of Rowbone, a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky among the higher education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.

While Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth Alexander, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

Alexander is a native of Rowbone, Ky., a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky among the higher education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky among the higher education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.

Murray State president will resign

MURRAY (AP) - Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said Tuesday he would resign on June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky from 1985 to 1988, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member. June 30 will also be Alexander's seventh anniversary at the university.

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth Alexander, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

Alexander is a native of Rowbone, Ky., a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky among the higher education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.
Alexander to end MSU tenure

By Molly Harper

MURRAY, Ky.

Expressing his wish to spend more time with his family, Dr. Kern Alexander announced Tuesday that after seven years as Murray State University president, he is retiring effective June 30.

"During the last seven years, I've had the exceptionally good fortune and singular honor to be president and professor of one of the finest public universities in the United States," Alexander, 61, said. "... My years as president have been greatly enriched by my relationship with the outstanding staff and administrators who have so selflessly devoted their lives and careers to this university. I should note my lasting first impressions, imprinted on my mind seven years ago, of the bright, motivated students here has been reinforced as I have seen an endless array of well-calibrated young brain power with boundless energy pour forth from this university. Thank you for the most rewarding years of my life."

The president's wife, Elizabeth Alexander, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the difficult decision.

"That made us realize that if you're going to be a university president and a pediatrician, you're not going to attend to crises in your family like you should because your responsibilities are too great," she said. "And when you have seven children, who all have needs to be met, and you have limited time left yourself, you don't want to spend your remaining time arguing about fences."

"I've been told a wise man changes his mind and a fool never does. I was hoping maybe you had changed your mind while you were spending time up there," he told Alexander. The board of regents, which meets in regular session Friday, will set as a selection committee in conducting a national search for Alexander's replacement. Easley said regents hope to find someone before June, so there will be no need for an interim president.

Easley said it will be hard to replace Alexander, citing his changes to the university such as reorganizing the academic colleges and starting the school's first major fundraising campaign, Vision Quest.

"These accomplishments make our job as board members in selecting a president much easier than it was seven years ago," he said. "We believe Murray State University in its present state will attract a capable and qualified successor to Dr. Alexander. Our job is to find the best we can."

Though his administration has been marked by a well-documented tense relationship with the campus faculty and law suits involving the campus organic pasteurization facility and the fatal fire at Hester Hall in 1998, Alexander said he has no regrets about his time at Murray.

"Seven years is a long time for a president to stay at a university. It's been a good term. It will be hard for us to leave," he said. "I'm just in shock. This is a sad day for the students. Dr. Alexander was an advocate for student rights. He won't be replaced; it will be hard to find someone with the commitment to the university that he has."

Though Alexander said he plans to spend his retirement shuttling between Murray, Louisville, Hopkinsville and London, England, to visit his grown children and their families, he also plans to perform educational consulting in other states.

"But we have no specific plans yet," he said.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)
Alexander to leave MSU
University president to retire June 30

By EDWARD SHERIDAN
Staff Writer

After wearing the titles of "president" and "tenured university distinguished professor" for nearly seven years, Dr. Kem Alexander decided there was only one title that really mattered to him - "grandfather."

The Murray State University president made a surprise announcement Tuesday afternoon that he will retire effective June 30, 2001, his seven-year anniversary at the university and also his 62nd birthday.

"I think over the year, I've assessed my age and my family, wanting to be with my grandchildren," Alexander said following a press conference held outside of his office in Wells Hall to announce his retirement. "All of it goes under the formula.

"I think that we've had seven good years, and 62 is a ripe-old age," he said. "I think that we now should transition into new leadership and take advantage of the opportunities we've had."

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth, a local pediatrician, and his son, Klint, joined him during the press conference. Several members of the MSU Board of Regents, along with university faculty and administrators, were also in attendance.

While Alexander cited his age and grandchildren as reasons for his retirement, other circumstances, such as the death of his daughter-in-law in Urbana, Ill., from breast cancer, factored into the decision.

Elizabeth Alexander said she will also be closing her medical practice in Murray.

"I'm going to try and close down May 1," she said. "This has been a hard winter because of our daughter-in-law's death and the birth of my first grandbaby."

Despite his often stormy relationship with MSU faculty and staff, Alexander, who called his time at the university "the most rewarding years of my life," had nothing but praise for his colleagues Tuesday afternoon.

"During these seven years, I have had the exceptionally good fortune and singular honor to be president and a professor at one of the finest public universities in the United States," he said. "It has been my pleasure to become a close working companion with the most knowledgeable and dedicated faculty members with whom I have ever worked.

"My years as president have been greatly enriched by my relationship with the outstanding staff and administrators who have so selflessly devoted their lives and careers to the improvement of this university."

Alexander said he and his wife will retain close ties to MSU, but will split their time between Murray and their children's homes in Hopkinsville, Henderson, and Louisville.

Murray State University President Kem Alexander fields questions Tuesday following the announcement of his retirement effective June 30. Standing behind him is his wife, Murray pediatrician Elizabeth Alexander. For a text of Alexander's remarks, see Page 4A. The university's board of regents will meet Friday and discuss plans to find Alexander's successor.

See Page 2
From Louisville, Urbana and even London, England.

The former president of Western Kentucky University and published author will be retiring during a time of tremendous activity at MSU.

In addition to the university’s long list of construction projects, which includes a new $26 million science complex, MSU is in the completion stages of its $25 million Vision Quest fund-raising campaign.

While the timing of the announcement may have seemed odd, Jim Carter, vice president of institutional advancement at MSU, said it will likely not damage the university’s fund-raising efforts.

"He has an even more compelling message now," Carter said. "It’s sad news, of course, but it’s also an excellent opportunity for him to carry us closer to the goal."

Board of regents chair Sid Easley, who was instrumental in bringing Alexander to MSU, praised Alexander for his "stability, energy and vision" and said he was "even more capable than we had hoped."

Easley pointed out that under Alexander, MSU had gained a national ranking in U.S. News and World Report as a top southern university; had increased enrollment during a time when most universities were losing students; established the residential college system; undergone an academic reorganization; and had seen an architectural renaissance.

"Those are specific, but in general the attitude on this campus has been transformed from one of, \"
Alexander resigns as Murray president

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said Tuesday he would resign on June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky from 1985 to 1988, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member. June 30 will also be Alexander's seventh anniversary at the university.

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

"That made us realize that if you're going to be a university president and a pediatrician, you're not going to attend to crises in your family like you should because your responsibilities are too great," she told The Paducah Sun in a story to be published Wednesday. "And when you have seven children, who all have needs to be met, and you have limited time left yourself, you don't want to spend your remaining time arguing about fences."

She was referring to a debate surrounding recently constructed wooden fences on campus. Some students and faculty have openly mocked the motivation behind building them and whether the aesthetic difference was worth the money.

"Alexander is a native of Marrowbone, Ky., a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University."

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged the supremacy of the University of Kentucky among the higher education establishment. He has often sparred with the Council on Postsecondary Education and its predecessor.

"The members of the board of regents have not only been enthusiastic and tireless supporters of the university but for me, confidants, trusted colleagues and dear personal friends," Alexander said. "It has been my pleasure to become close working companions with the most dedicated and knowledgeable faculty members with whom I have been associated throughout my long education career."

Gov. Paul Patton said Alexander made important contributions to the two Kentucky institutions and "elevated important issues in higher education."

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander's wife, Elizabeth, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

That made us realize that if you're going to be a university president and a pediatrician, you're not going to attend to crises in your family like you should because your responsibilities are too great," she told The Paducah Sun in a story to be published Wednesday. "And when you have seven children, who all have needs to be met, and you have limited time left yourself, you don't want to spend your remaining time arguing about fences."

She was referring to a debate surrounding recently constructed wooden fences on campus. Some students and faculty have openly mocked the motivation behind building them and whether the aesthetic difference was worth the money.

"Alexander is a native of Marrowbone, Ky., a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctor-
Murray State set to search for new leader

MURRAY, Ky. (AP) — Murray State University President Kern Alexander, a long influence on higher education in Kentucky, said Tuesday he would resign on June 30, his 62nd birthday.

Alexander, who was also president of Western Kentucky from 1985 to 1988, said he would also resign his position as a tenured faculty member. June 30 will also be Alexander's seventh anniversary at the university.

Alexander said he would retain close ties to Murray but devote much of his time to his family, including seven children and three grandchildren.

Alexander’s wife, Elizabeth Alexander, a Murray pediatrician, said the death of one of their daughters-in-law several weeks ago was a factor in the decision.

“That made us realize that if you’re going to be a university president and a pediatrician, you’re not going to attend to crises in your family like you should because your responsibilities are too great,” she told The Paducah Sun in a story published today (Wednesday). “And when you have seven children, who all have needs to be met, and you have limited time left yourself, you don’t want to spend your remaining time arguing about fences.”

Dr. Kern Alexander

She was referring to a debate surrounding recently constructed wooden fences on campus. Some students and faculty have openly mocked the motivation behind building them and whether the aesthetic difference was worth the money.

Alexander is a native of Marrowbone, Ky., a hamlet in Cumberland County. He received his undergraduate degree at Centre College, a master's degree at Western and a doctorate in education from Indiana University.

While at regional institutions, Alexander has often challenged regents have not only been enthusiastic and tireless supporters of the university but for me, confidants, trusted colleagues and dear personal friends,” Alexander said. “It has been my pleasure to become close working companions with the most dedicated and knowledgeable faculty members with whom I have been associated throughout my long education career.”

Gov. Paul Patton said Alexander made important contributions to the two Kentucky institutions and “elevated important issues in higher education.”
Man of the old school
Murray president borrows from past, gives to the future

The early morning mist is rolling off the water. The only movement among the sloping green hills is the rhythmic rise and fall of the oars, splashing into the water simultaneously. After this morning workout, these rowers will head to their college classes.

But don't expect to see English men and women carrying the oars painted with their college colors back to the boathouse. This is Kentucky Lake, not the River Thames, and the university is not Oxford or Cambridge, but Murray State.

This is Kern Alexander's vision — transplanting some of the traditions of elite private colleges to Western Kentucky.

The move might sound unusual, but it is one that holds promise for Murray State.

Alexander, who studied at Oxford and was formerly the president of Western Kentucky University, has been the president of Murray State University for one year. In his sophomore year, he is proposing some striking changes. Chief among these changes is a switch to a residential college system for the university. The residential college system originated with Oxford and Cambridge, has been copied by such schools as Harvard and Yale, but is still relatively rare among American colleges.

Under this system, the 8,000-member Murray State student body will be divided into eight colleges. Members of each college will live together and compete against other colleges. The result is that students experience the social advantages of a small school — the intimacy and opportunity to participate — as well as the advantages of a big university — more facilities and a larger alumni network.

Along with the English-style residential system, Alexander also wants to import some of the English sports, namely rowing. Stroking across Kentucky Lake is not likely to displace basketball or football in the hearts and minds of most Kentuckians, but it is a sport that provides great aerobic activity for men and women. And it's not a bad touch.

More important, however, than this outburst of Anglophilia is the leadership and vision Alexander is providing. His new ideas (as new as concepts more than 700 years old can be) will give Murray State an opportunity to carve out a distinct identity.

All too often we hear of educators simply trying to keep their heads above water. It's good to see Murray State attempting to do more than just get by. Instead of merely maintaining the status quo, Alexander is intent on making improvements.
Murray considering ex-WKU president

MURRAY — Murray State University officials are considering former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander in their search for a new school president.

Alexander will visit Murray State on Wednesday as a finalist, while University of Akron administrator Mark Auburn will visit Tuesday, according to Murray State's presidential-search committee.

They are the fourth and fifth candidates identified in the eight-month search to replace Ronald Kurth, whose four-year contract was not renewed. Regents have said they hope to have a new president appointed by July 1.

Alexander — who lives in Blacksburg, Va., where he is a professor at Virginia Polytechnic University — could not be reached for comment. Earlier, he declined to say whether he was interested in the Murray job, which pays about $98,000 a year.

Alexander, 54, served as Western's president for 2½ years before abruptly announcing his departure in April 1988.

Western's enrollment, which had been declining, grew by nearly 3,000 students under Alexander, but turmoil also dogged him for much of his tenure.

He was criticized for frequent absences from campus, for appointing 11 administrators without posting the positions and for trying to censor the student newspaper and yearbook.

Kern Alexander will visit Murray State University on Wednesday.

Brown Recluse Spider

It's not uncommon for Tri-State homes to be plagued with spiders this time of year. Most spiders are relative-
School reforms affecting other states

Unconstitutional’ court ruling could set national precedent

FRANKFORT (AP) — With court cases pending in at least nine states over inequity in school funding, Kentucky’s school-reform efforts are becoming more than just academic.

Kentucky’s new law generates “a kind of new excitement and new interest,” said Kern Alexander, former president of Western Kentucky University and now a professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

When it comes to the issue of funding inequity, most states have confined the issue to school financing. But not in Kentucky, where the state Supreme Court, school’s poorest school systems. And the consequences of that suit are already being felt outside Kentucky’s borders.

Kentucky’s “enormously bold” effort will prove “far-reaching, not only for Kentucky but I think also for the country,” said former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education Chester Finn.

Finn, who is now a Vanderbilt University professor and head of the Washington-based Education Excellence Network, said the Kentucky reform package embraces “all the right ideas.”

Kentucky’s new funding formula will shrink the gap between the best- and worst-funded school districts, while tax changes will provide revenue for higher overall funding.

Courts in nine other states have found similar inequity to that discovered in Kentucky, and court challenges are pending in at least nine more. Such a suit is set for trial in Tennessee in October. A similar suit was filed in Alabama just last week.

Kentucky’s case also has caused a stir in Virginia and Illinois, where one speaker said forces may be inspired to take their case to court as well. Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder has named a special commission to study school funding, in an effort to head off a possible court challenge.

Eventually, all states will have court orders forcing them to give education priority over other funding needs, predicted Alexander, who advised the complaining school districts in Kentucky and is now advising those in Tennessee, Alabama and Virginia.

The school-equity case in Tennessee started out as a spinoff of Kentucky’s and Crockett County school Superintendent Bill Emerson, who said he wouldn’t mind if his state continued to follow the Kentucky pattern.

“Since Kentucky came through so well, it certainly puts a lot of pressure on our legislature to do something,” said Emerson, who heads the group of 72 school districts that have brought suit against the state.

But Tennessee lawmakers have adjourned, and unless they return for a special session to deal with school financing, the plaintiffs plan to go to trial Oct. 29, Emerson said.

What the Kentucky court required — rebuilding the whole state school system, not just its financing scheme — is “exactly what Tennessee needs,” Emerson said.
Court cases are pending in at least nine states over inequity in school funding. Kentucky's new law generates "a kind of new excitement and new interest," said Kern Alexander, former president of Western Kentucky University and now a professor at Virginia Tech.

When it comes to the issue of funding inequity, most states have confined the issue to school financing. But in Kentucky, the state Supreme Court broadened the issue by declaring the whole school system inadequate.

Because the ruling "went beyond the plea of the plaintiffs, that sets a precedent that could be used in other states" to strike down the school system, Alexander said. The legislation passed by the 1990 General Assembly and signed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson was the result of the high court's ruling almost a year ago that the state school system was unconstitutional.

The ruling stemmed from a lawsuit brought against the state by 66 of Kentucky's poorest school systems.

Kentucky's "enormously bold" effort will prove "far-reaching, not only for Kentucky but I think also for the country," said former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education Chester Finn.

Finn, who is now a Vanderbilt University professor and head of the Washington-based Education Excellence Network, said the Kentucky reform package embraces "all the right ideas."

Kentucky's new funding formula will shrink the gap between the best-funded and worst-funded school districts, while tax changes will provide revenue for higher overall funding. Courts in nine other states have found similar inequity to that discovered in Kentucky, and court challenges are pending in at least nine more. Such a suit is set for trial in Tennessee in October.

Kentucky's case also has caused a stir in Virginia and Illinois, where one educator said forces may be inspired to take their case to court as well. Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder has named a special commission to study school funding in an effort to head off any court challenge.

Please see REFORM, 3K

Eventually, all states will have court orders forcing them to give education priority over other funding needs, predicted Alexander, who advised the compliant school districts in Kentucky and is now advising those in Tennessee, Alabama and Virginia.

The school-equity case in Tennessee started out as a spinoff of Kentucky's. And Crockett County school Superintendent Bill Emerson said he wouldn't mind if his state continued to follow the Kentucky pattern. "Since Kentucky came through so well, it certainly puts a lot of pressure on our legislature to do something," said Emerson, who heads the group of 72 school districts that have brought suit against the state.

But the Tennessee lawmakers have adjourned, and unless they return for a special session to deal with school financing, the plaintiffs districts plan to go to trial Oct. 29, Emerson said.

What the Kentucky court required — rebuilding the whole state school system, not just its financing scheme — is "exactly what Tennessee needs," Emerson said.
Influence of school reforms reach other states

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With court cases pending in at least nine states over inequity in school funding, Kentucky's school-reform efforts are becoming more than just academic.

Kentucky's new law generates "a kind of new excitement and new interest," said Kem Alexander, former president of Western Kentucky University and now a professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

When it comes to the issue of funding inequity, most states have confined the issue to school financing. But not in Kentucky, where the state Supreme Court broadened the issue by declaring the whole school system inadequate.

Because the ruling "went beyond the plea of the plaintiffs, that sets a precedent that could be used in other states" to strike down the entire school system, Alexander said.

The legislation passed by the 1990 General Assembly and signed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson was the result of the high court's ruling almost a year ago that the state school system was unconstitutional.

The ruling stemmed from a lawsuit brought against the state by 66 of Kentucky's poorest school systems. And the consequences of that suit are already being felt outside Kentucky's borders.

Kentucky's "enormously bold" effort will prove "far-reaching, not only for Kentucky but I think also for the country," said former Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education Chester Finn.

Finn, who is now a Vanderbilt University professor and head of the Washington-based Education Excellence Network, said the Kentucky reform package embraces "all the right ideas."

Kentucky's new funding formula will shrink the gap between the best-funded and worst-funded school districts, while tax changes will provide revenue for higher overall funding.

Courts in nine other states have found similar inequity to that discovered in Kentucky, and court challenges are pending in at least nine more. Such a suit is set for trial in Tennessee in October. A similar suit was filed in Alabama just last week.

Kentucky's case also has caused a stir in Virginia and Illinois, where one educator said forces may be inspired to take their case to court as well. Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder has named a special commission to study school funding, in an effort to head off a possible court challenge.

Eventually, all states will have court orders forcing them to give education priority over other funding needs, predicted Alexander, who advised the complaining school districts in Kentucky and is now advising those in Tennessee, Alabama and Virginia.

The school-equity case in Tennessee started out as a spinoff of Kentucky's. And Crockett County school Superintendent Bill Emerson said he wouldn't mind if his state continued to follow the Kentucky pattern.

"Since Kentucky came through so well, it certainly puts a lot of pressure on our legislature to do something," said Emerson, who heads the group of 72 school districts that have brought suit against the state.

And the Kentucky example's influence has stretched even further south.

Ira Harvey, a coalition consultant and the author of a book on school finance in Alabama, said the Kentucky example should help the Alabama plaintiffs. He said the states share similar economic and image problems.

"We view the ... commitment that Kentucky has made as being very visionary," Key said.
Coalition of school districts hires former WKU president

LOUISVILLE - A coalition of school districts has hired former Western Kentucky University President Ken Alexander to help refocus the education reform effort onto the question of fair distribution of funding.

The coalition is made up of 66 districts whose lawsuit resulted in the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling in June that the state's public school program is unconstitutional and must be rebuilt by the legislature.

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document that he hoped would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas. Alexander presented a preliminary report on the document at a meeting of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators in Louisville last week. Moreland said that the response of all the superintendents was "very positive." He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

School districts hire Alexander to 'refocus' task force

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) - Former Western Kentucky University President Ken Alexander will return to the education front in Kentucky, this time to help refocus the effort being made to overhaul the state's public schools.

A coalition of school districts has hired Alexander to help redirect the education reform effort onto the question of fair distribution of funding. The coalition is made up of 66 districts whose lawsuit resulted in the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling in June that the state's public school program is unconstitutional and must be rebuilt by the legislature.

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document that he hoped would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas. Alexander presented a preliminary report on the document at a meeting of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators in Louisville last week. Moreland said that the response of all the superintendents was "very positive." He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document and that he hoped it would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas.

Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, contends that the Task Force on Education Reform has lost track of its mission. Moreland also is superintendent of the Dayton Independent School District.

"We've been looking at the task force and we've had the feeling that its lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling," Moreland said. "If you read the 103-page ruling, you'll find that 90 percent of it deals with adequacy and equity," Moreland said. "And yet that's not what we're hearing. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that if all the mismanagement in the Kentucky schools were fixed, it wouldn't amount to a great deal."

"We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and we're better equipped to help us in that capacity than Ken Alexander," Moreland said. "We want to make sure any move toward the original reason for the suit, that was to provide more money for our poorer districts," Binion said. "The report will be submitted to the General Assembly's Task Force on Education Reform, which has been given the job of rebuilding the state's school system."

The state Supreme Court's primary purpose was to call for a "substantially increased revenue commitment" from the state in raising all of Kentucky's schools to an acceptable level of adequacy, the report said.

"This increase in revenue should be sufficient to guarantee reasonable increase in funding of all school districts in the commonwealth," it said.

The court's intent was to ensure that enough money was infused into the system "to bring lower districts upward without taking resources away from the districts with stronger tax bases," the court's report said.

"The court leaves no option here," it said.

Such an infusion of new money would require "drastic modification" of the system of school financing — the minimum foundation and power equalization programs — or the complete substitution of another system to provide the required equalization of revenues per pupil among the school districts, the report said.

"We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and we're better equipped to help us in that capacity than Ken Alexander," Moreland said.

"It doesn't make any sense to us to go out of state and hire a bunch of consultants when Alexander is right here, a Kentuckian with a history of involvement and tradition in the state's educational system — someone who is vitally interested in it," he said.

"If we don't hear from the task force again," Moreland said, "we're going to take a look at what we're hearing discussed. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that if all the mismanagement in the Kentucky schools were fixed, it wouldn't amount to a great deal."

"We think the intent of the document was to keep the public directly involved in the process," Moreland said. "We haven't heard as much discussion as we'd like to hear about how the reform effort will be funded — and how we will reach equity and adequacy among the districts," said Elliott County Superintendent Eugene Binion, a member of the Council for Better Education.

"For that reason, the council, a group of 46 counties whose lawsuit led to the entire state's school system being declared unconstitutional, drafted a group statement attempting to bring the school reform effort back to the question of finances."

"We're hearing discussed. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that if all the mismanagement in the Kentucky schools were fixed, it wouldn't amount to a great deal."

The 103-page document, released yesterday, was written by Ken Alexander, the former president of Western Kentucky University who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg. Alexander, a key witness in the original lawsuit, is considered an expert in school finance.

"This increase in revenue should be sufficient to guarantee equitable increase in funding of all school districts in the commonwealth," it said.
School districts hire reform consultant

LOUISVILLE (AP) — A coalition of school districts has hired former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander to help refocus the education reform effort onto the question of fair distribution of funding.

The coalition is made up of 66 districts whose lawsuit resulted in the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling in June that the state’s public school program is unconstitutional and must be rebuilt by the legislature.

Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, contends that the Task Force on Education Reform had lost track of its mission. Moreland also is superintendent of the Dayton Independent School District. He said he has been looking at the task force and he’s had the feeling that it has lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling.

“If you read the 103-page ruling, you’ll find that 90 percent of it deals with adequacy and equity,” Moreland said. “And yet that’s not what we’re hearing discussed. We’re hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that if all the mismanagement in Kentucky schools were fixed, it wouldn’t amount to a great deal.”

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document and that he hoped it would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas.

Alexander gave a preliminary report on the document at the Kentucky Association of School Administrators in Louisville this week. Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was “very positive.”

He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Of Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, “We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus our goals.”

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated but not chosen several months ago when the task force’s committee on finance hired a consultant. He was a consultant and one of the key witnesses in the trial of the lawsuit.

“We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and who is better equipped to help us in that capacity than Kern Alexander,” Moreland said.

“It doesn’t make any sense to us to go out of state and hire a bunch of consultants when Alexander is right here, a Kentuckian with a history of involvement and tradition in the state’s educational system — someone who is vitally interested in it,” he said.

Group favors local control over schools

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky’s superintendents have endorsed maintaining local controls over schools and repeal of a 1979 law that restricts property tax collections.

The Kentucky Association of School Superintendents acknowledged the task force and we’ve had the feeling that it has lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling.

Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was “very positive.”

He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Of Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, “We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus, redefine our goals.”

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated but not chosen several months ago when the task force’s committee on finance hired a consultant. He was a consultant and one of the key witnesses in the trial of the lawsuit.

School reform refocuses effort

LOUISVILLE (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will return to the education front in Kentucky, this time to help refocus the effort being made to overhaul the state’s public schools.

A coalition of school districts has hired Alexander to help redirect the education reform effort onto the question of fair distribution of funding.

The coalition is made up of 66 districts, including Berea Independent, whose lawsuit resulted in the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling in June that the state’s public school program is unconstitutional and must be rebuilt by the legislature.

Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, contends that the Task Force on Education Reform had lost track of its mission. Moreland also is superintendent of the Dayton Independent School District.

“We’ve been looking at the task force and we’ve had the feeling that it has lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling,” Moreland said.

Group favors local control over schools

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky’s superintendents have endorsed maintaining local controls over schools and repeal of a 1979 law that restricts property tax collections.

The Kentucky Association of School Superintendents acknowledged the task force and we’ve had the feeling that it has lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling.

Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was “very positive.”

He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Of Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, “We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus, redefine our goals.”

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated but not chosen several months ago when the task force’s committee on finance hired a consultant. He was a consultant and one of the key witnesses in the trial of the lawsuit.

School reform refocuses effort

LOUISVILLE (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will return to the education front in Kentucky, this time to help refocus the effort being made to overhaul the state’s public schools.

A coalition of school districts has hired Alexander to help redirect the education reform effort onto the question of fair distribution of funding.

The coalition is made up of 66 districts, including Berea Independent, whose lawsuit resulted in the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling in June that the state’s public school program is unconstitutional and must be rebuilt by the legislature.

Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, contends that the Task Force on Education Reform had lost track of its mission. Moreland also is superintendent of the Dayton Independent School District.

“We’ve been looking at the task force and we’ve had the feeling that it has lost sight of the original suit, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling,” Moreland said.

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document and that he hoped it would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas.

Alexander gave a preliminary report on the document to the Kentucky Association of School Administrators in Louisville this week.

Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was “very positive.”

He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Of Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, “We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus, redefine our goals.”

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated but not chosen several months ago when the task force’s committee on finance hired a consultant. He was a consultant and one of the key witnesses in the trial of the lawsuit.
Group of poor school districts hires ex-WKY chief to refocus efforts

By Glenn Rutherford
Herald-Leader-Lexington Bureau

LOUISVILLE — The 66 school districts whose lawsuit led to the Kentucky Supreme Court ruling that the state's public school system was in crisis have hired former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander to help redesign school districts.

"We've been working at the task force and we've had to do that to the extent that it has lost sight of the original aim, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling," Moreland said. "If you read that 100-page ruling, you'll find that 99 percent of it deals with adequacy and equity." Moreland said. "And yet that's not where we're hearing discussion. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that all the mismanagement in Kentucky should amount to a great deal."

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document that he hoped would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas. Alexander gave a preliminary report on the document at the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents meeting in Louisville this week. Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was "very positive for a gray area." He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, "We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus our goals.

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Education Reform wanted the General Assembly to create a state Department of Education and to give it the power to appoint its own boards and superintendents.

"It's time to do some serious thinking about where to go out of state and hire a bunch of consultants when Alexander is a history in the state's educational system," he said. Educators similarly advocated for the Joint Committee on Education Reform.

We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and who is supposed to help us in our capacity when Kern Alexander's," Moreland said.

"We don't make any sense to us. He's not one of a million consultants who can be hired for a small fee and then driven away by the time we're finished. We want someone who's been there to work with us within the state."

Alexander would help draw plan

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

"I told them I'm always willing to help. I'm available to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'll give them. I haven't heard anything about it.

'Vehicle' for redesigning school just got loaded down

By CHARLES WOLFE
Associated Press Writer

The powers that created the Task Force on Education Reform wanted a lean machine.

But a decision to let everyone on the House and Senate education committee hop aboard, even as non-voting members, means the chosen vehicle for redesigning Kentucky schools will be built for comfort, not for speed.

The idea was to have a working group large enough to touch all the bases but small enough to get things done. It was prompted by the Supreme Court's order in June for streamlined governance.

Never mind that its co-chairmen and four of its members were already members of the task force. The rest of the interim joint Education Committee decided it was being cut out of the action and objected strenuously.

Legislative leadership arranged a compromise, perhaps to keep the committee from taking off on its own fact-finding rampage, as has happened before.

In a split vote, the leadership, all of whose Democratic members are already on the task force, decided the Education Committee members could attend meetings of the task force's committees on school governance, finance and curriculum.

The new members will not have full task force membership, or a vote. They will, however, be paid $100 per day, plus expenses, for the meetings they attend.

And bear in mind that, when the General Assembly finally meets to act on the task force's draft legislation, the bills will be put through the grinder by both education committees.

But meantime, will the restructuring of the task force end with inclusion of the joint Education Committee?

Not at all, said Sen. Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, the coalition formed by the 66 counties.

The Task Force on Education Reform had lost track of its mission. Moreland and it is superintended.

"We've been working at the task force and we've had to do that to the extent that it has lost sight of the original aim, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling," Moreland said. "If you read that 100-page ruling, you'll find that 99 percent of it deals with adequacy and equity." Moreland said. "And yet that's not where we're hearing discussion. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that all the mismanagement in Kentucky should amount to a great deal."

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document that he hoped would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas. Alexander gave a preliminary report on the document at the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents meeting in Louisville this week. Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was "very positive for a gray area." He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, "We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus our goals.

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Education Reform wanted the General Assembly to create a state Department of Education and to give it the power to appoint its own boards and superintendents.

"It's time to do some serious thinking about where to go out of state and hire a bunch of consultants when Alexander is a history in the state's educational system," he said. Educators similarly advocated for the Joint Committee on Education Reform.

We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and who is supposed to help us in our capacity when Kern Alexander's," Moreland said.

"We don't make any sense to us. He's not one of a million consultants who can be hired for a small fee and then driven away by the time we're finished. We want someone who's been there to work with us within the state."

Alexander would help draw plan

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

"I told them I'm always willing to help. I'm available to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'll give them. I haven't heard anything about it.

'School' for redesigning school just got loaded down

By CHARLES WOLFE
Associated Press Writer

The powers that created the Task Force on Education Reform wanted a lean machine.

But a decision to let everyone on the House and Senate education committee hop aboard, even as non-voting members, means the chosen vehicle for redesigning Kentucky schools will be built for comfort, not for speed.

The idea was to have a working group large enough to touch all the bases but small enough to get things done. It was prompted by the Supreme Court's order in June for streamlined governance.

Never mind that its co-chairmen and four of its members were already members of the task force. The rest of the interim joint Education Committee decided it was being cut out of the action and objected strenuously.

Legislative leadership arranged a compromise, perhaps to keep the committee from taking off on its own fact-finding rampage, as has happened before.

In a split vote, the leadership, all of whose Democratic members are already on the task force, decided the Education Committee members could attend meetings of the task force's committees on school governance, finance and curriculum.

The new members will not have full task force membership, or a vote. They will, however, be paid $100 per day, plus expenses, for the meetings they attend.

And bear in mind that, when the General Assembly finally meets to act on the task force's draft legislation, the bills will be put through the grinder by both education committees.

But meantime, will the restructuring of the task force end with inclusion of the joint Education Committee?

Not at all, said Sen. Jack Moreland, president of the Council for Better Education, the coalition formed by the 66 counties.

The Task Force on Education Reform had lost track of its mission. Moreland and it is superintended.

"We've been working at the task force and we've had to do that to the extent that it has lost sight of the original aim, its intent and the intent of the Supreme Court ruling," Moreland said. "If you read that 100-page ruling, you'll find that 99 percent of it deals with adequacy and equity." Moreland said. "And yet that's not where we're hearing discussion. We're hearing a lot about nepotism and mismanagement, and the Supreme Court ruling says that all the mismanagement in Kentucky should amount to a great deal."

Moreland said that Alexander had drafted a document that he hoped would be approved for presentation to the task force before Christmas. Alexander gave a preliminary report on the document at the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents meeting in Louisville this week. Moreland said the response of all the superintendents was "very positive for a gray area." He said a copy of the document would be sent to every school district in the state.

Alexander, who teaches at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg, Moreland said, "We want him to take a look at things and help us refocus our goals.

Alexander, an acknowledged expert in school finance, was nominated by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Education Reform wanted the General Assembly to create a state Department of Education and to give it the power to appoint its own boards and superintendents.

"It's time to do some serious thinking about where to go out of state and hire a bunch of consultants when Alexander is a history in the state's educational system," he said. Educators similarly advocated for the Joint Committee on Education Reform.

We view the council as the watchdog of the whole process, and who is supposed to help us in our capacity when Kern Alexander's," Moreland said.

"We don't make any sense to us. He's not one of a million consultants who can be hired for a small fee and then driven away by the time we're finished. We want someone who's been there to work with us within the state."

Alexander would help draw plan

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

"I told them I'm always willing to help. I'm available to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'll give them. I haven't heard anything about it.
Nominations for education task force made

ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 30 Kentuckians—including business and professional people and former politicians—have been nominated to coordinate the state’s school reform movement, a legislative aide says.

Bud Guy, House Speaker Don Blandford’s chief aide, said the nominations will be turned in next week to Blandford and Senate President Pro Tem John “Eck” Rose.

Blandford and Rose will decide soon “what they want to do and how soon they want to go at it” in choosing a coordinator for the Task Force on Education Reform, Guy said.

He said some of the nominations received so far have come from task-force members and some from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office.

Guy said he expected the governor’s office to submit more nominations after Wilkinson returns from England, where he addressed a conference on education earlier this week.

The task force, which is grappling with a state Supreme Court ruling that invalidates the state’s current public school system, decided July 28 to hire someone to coordinate its efforts.

But so far, Guy and Rose said, it’s unclear when that person will be named, although Guy said he hopes either a permanent or temporary coordinator is named by Labor Day.

It’s also unclear what the coordinator’s duties will be and whether it will be a full-time or part-time job.

Guy said it’s also uncertain how many nominees for the post are interested in filling it. “A lot of these, I’m sure, have not been asked,” he said, adding that he plans to start calling nominees next week.

Blandford and Guy earlier identified two nominees: David Jones, chairman of the hospital-management firm Humana Inc., and former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander.

State’s education task force got loaded down with baggage

By CHARLES WOLFE
Associated Press Writer

The powers that created the Task Force on Education Reform wanted a lean machine.

But a decision to let everyone on the House and Senate education committees hop aboard, even as non-voting members, means the chosen vehicle for redesigning Kentucky’s public schools will be built for comfort, not for speed.

The original was a 21-passenger model, with seats for five gubernatorial appointees, 14 legislative Democrats and two Republicans. That may not pass for a sleek speed burner elsewhere, but in state government it’s absolutely streamlined.

The idea was to have a working group large enough to touch all the bases but small enough to get things done. It was prompted by the Supreme Court’s order in June for the General Assembly to create a school system in which kids from “property poor” districts have essentially the same educational opportunities as their contemporaries in wealthier districts.

A legislative education committee is quite naturally going to be interested in education. But who can seriously argue that the addition of 24 earnest individuals to this project did not add a few anchors as well? And who knows where the decision to include them will lead?

The decision came Wednesday at a meeting of the General Assembly’s elected Democratic and Republican leaders.

It was prompted by the howls emanating the previous week from the two education committees, which meet jointly when the General Assembly is not in session.

Never mind that its co-chairmen and four of its members were already members of the task force. The rest of the interim Joint Education Committee decided it was being cut out of the action and objected strenuously.

Legislative leadership arranged a compromise, perhaps to keep the committee from taking off on its own fact-finding rampage, as has happened before.

In a split vote, the leadership, all of whose Democratic members are already on the task force, decided the Education Committee members could attend meetings of the task force’s committees on school governance, finance and curriculum.

The newcomers will not have full task force membership, or a vote. They will, however, be paid $100 per day, plus expenses, for the meetings they attend.

And bear in mind that, when the General Assembly finally meets to act on the task force’s draft legislation, the bills will be put through the grinder by both education committees, anyway.

But meantime, will the restructuring of the task force end with inclusion of the Joint Education Committee?

One task force member, Sen. David Karem of Louisville, voted against the change. He said the Joint Appropriations and Revenue Committee could stake an equally valid claim for inclusion because anything the task force dreams up will have to be paid for.

A colleague, Sen. Eileen Garrett of Paducah, voted for it but said, in apparent seriousness, that it wasn’t enough.

For reasons that were not entirely clear, Garrett urged leadership to have the task force avail itself of the “expertise” of the joint State Government Committee—a group usually viewed as the great caretaker of Frankfort’s bureaucracy.

The State Government Committee might well go along, undaunted by any incongruity, no matter how glaring. The instinct to weigh into a turf fight is powerful.

So is the “me, too” syndrome, which brings us back to the Joint Education Committee.

When Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns started this whole process by declaring Kentucky’s schools unconstitutional, he said he needed advice in formulating a final order. To that end, he appointed a five-person committee, chaired by then-President Kern Alexander of Western Kentucky University, to find facts and report back.

The Alexander committee held a series of public hearings and did as it was told.

Not to be outdone, the joint Education Committee launched its own fact-finding mission, hauling itself all over the state to hear the usual pleas from the usual suspects in any education debate: Representatives of teachers, school boards, school administrators, school superintendents and various other groups, some of whom are keenly interested in preserving the status quo.

In the end, the joint committee issued a “working paper” of lofty goals, the desirability of which no one would seriously argue against. The goals were accompanied by lofty price tags. As is often the case with best-possible-world scenarios, there was nary a word about where the money would come from.

Later, the Supreme Court antitactically declared that Corns’ appointment and use of the Alexander committee was improper.

It seems to have gone unnoticed outside the Capitol.
Former WKU Official To Assist Task Force

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said Monday that he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

The task force, made up of 16 state legislators and five members appointed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, is restructuring of Kentucky's public education system in response to a June 8 state Supreme Court ruling that the system is unconstitutional.

"I told them I'm always willing to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'd give them. I haven't heard anything about it."

State Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, who co-chairs the task force's curriculum committee, said Alexander would do well as a consultant or as the coordinator of the entire task force.

He said the task force is waiting to receive more responses before it chooses any consultants or the coordinator, probably in two weeks. About 40 of the 70 prospects have responded, he said.

Alexander said he would help task force

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

The task force, made up of 16 state legislators and five members appointed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, is restructuring of Kentucky's public education system in response to a June 8 state Supreme Court ruling that the system is unconstitutional.

"I told them I'm always willing to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'd give them. I haven't heard anything about it."

State Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, who co-chairs the task force's curriculum committee, said Alexander would do well as a consultant or as the coordinator of the entire task force.

He said the task force is waiting to receive more responses before it chooses any consultants or the coordinator, probably in two weeks. About 40 of the 70 prospects have responded, he said.

Alexander would serve as consultant

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

"I told them I'm always willing to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'd give them. I haven't heard anything about it."

State Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, who co-chairs the task force's curriculum committee, said Alexander would do well as a consultant or as the coordinator of the entire task force.

He said the task force is waiting to receive more responses before it chooses any consultants or the coordinator, probably in two weeks. About 40 of the 70 prospects have responded, he said.

Alexander a consultant

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he would serve as a consultant to the state Task Force on Education Reform in its effort to rebuild Kentucky's public school system.

Alexander, who left Western in 1988 to accept a distinguished professor post at Virginia Tech, said Monday that he was notified about three weeks ago that he was one of several people across the country being sought to help the task force.

The task force, made up of 16 state legislators and five members appointed by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, is restructuring of Kentucky's public education system in response to a June 8 state Supreme Court ruling that the system is unconstitutional.

"I told them I'm always willing to help," Alexander said. "I have no idea what advice I'd give them. I haven't heard anything about it."

State Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, who co-chairs the task force's curriculum committee, said Alexander would do well as a consultant or as the coordinator of the entire task force.

He said the task force is waiting to receive more responses before it chooses any consultants or the coordinator, probably in two weeks. About 40 of the 70 prospects have responded, he said.
Slow, deliberate pace is the way to go

It was inevitable that the Task Force on Education charged with developing a plan for rebuilding the state's schools system would begin its work with a certain amount of grumbling. In fact, if everything had been hugs and kisses when the task force met here last Wednesday, we would have suspected something was terribly wrong. Put 16 legislators — all in leadership positions — and five top-level Wilkinson administration appointees on the same committee, give it a responsibility only marginally less heavy than drafting a new constitution would be, focus the attention of every Kentuckian on its first formal meeting and someone is going to be disgruntled.

The major issues raised at an otherwise routine organizational meeting of the task force centered on the apparent intention to seek consultants only from outside Kentucky and the lack of a formal agenda for the first meeting. Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was outspoken in his disappointment that the task force didn't come forth with some meaty statement about what it plans to do in rebuilding the schools system. He and Rep. Bill Strong, R-Hazard, objected to the lack of Kentucky names on a list of possible consultants to assist the task force, particularly Kern Alexander, former Western Kentucky University president who now is a professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Although we share Sen. Karem's eagerness for the Task Force on Education to begin serious discussions about rebuilding the schools system, we also believe the task force's co-chairmen, House Speaker Donald Blandford and Senate President John "Eck" Rose, are correct in taking a slow and deliberate route to the point of serious discussions and even more serious decisions.

After all, the task force isn't dealing with a subject like workers' compensation insurance or overcrowded state prisons. Its responsibility, under the Supreme Court's decision, is to propose to the General Assembly an entirely new schools system created out of the ashes of the failed system the court said is unconstitutional. Because just about everyone has personal and professional ideas about what ought to be done by the task force, it will require strong leadership by Speaker Blandford and Sen. Rose just to keep the 21-member group from flying off in every conceivable direction at once.

As for a preference for in-state or out-of-state consultants for the task force, we share Speaker Blandford's notion that someone not involved in the schools system being replaced will bring "a more objective view" of what must be done. Certainly, there are valuable education resources in Kentucky that should and undoubtedly will be called upon by the task force and later the General Assembly, but with the national attention being focused on the Kentucky court ruling and the scope of the legislature's responsibility, the task force will be able to draw upon the best advice available throughout the country. That's an opportunity too good to pass up.
Education panel off to a slow beginning

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — It took more than a month from the time the Supreme Court ruled that Kentucky’s school system is unconstitutional for the General Assembly to get together and start doing something about it.

That delay was one of the points of disagreement during the brief initial meeting Wednesday of the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

The other subject of some dispute was the apparent decision to select a consultant from outside of Kentucky to assist the task force in its deliberations.

Blandford said an outsider would be more objective but there was some grumbling.

State Rep. Bill Strong of Hazard, one of the two Republicans on the task force, repeated his suggestion to hire Kern Alexander, the former president of Western Kentucky University.

Strong was among those who said the task force should act quickly.

“Kentucky’s school system has been studied to death,” he said. “We cannot afford to spend time analyzing it. We need to spend time fixing it.”

Wilkinson was pleased with the progress of the work. He attended the meeting but did not speak publicly.

“We’re not going to be in any hurry,” he said. “We’re not going to drag our feet.”

The selection of the consultant will be the next significant step for the committee.

A list of 62 candidates was released and others may be added.

Lawmakers have slow beginning coping with educational reform

By MARK R. CHELLGREN
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — It took more than a month from the time the Supreme Court ruled that Kentucky’s school system is unconstitutional for the General Assembly to get together and start doing something about it.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”

State Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

“I thought we could have made more decisions,” Karem said. “I thought the meeting was form and no substance.”

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

“I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be,” Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

“I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do,” Blandford said.

The 21-member task force did divide into three committees and settle on a name.

The work was split into the general topics of governance, curriculum and finance.

The group, composed of 16 legislators and five emissaries from Gov. Wallace Wilkinson’s office, will be called the Task Force on Education Reform.

“I know there are those that are going to say we’re not going fast enough,” said House Speaker Don Blandford, D-Philpot. “Certainly we’re not going to be in any hurry. We’re not going to drag our feet.”
Education task force gets off to shaky start

By MARK R. CHELLGREN

The special Task Force on Education Reform charged with plotting a new course for Kentucky schools got off to a slow and slightly contentious start on Wednesday.

House Speaker Don Blandford, who served as chairman at the first meeting of the 21-member panel, defended the pace of work since the Supreme Court decision on June 6 that Kentucky's school system is unconstitutional.

"I know there are those that are going to say we're not going fast enough," said Blandford, D-Frankfort. "Certainly we're not going to be in any hurry. We're not going to drag our feet."

State Sen. David Karem, D-Henderson, who served as chairman at the first meeting of the 21-member panel, defended the pace of work since the Supreme Court decision on June 6 that Kentucky's school system is unconstitutional.

"I know there are those that are going to say we're not going fast enough," said Blandford, D-Frankfort. "Certainly we're not going to be in any hurry. We're not going to drag our feet."

Karem said he received some solace from Blandford's statement.

"The public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

"I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do," Blandford said.

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

"I thought the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

By MARK R. CHELLGREN

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The House minority leader has recommended former Western Kentucky University President Kem Alexander as a consultant to the special panel charged with reinventing the state's school system.

Republican Bill Strong made the request Thursday in a letter to House Speaker Don Blandford, Senate President Pro Tem John "Eck" Rose and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Alexander is an expert on school finance and his Kentucky credentials make him the "ideal person to guide us in our task," Strong's letter said.

He said Alexander had agreed to advise the special panel.

Alexander is a professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg. He helped draft education-reform proposals in connection with the court case that led to the Supreme Court's ruling that Kentucky's public school system is unconstitutional.

Buell Guy, Blandford's chief aide, said he and Paris Hopkins, chief administrative assistant to Rose, would consider Alexander along with other candidates for the job of advising the panel.

Alexander could not be reached for comment yesterday.

By MARK R. CHELLGREN

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The special Task Force on Education Reform charged with plotting a new course for Kentucky schools got off to a slow and slightly contentious start on Wednesday.

House Speaker Don Blandford, who served as chairman at the first meeting of the 21-member panel, defended the pace of work since the Supreme Court decision on June 6 that Kentucky's school system is unconstitutional.

"I know there are those that are going to say we're not going fast enough," said Blandford, D-Frankfort. "Certainly we're not going to be in any hurry. We're not going to drag our feet."

State Sen. David Karem, D-

Louisville, was among those unhappy with the progress.

"I thought we could have made more decisions," Karem said. "I thought the meeting was form and no substance."

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

"I think the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

"I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do," Blandford said.

Karem said the task force should have adopted some sort of mission statement.

"I thought the public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

"I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do," Blandford said.

Karem said he received some solace from Blandford's statement.

"The public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

"I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do," Blandford said.

Karem said he received some solace from Blandford's statement.

"The public is out there wanting to hear from us what our mission is going to be," Karem said.

But Blandford said he would not be rushed into action.

"I would hope the general public would give us a chance and the press give us a chance to show what we can do," Blandford said.
Substantial hike in funds needed for schools: Corns

By SUSAN STRAUB
State Journal Staff Writer

Substantial additional funds will be needed to establish an adequate statewide school system in Kentucky, Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns said in a ruling released today.

Corns said the funds "appear to be available only through the imposition of new taxes." The ruling came in a widely publicized suit in which 66 mostly rural school districts complained that the state had not met the constitutional mandate of an "efficient" school system.

Corns said children in "inadequately funded school districts are condemned to an inferior education," which is unconstitutional.

In a 15-page ruling Corns also held that:

• Kentucky's educational system "violates the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution."

• The legislature's enactment of the foundation program in 1954 and the power equalization program in 1978 represent "an attempt to discharge the General Assembly's responsibility to fund an efficient system of common schools." Corns said the programs could remedy the constitutional crisis if properly funded.

• Laws passed by the legislature in 1965 and 1979 contribute to the problem schools face, but are not unconstitutional. "By this legislation the General Assembly has set a maximum permissible tax rate for each of the 17 school districts which flies in the face of all logic, tax equity considerations and revenue raising potential," Corns said. One of the laws, House Bill 44 passed in 1979, allows school districts to increase property tax revenues by no more than 4 percent a year without the possibility of recall.

"The governor "has a constitutional duty to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly" regarding the establishment of an efficient statewide school system,

"The state superintendent of public instruction, Kentucky Department of Education, the legislature and the Kentucky Board of Education have a duty to make certain that waste and mismanagement are eliminated from Kentucky's public schools. "If and where waste and mismanagement exist, including, but not limited to, improper nepotism, favoritism and misallocation of school monies, they must be eliminated, through state intervention if necessary," Corns said.

Corns set a meeting for Feb. 1 with defendants, which includes legislators and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, to "discuss what steps have been taken to comply with this judgment and what further action is contemplated."

The judge said through the ruling he is not attempting to provoke confrontations with the legislature, governor or other government officials. Legislators have complained that the judge has stepped outside of the his proper role and into their area of responsibility.

Although Corns, in his ruling, recognized that the judiciary has no authority to tell the legislature how to finance schools, he said the constitution requires that the courts insure sufficient and equitable funding.

"It is apparent that substantial additional monies will have to be allocated to education in order to establish an adequate statewide system of common schools," Corns said.

The judge said the possibilities of reallocating existing funds "appear to be non-existent" and that new tax revenue would be needed.

"One need not be a mathematical genius to conclude that there cannot be a major reallocation of funds to education without crippling other vital functions of state government," said Corns, referring to the tight budget the legislature passed in 1988.

Corns first ruled in the suit in early spring and set up a special judicial committee, chaired by former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, to study the problem.

The five-member committee made sweeping statements about what is wrong with the schools and said more money is needed to solve those problems. However, unlike Corns' ruling this morning, which praises the work of the committee, the group dodged the question of where to obtain the funds.

In his ruling Corns defined an "efficient" school system as one which provides an adequate education to all students, regardless of local financial resources or geographical location.

Kentucky schools should provide students with sufficient skills in many areas including oral and written communication, economics, social and political systems, health and the arts, Corns ruled. Kentucky students should be equipped to pursue advanced academic or vocational training, the judge said.

The judge also was concerned over the state of physical facilities, the competence of teaching and availability of instructional materials in the some of the state's schools. "It is very clear from this record that the schools in Kentucky's poor districts are inadequate and inefficient when measured by these standards," he said.
Report doesn't help us much

As we can tell from the news stories, there was only one helpful idea in the report to Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns by that special committee he appointed to advise him on the school controversy.

That one idea was that the state must set minimum levels of educational attainment and productivity and compel local districts to meet them.

Even that idea is not really a startling one. The General Assembly has been moving in that direction for several years. It has given the state Department of Education, for example, the power to take over school districts that become "educationally bankrupt," and the department is using that power.

But unless there's a good deal more solid meat in the report than the Associated Press story indicates, the other recommendations of the special committee are so vague and so unexceptional that it's hard to see how Judge Corns can use them in his final order on the school case. That's the case in which Judge Corns ruled that the system of school finance in Kentucky is unconstitutional because it doesn't provide equitable funding for all districts.

The committee said solemnly that the state has an obligation to provide an education system that guarantees "the child's fundamental right to an education." Which is true, but is about like saying that a bank has an obligation to safeguard its customers' money.

Children should not be forced to accept poorer schools because they live in poor areas or in districts that refuse to raise money for education, said the committee. Yes, yes, we can imagine Judge Corns muttering, but what does the committee recommend as a remedy?

Kentucky doesn't have enough money for schools, so more money is needed to make the system more equitable, said the committee.

Well, of course. Judge Corns had already come to that conclusion. We know of nobody who doesn't agree. So what does the committee recommend? Well, it doesn't make any specific recommendations.

Dr. Kern Alexander, the outgoing president of Western Kentucky University, who chaired the committee, repeated that for reporters in a news conference. It's up to the General Assembly to decide ultimately how best to pay for education, he said.

So we've come full circle. Judge Corns very kindly hailed the report as "a beacon of light," but it's hard to see how it will help him.

It's curious that though the committee points to the differences between funding of poor school districts and affluent ones, it doesn't appear to have even mentioned the long history of legislative efforts to overcome those inequities -- the Minimum Foundation Program and the Power Equalization Program.

Both were designed to do precisely what the committee says is needed. The first is supposed to guarantee a minimum level of education across the state. The second is supposed to make a cent of taxation in a poor district bring as much money as a cent of taxation in a rich district, the state making up the difference.

Mention these programs to a school person, and that person will reply that the Power Equalization Program has never been fully funded. The next question is: If it were fully funded, wouldn't it solve the problem? That's the question which hasn't been answered.

What the committee seems to be leading up to is a complete state takeover of school financing, with no reliance on local taxation at all. That, we take it, is what is behind the criticism of the heavy reliance on property taxation to support the schools.

There's another worry there, though. If the state undertakes to fund every school equally, does it mean that it can forbid a school district to raise more money and enrich its own school programs? Supt. Brock says that he, at least, doesn't mean that. It would be tragic, he says, if local control and local involvement in schools were diminished. We agree.

Judge Corns is in an awkward position. Judges still cannot draft legislation and order legislatures to pass it. Yet he has declared the present system of finance is unconstitutional and has promised to make some recommendations Oct. 15.

Perhaps the best stance for legislators, as well as for the rest of us, is to take Judge Corns' actions not as criticism but simply as an offer to help focus on a serious and difficult problem.

Solving funding inequity is the task of legislature

A special judicial committee has wisely refrained from making specific recommendations for ending the funding inequities that exist among Kentucky's public school districts. While it is the proper role of the courts to rule that the current funding system discriminates against children in poorer counties, it is the job of the governor and Kentucky General Assembly to find a solution to the problem.

The report by the committee appointed by Franklin Circuit Court Judge Ray Corns and chaired by former Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says little that has not been said before.

Educators, political leaders and many citizens have known for many years that because the wealth of Kentucky is not evenly distributed, the amount of money spent on education varies greatly across the state.

While a 1986 state law requiring a minimum property tax rate for local school districts has all but eliminated the problem of inadequate local efforts to support public schools, the huge differences in property values across the state continue to make the property tax an inequitable means of funding schools. The present system rewards urban counties with high property values and punishes poor rural counties. Even with the same tax rate, a house in Lexington is going to generate a lot more revenue than a comparable house in Elliott County.

The judicial committee warns against simple solutions to the funding problem. It would be relatively easy, for example, for the General Assembly to create an equal system of funding by taking money from the wealthier school districts and giving it to the poorer districts. The money could be divided so equally that the amount spent per student would vary little from district to district.

However, it would be foolish to create equality by weakening the stronger school districts. It is obviously in the state's best interest to create equality by improving the poorest districts without harming the best.

The answers to the problem are not easy. The judicial committee has correctly said that it will take a considerable increase in state funding. It also seems likely that the property tax will have to be discarded as the major source of local school funding.

Although his decision is certain to be appealed to the Kentucky Supreme Court, Judge Corns has performed the proper function of the court by declaring the status quo unacceptable. It is time the governor and the legislature go to work to correct the problem.
FRANKFORT — The report issued last week by the Corns Committee on the state's public school financing had all the nutritional value of a cotton candy dinner — it was composed primarily of air and it sure wasn’t filling.

If it was meat you were looking for on those bones, prepare to starve.

Even the chairman of the panel, former Western Kentucky University president Kern Alexander, acknowledged there was nothing new in the report and that it offered no breakthrough in thinking.

What we are left with, in all due respect to the toils of the committee, is a composition of generalities that already were obvious to those even peripherally familiar with Kentucky public schools.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure that Kentucky’s schools should be run efficiently. Even the class dunce can spout poetic about the need to infuse more money into the system.

What the committee needed to do was relate how these generalities should be accomplished. That, for the most part, it failed to address.

Obviously, in releasing its report, the committee was concerned about the criticism pointed in its direction.

From its inception, the committee has been in the legislature’s line of fire. Franklin County Circuit Judge Ray Corns ruled last May in favor of 66 poor school districts who contended that Kentucky’s system of funding public schools was unconstitutional.

Corns impaneled this group of experts to detail how to best go about making the system more “efficient,” as required by the constitution.

Lawmakers, rightfully, objected, saying the judiciary was infringing on a legislative function. It is, after all, the General Assembly’s job to figure out how to channel money to the schools.

Corns’ wisdom in appointing this panel in the first place is questionable. Since there were doubts about its usefulness, it should have been abandoned.

What they are beginning to learn, as that great American Grady Stumbo once said, is that the only thing you find in the middle of the road is yellow lines and dead possums.

The panel did, by a circuitous route, approach the issue of property taxes. Because property taxes are so unpopular, members said it might be best if the state developed another method for local school boards to collect from their own districts.

If the property tax remains, they said, a method has to be developed that would permit areas with low property values to collect as many tax dollars as those areas with high property values. In other words, Dayton — one of the systems that sued the state — has to be able to collect as many local dollars from its base of small homes as Ft. Thomas, which prides itself on being the city of beautiful (and more expensive) homes.

That would require increased state effort to equalize that disparity. It makes sense. But the panel refused to advise the court or the legislature of a manner in which that can be realized.

What we have here, as state Sen. Mike Moloney, D-Lexington, noted, is a report that would have made a nice college term paper. But as far as setting the table for a legislative dinner on its merits, don’t bother with the knives and forks. It may be sweet, but it will be gone in moments.

Bill Straub is chief of The Kentucky Post’s Frankfort bureau.
Report called blueprint for better schools

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Leaders of several education groups said a report released Wednesday by a committee appointed to study how Kentucky finances its schools will serve as a blueprint for improving the overall quality of education in the state.

The report by a special judicial committee said the ultimate responsibility for financing schools rests with state government, and not local school districts.

It said more money is needed to provide the kind of educational system the Kentucky Constitution demands. However, it dodged the question of where to obtain those funds.

The committee was appointed by Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns to help him prepare a ruling in a lawsuit filed by 66 rural school districts. The districts claim that inadequate funding by the state provides a low quality of education in poor counties.

The report said a simple redistribution of existing funding for education will not get the job done. “No district in Kentucky is presently so well funded that it can afford to lose current revenues in order to equalize other school districts,” it said.

Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, said the obvious answer to the problem is additional taxes. “You would have to live in a cave to think that would not be the case,” he told the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Sexton said the report underscores the right of every Kentucky child to a quality education, regardless of where they live.

“If the legislature and the governor could really produce a program that met those guidelines, we’d have one of the strongest systems in the nation,” Sexton said.

Former Gov. Bert T. Combs, the attorney for the 66 school districts, said the committee report is an historic document “and will be the blueprint for those interested in education for the years to come.”

Ken Johnstone, executive director of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, also gave the report high marks. “It is absolutely what we need. It gives the governor and the legislature a framework in which to act,” he told the Courier-Journal.

The five members of the committee, however, refused to say that higher taxes are needed. They said that decision should be made by the governor and legislature.

The long-awaited report contained few specific recommendations on how the state can meet its responsibility, but made some sweeping statements about what is wrong with the current system.

Dr. Kern Alexander, committee chairman and former president of Western Kentucky University, said the most significant conclusion in the report was that the state must bear ultimate responsibility for education.

Historically, Alexander said, there has been a tug-of-war between state and local governments about responsibility for education. That struggle produced the conglomeration of funding for schools now in place that depends heavily on property taxes.

“The method of financing presently used in Kentucky has failed to provide the necessary resources,” the report said.

The result has been that many students pay an educational penalty because they live in a district with little taxable property.

“No community has a right to impose an inferior See REPORT/C5
Judge's advisers seeking suggestions from defendants in suit prompting study

By Mary Ann Roser
Frankfort, Ky., herald-leader

A committee advising a judge on ways to fix Kentucky's school finance system will take pains to get some advice first, the chairman said.

The five-member panel will solicit comments from state leaders—perhaps as early as next week—and then travel across Kentucky in July to hear from parents, educators and others, chairman Kem Alexander said.

"We want them to talk with us, counsel with us, give us some ideas as to their concerns," he said.

The committee was created by Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns, who on May 31 declared Kentucky's school finance system discriminatory and unconstitutional. He has given the committee until Sept. 15 to make recommendations, which he will consider before issuing a final ruling by Oct. 15.

At least four regional meetings will be held in July, Alexander said, adding that he hopes to begin meeting next week with legislative leaders and members of Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's administration. Both parties in the suit brought by 66 relatively poor school districts.

Senate President Pro Tem John A. "Eck" Rose, D-Winchester, said he was "perplexed" by that because legislative leaders planned to appeal the ruling.

"I am willing to do anything to further the cause of education in Kentucky, but I find it very hard to understand why I as a defendant would advise a committee that would advise a judge," he said.

Alexander, the departing president of Western Kentucky University, said he thought it was "very important" to get the views of leaders such as Rose.

He also said he hoped other efforts to improve education in Kentucky would continue while the committee did its work. Those efforts include plans by the legislature to hold education hearings next month and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson's attempts to win support for his education proposals.

"I would hope nothing would go on the back burner," Alexander, who will become a distinguished professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Several legislative leaders said they doubted the General Assembly would approve the governor's program while the case was unresolved.

The governor wants to call a special session of the legislature this fall to enact a program that would give pay bonuses to teachers in schools that improve.

"Some members worry that the governor's program could create more disparity," said House Majority whip Randy Harlan, D-Bardstown. The ruling "puts a cloud over it, certainly.

Rose made similar comments.<br>
"Has a kid a fair shot at that money?" he asked. "That's what the whole lawsuit is about.

Since the legislative session ended in April, Wilkinson and Education Secretary Jack Foster have been meeting with legislators and speaking on behalf of the program. They have no plans to change their strategy, expand the program or alter it, Foster said.

"The support is overwhelming, contrary to what the leaders are saying," he said.

The legislature's education committee plans to begin meeting in July, two months earlier than usual, to discuss what should be done to improve education. The meetings could involve hearings across the state and result in a plan to improve education with suggestions on how to fund it, Rapier said.

"We were going to do this anyway, but it comes on the heels of Judge Corns' decision, which is a catalyst to this," said Rep. Roger New, D-Hurlin, chairman of the House Education Committee.

Foster said the idea was excellent.

"The administration is interested in learning what it can from the others," he said.

Report filed, but under wraps until next week in school suit

Associated Press

FRANKFORT — The report from the special committee appointed by Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns to assist him in the school funding suit was filed Thursday but will be kept secret until Wednesday.

Members of the committee said Corns asked them not to discuss the report until the briefing next week.

Corns appointed the five-member panel after he found that Kentucky had failed its constitutional obligation to provide an "efficient system of public schools. The suit was brought by 66 mostly poor school districts.

The panel held public hearings across the state to gather information from educators, parents and interested parties.

The panel was charged with making suggestions on how the state could discharge that responsibility without taking any money away from a school district.

Corns has said he will complete his final ruling in the case by Oct. 15.

Members of the committee were Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brooke, Lexington attorney Larry Forgy, former Department of Education official James Melton, Sylvia Watson of Louisville and former Western Kentucky University President Kem Alexander, its chairman.

The panel held public hearings across the state to gather information from educators, parents and interested parties.
Ex-WKU president is chairing panel on school-finances

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Departing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander is one of five education experts named Tuesday to a committee that will recommend changes in Kentucky's school-finance system.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Ray Corns also appointed state Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock; educational consultant James Melton of Frankfort; Lexington lawyer Larry Forgy, a member of the University of Kentucky board of trustees; and former Jefferson County Commissioner Sylvia Watson, who is also a former teacher.

Alexander is a nationally recognized expert on school finance who has been chosen to teach and study as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech.

Corns ruled last week that the state's system of funding its public schools did not meet the constitutional requirement for an "efficient" system. He cited wide disparities in school funds between rich and poor districts and educational deficiencies in the poor ones.

Legislative leaders complained that the ruling was vague and erroneous and have promised to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

When Corns gets the committee's report, he is expected to issue a ruling containing guidelines for the legislature on how to bring Kentucky schools into compliance with the state constitution.

Corns said he expects the committee to return with a master plan for change by the end of the year, and he will then provide guidance to the legislature.

Three of the five members to be named were witnesses on behalf of the group of 66 poor school districts that filed the lawsuit resulting in Corns' ruling.

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Departing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander is one of five education experts expected to be named to a committee that will recommend changes in Kentucky's school-finance system.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Ray Corns is also expected to appoint state Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock; educational consultant James Melton of Frankfort; Lexington lawyer Larry Forgy, a member of the University of Kentucky board of trustees; and former Jefferson County Commissioner Sylvia Watson, who is also a former teacher.

Alexander is a nationally recognized expert on school finance who has been chosen to teach and study as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech.

Forgy and Melton confirmed that they had been asked to serve on the committee.

Corns ruled last week that the state's system of funding its public schools did not meet the constitutional requirement for an "efficient" system. He cited wide disparities in school funds between rich and poor districts and educational deficiencies in the poor ones.

Legislative leaders complained that the ruling was vague and erroneous and have promised to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

When Corns gets the committee's report, he is expected to issue a ruling containing guidelines for the legislature on how to bring Kentucky schools into compliance with the state constitution.

Corns said he expects the committee to return with a master plan for change by the end of the year, and he will then provide guidance to the legislature.

Three of the five members to be named were witnesses on behalf of the group of 66 poor school districts that filed the lawsuit resulting in Corns' ruling.
Alexander may be named to state school-finance panel

FRANKFORT (AP) — Departing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander is one of five education experts expected to be named to a committee that will recommend changes in Kentucky's school-finance system.

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Ray Corns is also expected to appoint state Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock; educational consultant James Melton of Frankfort; Lexington lawyer Larry Forgy, a member of the University of Kentucky board of trustees; and former Jefferson County Commissioner Sylvia Watson, who is also a former teacher.

Alexander is a nationally recognized expert on school finance who has been chosen to teach and study as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech.

Forgy and Melton confirmed that they had been asked to serve on the committee.

Corns ruled last week that the state's system of funding its public schools did not meet the constitutional requirement for an "efficient" system. He cited wide disparities in political power and educational needs in the state's districts.

Legislative leaders complained that the ruling was vague and erroneous and have promised to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

When Corns gets the committee's report, he is expected to issue a ruling containing guidelines for the legislature on how to bring Kentucky schools into compliance with the state constitution.

Corns said he expects the committee to return with a master plan for change by the end of the year, and he will then provide guidance to the legislature.

Three of the members to be named were chosen on behalf of the group of 66 poor school districts that filed the lawsuit resulting in Corns' ruling.

that they had been asked to serve on the committee.

Corns ruled last week that the state's system of funding its public schools did not meet the constitutional requirement for an "efficient" system. He cited wide disparities in political power and educational needs in the state's districts.

Legislative leaders complained that the ruling was vague and erroneous and have promised to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

When Corns gets the committee's report, he is expected to issue a ruling containing guidelines for the legislature on how to bring Kentucky schools into compliance with the state constitution.

Corns said he expects the committee to return with a master plan for change by the end of the year, and he will then provide guidance to the legislature.

Three of the members to be named were chosen on behalf of the group of 66 poor school districts that filed the lawsuit resulting in Corns' ruling.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franklin Circuit Court Judge Ray Corns is expected to name departing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander to chair a five-member committee that will propose how to make Kentucky's school-finance system constitutional.

Alexander, a nationally recognized expert on school finance who has been chosen to teach and study as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech, was out of the state Monday and could not be reached for comment.

Others expected to be appointed by Corns to the committee are state Superintendent of Public Instruction John Brock; educational consultant James Melton of Frankfort; Lexington lawyer Larry Forgy, a member of the University of Kentucky board of trustees; and former Jefferson County Commissioner Sylvia Watson, who is also a former teacher.

Forgy and Melton confirmed that they had been asked to serve on the committee.

Corns ruled last week that the state's system of funding its public schools did not meet the constitutional requirement for an "efficient" system. He cited wide disparities in political power and educational needs in the state's districts.

Legislative leaders complained that the ruling was vague and erroneous and have promised to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

When Corns gets the committee's report, he is expected to issue a ruling containing guidelines for the legislature on how to bring Kentucky schools into compliance with the state constitution.

Corns said he expects the committee to return with a master plan for change by the end of the year, and he will then provide guidance to the legislature.

Three of the members to be named were chosen on behalf of the group of 66 poor school districts that filed the lawsuit resulting in Corns' ruling.

In fact, Brock was superintendent of the Rowan County schools when that district became part of the lawsuit. Ironically, he joined other state officials as a defendant when he became state school superintendent.

On Monday, Senate President Pro Tem John "Eck" Rose questioned the appointment of Brock, considering his already close involvement in the case.

Brock refused to comment on his appointment until it is made final.

However, others pointed out that as superintendent Brock could be charged with implementing any changes that result from the suit.

Rose, D-Whitser, said he had no problem with other committee members.

Robert F. Sexton, chairman of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, called the committee "a good, strong group that knows Kentucky and Kentucky's schools."
Alexander given banquet

GLASGOW, Ky. (AP) — About 300 Barren County residents crowded an appreciation dinner at Barren River State Park Tuesday night for Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander.

The banquet, hosted by Barren County officials, was the culmination of Dr. Kern Alexander's plans to expand WKU's extended campus at Glasgow.

"We encourage the Council on Higher Education to establish other centers throughout Kentucky such as this one," said keynote speaker Tom Emberton, an Edmonton attorney and former WKU regent. Emberton called Alexander "a leader in education in Kentucky," who guided a "revolution of public education in Kentucky." The Glasgow center, which officially opened with the 1988 spring semester, quickly became a subject of controversy when Alexander announced WKU's plans to expand its extended campus operations and house a satellite campus in Glasgow.

"Here was a man with vision and a grasp of some of the problems of education in Kentucky and ability to implement those ideas," he said. "In response to a series of speeches in his honor, Alexander told the audience that the Glasgow center is "precisely what we're about with higher education in Kentucky." Alexander said WKU will continue to fulfill its contract for the Glasgow campus after he leaves his post in July for a distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Va.

"The Council on Higher Education will soon follow Western's lead in establishing other centers in other areas of the state," Alexander said.

"Universities are beginning to think expansively again," he said, adding, "My departure from Kentucky will not deter Western's move forward in that direction."

Source: Energy Information Administration

Almost 10 percent of the U.S. gross national product in 1986 was spent on energy for heating, lighting, transportation, manufacturing and other uses.
Alexander recalls Western accomplishments

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander denies assertions that efforts to increase enrollment and expand off-campus courses were controversial.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the state's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

Alexander said he does not believe that Western's expansion will hurt the larger state institutions.

"The response that Western cannot grow without taking something from the rest of the state universities is a constrictive point of view," he said.

Alexander, Western's seventh president, resigned his post earlier this month for a position at Virginia Tech as a distinguished professor. The position will concentrate on research, he said.

"I believe it's the best job in the United States," Alexander said Tuesday. "It's more important than being the president of a university. I believe a professor at Western is more important than the president."

Alexander said the communities surrounding Western's main and extension campuses did not criticize Western's expansion efforts.

Bowling Green, as well as Warren and surrounding counties, played a large part in the expansion and will continue to have a role in future growth, Alexander said.

Western has established several community-oriented programs during Alexander's tenure, including a center to provide services to school administrators and school boards, a center to serve as a catalyst for cultural, social and economic development, re-establishment of a forensics team, and re-establishment of a fish fry for teachers statewide that had been discontinued in 1986 after 50 years.

Other improvements planned or undertaken during Alexander's tenure are the recently-established Robert Penn Warren Center, the university's Asian Studies Center, a planned student health center and the establishment this summer of Kentucky's second public television station.

Alexander was modest about many achievements, placing more credit with students, faculty and the WKU board of regents for their establishment.

"I would hasten to say that the plans were from the board of regents and the other (parts) of the university," he said. "So, we have this board and this faculty, and I just kind of fit into the pattern of their wants and needs and desires."

"My time at Western has been rewarding, both professionally and personally," Alexander said. "I believe many of the initiatives taken will become even more important in the future."

Alexander: Papers caused controversy

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander denies assertions that efforts to increase enrollment and expand off-campus courses were controversial.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the state's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

During his 2½-year tenure at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment.

Alexander said he does not believe that Western's expansion will hurt the larger state institutions.

"The response that Western cannot grow without taking something from the rest of the state universities is a constrictive point of view," he said.

Alexander, Western's seventh president, resigned his post earlier this month for a position at Virginia Tech as a distinguished professor. The position will concentrate on research, he said.

"I believe it's the best job in the United States," Alexander said Tuesday. "It's more important than being the president of a university. I believe a professor at Western is more important than the president."

Alexander said the communities surrounding Western's main and extension campuses did not criticize Western's expansion efforts.

Bowling Green, as well as Warren and surrounding counties, played a large part in the expansion and will continue to have a role in future growth, Alexander said.

"I have had nothing but fine and complete cooperation from this community for everything we've done at Western," he said. "That's important because the strength of this university depends on the mutually cooperative arrangement, and that couldn't be better."

"Western has tried to do the same. The leaders of this community have always been extremely supportive of this university and vice versa."

"I would hasten to say that the plans were from the Board of Regents and the other (parts) of the university," he said. "So, we have this board and this faculty, and I just kind of fit into the pattern of their wants and needs and desires."

"My time at Western has been rewarding, both professionally and personally," Alexander said. "I believe many of the initiatives taken will become even more important in the future."
Community backed effort to grow, WKU head says

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kem Alexander denies assertions that efforts to increase enrollment and expand off-campus courses were controversial.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the state's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

During his 2½ years at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and tried to increase main campus enrollment.

Alexander said he did not think Western's expansion would hurt the larger state institutions.

"The response that Western cannot grow without taking something from the rest of the state universities is a constractive point of view," he said.

Alexander, Western's seventh president, resigned his post earlier this month for a position at Virginia Tech as a distinguished professor. The position will concentrate on research, he said.

"I believe it's the best job in the United States," Alexander said.

(Turn to EFFORTS, C2)
WKU president: No controversy during tenure

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN - Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has denied efforts during his tenure to increase enrollment and expand off-campus courses were controversial.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the state's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real.

During his 2½-year tenure at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment. Alexander said he does not believe that Western's expansion will hurt the larger state institutions.

"The response that Western cannot grow without taking something from the rest of the state universities is a constrictive point of view," he said.

Alexander, Western's seventh president, resigned his post earlier this month for a position at Virginia Tech as a distinguished professor. The position will concentrate on research, he said.

"I believe it's the best job in the United States," Alexander said on Tuesday. "It's more important than being the president of a university. I believe a professor at Western is more important than the president.

Western has established several community-oriented programs during Alexander's tenure, including a center to provide services to school administrators and school boards; a center to serve as a catalyst for cultural, social and economic development; re-establishment of a forensics team, and re-establishment of a fish fry for teachers statewide that had been discontinued in 1986 after 50 years.

Other improvements planned or undertaken are the Robert Penn Warren Center, the Asian Studies Center, a planned student health center and the establishment this summer of Kentucky's second public television station.
Alexander cites WKU achievements

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) – Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says the school's expansion efforts during his 2½-year tenure were supported by communities surrounding the main and extension campuses, contrary to some reports.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the school's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

Alexander said he does not believe that Western's expansion efforts during his 2½-year tenure were supported by communities surrounding the main and extension campuses, contrary to some reports.

"The community needs to come to the university. The university just can't say it needs to expand in a self-serv ing way."

During his time at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the school's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the school's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

During his time at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the school's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

During his time at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment.

"The controversy is largely caused by impressions left by the school's two major newspapers," Alexander said during a recent interview with The Daily News of Bowling Green. "I don't believe there was ever as much of a controversy as believed. The controversy was more apparent than real."

During his time at Western, the school established a community college, expanded its campus to Glasgow and attempted to increase main campus enrollment.
Highturnover... Kentucky 'not the most wonderful place to be a college president'

LEXINGTON (AP) - The chairman of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education is not alarmed by the fact that four college presidents have resigned in the past two weeks to take jobs at schools in other states.

This is not a Michigan or California, where the university can be the capstone of a career. We’re going to see some people move through our universities,” said Michael Harreld. “And I don’t think that’s terrible. We get a lot of talent that way.”

Western Kentucky University President Kerr Alexander, 46, who had held the post since January 1986, was the first of the four to announce his resignation. He is leaving the Bowling Green school to accept a prestigious professorship at Virginia Tech.

Raymond Burse, 46, who has been president of Kentucky State University in Frankfort for six years, resigned last week, saying he would probably resume his law practice.

Among the state’s private institutions, Centre College President Richard Morrill submitted his resignation on Friday. Mor­ril, 48, said he is leaving after six years at the Danville school to take the helm of the University of Richmond in Virginia.

On Saturday, Alice Lloyd College President Jerry Davis announced that he would leave to become president of the School of Law at the University of Kentucky, leaving the helm of the institution.

The presidents of Kentucky’s eight public institutions last an average of four years, compared with six years nationally, according to a survey conducted last year by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

With Kentucky’s recent departures, Donald Swain, president of the University of Louisville since 1981, has become the state’s senior public university president.

Some of Kentucky’s best-known presidents did serve lengthy terms. Otis Singletary was president of the University of Kentucky for 13 years before retiring last year, while Robert Martin spent 16 years as president of Eastern Kentucky University before retiring in 1976.

Adron Doran had been president of Morehead State University for 23 years when he retired in 1979. Morehead has had four presidents since then.

Kelly Thompson was president of Western Kentucky University for 14 years — from 1965 to 1989. He was followed by Dero Downing, who stayed for 10 years.

The old-style presidents presided over periods of rapid growth when money flowed more freely. Their biggest challenge was providing enough faculty members and buildings to accommodate the mushrooming enrollments.

Presidents now must deal with a shrinking resource base — and the challenge of pitting them where to prune programs and personnel.

College presidents must also answer to a much wider group of constituencies than in the past. Faculty organizations speak with a louder voice. Boards of regents and trustees have taken a more active role.

“It’s a terrible job,” said Harreld. “Everyone’s your boss.”

Scrutiny from Frankfort has intensified the demand for accountability first increased under Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. in the early 1980s and appears to be intensifying under Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Alexander cites WKU’s efforts during tenure

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Outgoing Western Kentucky University President Kerr Alexander says the school’s expansion efforts during his 21-year tenure were supported by communities surrounding the main and extension campuses, contrary to some reports.

“Western has a distinguished professor. The position will concentrate on research, he said.

“I believe it’s the best job in the United States,” Alexander said Tuesday. “It’s more important than being the president of a university. I believe a professor at Western is more important than the president.”

Alexander said the communities surrounding Western’s main and extension campuses did not criticize Western’s expansion efforts.
Kern Alexander is leaving Western Kentucky University to take a prestigious professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His departure offers Western’s regents an opportunity to reconsider just what sort of leadership their institution needs.

Alexander’s 30 months at Western were characterized by controversy. (Controversies) reached a crescendo when Alexander proposed new rules for Western’s student publications.

Alexander and his supporters say that these controversies simply indicate that Alexander had a problem communicating his ideas... Whatever his flaws, Alexander did bring to Western a love of the institution and a vision of what the institution could become.

But Alexander’s leadership foundered because that vision was simply not compatible with the nature of Western’s mission. The regionals, with their roles in undergraduate education and public service, are critically important to Kentucky’s future. But these institutions are not empires waiting to be built, and any president who does not accept that cannot succeed. That’s something for the Western regents to bear in mind as they begin the search for Alexander’s successor.

— Herald-Leader, Lexington

Regents need quick answer

But given the uncertainty currently surrounding the board, it’s difficult to tell whether those who select the next president will be around to serve with him.

A legal dispute has arisen over whether it was proper for university regents to serve six-year terms instead of the traditional four-year terms.

Pending the outcome of the court fight, many regents at state universities, including Joe Cook at Western, have continued to serve their terms even though a successor also has been sworn in.

The presence of Cook and his successor has increased the board membership at Western from 10 to 11, and the situation could get worse this summer.

Four regents, chairman Joe Ircane, Pasty Judd, Ronnie Butler and John Palmore, will enter the fifth years of six-year terms in May, June and July.

Should they not be reappointed to the board by the governor, and should they decide not to step down, the board could swell to 15 members.

There is some indication that Gov. Wallace Wilkinson may let the four regents know soon whether they will be reappointed. That’s important because the board wants to work quickly to replace current President Kern Alexander, who is scheduled to join Virginia Tech’s faculty July 1.

If the regents are reappointed, an incoming president will know that most of the regents who chose him will be around for the next few years.

If Wilkinson names new appointees, the selection process may need to proceed slightly slower to allow the incoming regents to have a voice in the presidential selection.

What all of this highlights is the need for a decision one way or the other on the length of regents’ terms. Until the courts hand down a definitive ruling, or until all the terms have expired for all regents serving six-year terms, such difficult situations will continue to pop up.

Editorial

Departure of presidents may be sign

In discussions about needing to increase salaries for university professors in Kentucky, the argument often has been made that the state is losing its best teachers to other states.

It appears as though Kentucky also should be concerned about the departure of university and college presidents.

Four presidents—Kern Alexander of Western Kentucky University, Raymond Burs of Kentucky State University, Richard Morrill of Centre College and Jerry Davis of Alice Lloyd College—have announced this month that they are resigning.

While money may have played a part in the decision of at least some of the four presidents, we also have to think the status in which they—and higher education—are regarded in Kentucky was a factor.

If a university or college president knows he can go elsewhere and be held in higher esteem, he’s not likely to stick around in Kentucky.

And without the budget to do the job as he sees fit, a university president is going to jump at the chance to move to a larger, more prestigious institution. His goals, after all, probably include expanding educational opportunities, not merely figuring out how to get the same results out of fewer dollars.

Kentucky colleges may never offer the prestige or opportunity to an administrator that some schools do, but they should at least be in the position to attract quality people and keep them for several years.

As long as higher education isn’t sufficiently valued in our state, however, private college president such as Davis and Morrill may not stay around long.

And if the budget situation for our public universities doesn’t improve, other university presidents will be tempted to follow the course chosen by Alexander and Burs.

Editorial
What others are saying

**WKU's next president must understand school's mission**

Herald-Leader, Lexington: Kern Alexander is leaving Western Kentucky University to take a prestigious professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His departure offers Western's regents an opportunity to reconsider just what sort of leadership their institution needs.

Alexander's 30 months at Western were characterized by controversy. ... (Controversies) reached a crescendo when Alexander proposed new rules for Western's student publications.

Alexander and his supporters say that these controversies simply indicate that Alexander had a problem communicating his ideas. Whatever his flaws, Alexander did bring to Western a love of the institution and a vision of what the institution could become.

But Alexander's leadership foundered because that vision was simply not compatible with the nature of Western's mission....

The regionals, with their roles in undergraduate education and public service, are critically important to Kentucky's future. But these institutions are not empires waiting to be built, and any president who does not accept that cannot succeed. That's something for the Western regents to bear in mind as they begin the search for Alexander's successor.
Alexander's move gives WKU chance to reconsider needs

Editor's note: The following is a roundup of editorials published by Kentucky newspapers on a variety of issues of interest to Kentucky residents.

Kern Alexander is leaving Western Kentucky University to take a prestigious professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His departure offers Western's regents an opportunity to reconsider just what sort of leadership their institution needs.

Alexander's 30 months at Western were characterized by controversy. Whatever his flaws, Alexander did bring to Western a love of the institution and a vision of what the institution could become.

But Alexander's leadership foundered because that vision was simply not compatible with the nature of Western's mission...

The regional universities, with their roles in undergraduate education and public service, are critically important to Kentucky's future. But these institutions are not empires waiting to be built, and any president who does not accept that cannot succeed. That's something for the Western regents to bear in mind as they begin the search for Alexander's successor.

— Herald-Leader, Lexington
Time to assess Western’s role

Kern Alexander is leaving Western Kentucky University to take a prestigious professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. His departure offers Western’s regents an opportunity to reconsider just what sort of leadership their institution needs.

Alexander’s 30 months at Western were characterized by controversy. (Controversies) reached a crescendo when Alexander proposed new rules for Western’s student publications. Alexander and his supporters say that these controversies simply indicate that Alexander had a problem communicating his ideas. Whatever his flaws, Alexander did bring to Western a love of the institution and a vision of what the institution could become.

But Alexander’s leadership foundered because that vision was simply not compatible with the nature of Western’s mission. The regionals, with their roles in undergraduate education and public service, are critically important to Kentucky’s future. But these institutions are not empires waiting to be built, and any president who does not accept that cannot succeed. That’s something for the Western regents to bear in mind as they begin the search for Alexander’s successor.

--Herald-Leader
Lexington

Extreme negativism directed at Alexander

Some significant steps seem to have been taken to erase the dirty word that has been flying about Western Kentucky University’s campus since March. 15. People who wait to make up their minds until they are sure they know what they are talking about are surely relieved to hear both President Kern Alexander and the College Heights Herald adviser saying the same thing: Both express confidence in the ad hoc publications committee and its ability to recommend policies and procedures that will violate no one’s rights and be acceptable to all.

But these steps should come as a great relief to a campus where there are enough problems (for example, state funding) without distortions and unmerited media attacks. Notice the word “unmerited”. Justifiable attacks for real transgressions are always appropriate. Quibbles, as faculty regent Eugene Evans has pointed out, may be embarrassing; but it is more embarrassing not to have questions when there is cause. In this case, no one who has read the report of the ad hoc publications committee, or the memos from Alexander, or heard his presentations at special sessions of the College Senate or the board of regents can claim that the charge of censorship has any basis in fact. Certainly, none of the board members did. Alexander has the full support of the board, which includes a publisher/journalist and elected representatives from the faculty and the students. Whether the student newspaper organized a vendetta against the president (as many believe) and whether its staff circulated unfounded rumors to the media in general, every reader of the College Heights Herald has noticed the extreme negativism directed against Alexander and all his projects — a negativity that suggests to some that student editors may be far more controlled than they are willing or able to recognize.

Alexander has not proposed adding a faculty presence where no faculty presence existed. He proposes codifying and defining policies and establishing a budget. A campus newspaper helps shape and define opinion for the entire university community. This responsibility must be treated with utmost seriousness. One would think this seriousness of purpose would prevail even in student newspapers that use state funds or facilities. Alexander has agreed that adviser may be a more appropriate term than editor; nevertheless, it is not the title itself that is crucial. The definition of the role is crucial. At present, no clear-cut definition for this role or others exists.

The recently presented Faculty Senate resolution states that student publications should be under no editorial constraints except the “constraints of responsible journalism.” We endorse that stand.

FRED MURPHY
Faculty Senate Chairman
MARY ELLEN MILLER
Former Faculty Regent
THOMAS P. COBBL
Former Faculty Senate Chairman
WILLIAM G. BUCKMAN
Former Faculty Regent
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green
Alexander resigns as Western's president

FROM PUBLISHED REPORTS

Western Kentucky University President and Marrowbone native Dr. Kern Alexander announced Monday that he plans to resign to take a position at Virginia Tech.

The position—a Distinguished Professorship—offers lifetime tenure, more widespread prestige and an increase in salary from the $83,000 a year he is being paid as WKU's president, said Alexander.

"The job is something that just comes along once in a lifetime," he said. "I've agonized over the decision, and I've found I don't have any choice."

Alexander, 48, is a nationally recognized expert on school financing and administration. He has lobbied with the state legislators about various issues facing education and for more funding for every educational level.

Alexander was installed as Western's seventh president in December 1985, replacing Donald Zacharias who accepted the presidency of Mississippi State University.

The announcement by Alexander caught many by surprise, since he had stated recently that he would stay at Western the remaining two years of his contract.

While at Western, Alexander led an aggressive recruiting campaign for students that set university attendance records, established strong relationships with area schools, and expanded Western's course offerings at the Glasgow campus.

Alexander has stated he would stay at Western as long as necessary to help with the transition of his successor.

A special Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for April 19 to discuss the replacement of Alexander.

Western president submits resignation

Western Kentucky University President Dr. Kern Alexander submitted his resignation Monday and will accept a position with Virginia Tech as a distinguished service professor.

Dr. Alexander has been in the middle of controversy since he made recent recommendations for administrative changes in the college newspaper and yearbook. Charges of censorship were made against Dr. Alexander, but he denied he intended censorship.

He has also been criticized for proposing a community college in Glasgow.

Said Ronald Clark of Franklin, the vice-chairman of the Western Board of Regents: "I'm shocked, saddened and disappointed that a man of his caliber would kind of gladly leave Western for another position based upon the fact that he made some decisions at Western, and he's getting some hard knocks. This job opportunity came along at Virginia Tech. It's one that is a lifetime job and has no pressure. I don't think he really wanted to take it. But I think at the present time, he feels like there is so much negative remarks going on about his administration that he'll never have the opportunity to do what he wants to do. So, he decided he's move on to greener pastures."

Dr. Alexander took the $83,000-a-year job in December 1985 and still has 1.5 years left on his contract. He said he plans to stay at Western until a smooth transition is made.
Publications review to continue despite Alexander’s departure

BOWLING GREEN (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander’s much-criticized plan for a review of student publications will continue even though he is leaving the school, officials said.

“If it’s allowed to drop, a lot of questions will remain unanswered,” said Nancy Green, publisher of the Palladium-Item of Richmond, Ind., who has been asked by Alexander to conduct the review.

Alexander will remain “active and involved” in the review despite his plans to leave this summer for a position at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, said Stephen House, executive assistant to the president.

House said Alexander hopes the publications review will be completed by August. He also said Alexander plans to appoint a panel of professionals to review Ms. Green’s recommendations and findings.

Ms. Green said Alexander asked her to come up with ideas for the publications. “I was not given any specific instructions about the outcome of what I was to do,” she said.

Alexander, WKU president since 1985, created a storm of controversy March 15 when he announced plans to install faculty editors at the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school’s award-winning student newspaper and yearbook.

He announced Monday that he will leave to take a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. He said he tentatively plans to leave July 1 but that he will stay on as president until WKU regents name a replacement.

“Ms. Green said she is waiting to get information from the university about publications policies, operations, staffing and oversight before she interviews faculty members and students.

She hopes to be able to submit her recommendations by mid-May, she said.

Ms. Green’s ideas will be reviewed by a panel of about 10 professional journalists and educators, who have not yet been appointed, House said.

Robert Adams, the Herald’s faculty advisor and the interim director of student publications, said he does not think Alexander’s decision to leave will have a significant impact on the review.

Alexander says he plans to resign that position to accept a job as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech University.

He noted that he hopes to leave by the start of the 1988-89 school year this August, but added he will remain at Western for as long as it is necessary to ensure a smooth transition period for his successor.

No speculation has been made yet as to who might be selected to take the position of president at Western.

Born in Mrowborne, Kentucky, Alexander returned to Kentucky in 1985 when he accepted the position at WKU, leaving a position with a Florida university.

Reportedly, the job at Virginia Tech offers Alexander a lifetime tenure, more widespread prestige and a “substantial” increase in salary over his current pay of $83,000 a year.

Alexander to resign top post at WKU

Kern Alexander, President of Western Kentucky University and a native of neighboring Cumberland County, announced this week that he plans to leave the Bowling Green, Kentucky-based institution of higher learning.

Alexander says he plans to resign that position to accept a job as a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech University.

He noted that he hopes to leave by the start of the 1988-89 school year this August, but added he will remain at Western for as long as it is necessary to ensure a smooth transition period for his successor.

No speculation has been made yet as to who might be selected to take the position of president at Western.

Born in Mrowborne, Kentucky, Alexander returned to Kentucky in 1985 when he accepted the position at WKU, leaving a position with a Florida university.

Reportedly, the job at Virginia Tech offers Alexander a lifetime tenure, more widespread prestige and a “substantial” increase in salary over his current pay of $83,000 a year.

Plan to review publications at WKU to continue

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander’s much-criticized plan for a review of student publications will continue even though he is leaving the school, officials said.

“If it’s allowed to drop, a lot of questions will remain unanswered,” said Nancy Green, publisher of the Palladium-Item of Richmond, Ind., who has been asked by Alexander to conduct the review.

Alexander will remain “active and involved” in the review despite his plans to leave this summer for a position at Virginia Polytechnic and State University, said Stephen House, executive assistant to the president.

House said Alexander hopes the publications review will be completed by August. He also said Alexander plans to appoint a panel of professionals to review Ms. Green’s recommendations and findings.

Ms. Green said Alexander asked her to come up with ideas for the publications. “I was not given any specific instructions about the outcome of what I was to do,” she said.

Alexander, WKU president since 1985, created a storm of controversy March 15 when he announced plans to install faculty editors at the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school’s award-winning student newspaper and yearbook.

He announced Monday that he will leave to take a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. He said he tentatively plans to leave July 1 but that he will stay on as president until WKU regents name a replacement.

Ms. Green said she is waiting to get information from the university about publications policies, operations, staffing and oversight before she interviews faculty members and students.

She hopes to be able to submit her recommendations by mid-May, she said.

Ms. Green’s ideas will be reviewed by a panel of about 10 professional journalists and educators, who have not yet been appointed, House said.

Robert Adams, the Herald’s faculty advisor and the interim director of student publications, said he does not think Alexander’s decision to leave will have a significant impact on the review.

“I don’t think anything detrimental to the newspaper will happen between now and the time the president leaves,” he said.

The review began with a committee meeting March 15, at which Alexander announced that he wanted faculty editors installed at the Herald and Talisman, which now are edited by students. He also said he wanted students to get academic credit for work on the paper and a faculty and student advisory committee to have greater involvement in the publications.

Alexander formed a subcommittee to draw up the details for implementing his proposals.

The reaction from some faculty members — in journalism and other disciplines — students and professionals was negative.

Students marched on the administration building in protest, and the Society of Professional Journalists sent a fact-finding team to campus.
WKU president Alexander leaving post for Virginia Tech

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kem Alexander said recent controversies at the school had no part in his decision to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech.

"I want to make that very clear. We have had a controversy a month since I have been here. That is just part of being president... that is the nature of the beast..." said Perry.

Alexander recently drew controversy for proposed changes in the oversight of student publications and the expansion of class offerings at WKU's Glasgow campus.

"We have an openness and a willingness to work with people," he told the Bowling Green Daily News, which reported first word of his departure Monday.

Alexander recently drew controversy for proposed changes in the oversight of student publications and the expansion of class offerings at WKU's Glasgow campus.

Alexander, a native of Marrowbone, Ky., said he informed the WKU board of regents in a series of discussions that he intends to leave his $83,000-per-year job to become one of a dozen distinguished professors at the Blacksburg, Va., university.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the WKU board of regents, said Alexander "was an extremely innovative president and definitely delivered the momentum to Western that was needed at the time."

Iracane called a special meeting of the board for April 19 in response to Alexander's departure.

John Perry, Virginia Tech interim executive vice president and provost, said Alexander will become a member of the faculty July 1.

"We have been interested for some time in Dr. Alexander. He is a nationally prominent figure in the field of public education finance...", said Perry.

Alexander, who became WKU president in December 1985 and has 1 1/2 years remaining on a four-year contract, said he will remain at WKU as long as regents think necessary to ensure an orderly transition for a new president.

Virginia Tech offered Alexander the position last month, but he said he delayed reaching a decision until the end of the 1988 General Assembly session.

Immediately after the legislative session, Alexander said, he decided the Virginia Tech position was the best thing for him to do. He also talked with James Buchanan, who won a Nobel Prize in economics in 1986 while he was a university distinguished professor at Virginia Tech. Buchanan spoke at Western in February.

"I certainly discussed the position with him and that was one factor in my decision," Alexander said.

"I have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with my board. They have unambiguously supported every initiative I have undertaken and they have provided well-reasoned, thoughtful guidance for my administration," he said.

Alexander said he thinks improved faculty morale has been his most important contribution to the university.

"I don't believe it is low now. We have taken on a spirit of looking forward. We have set our sights on goals that enhance and broaden our programs," he said.

He said other contributions of his administration include higher enrollment, expanded evening and off-campus offerings and academically stronger freshman classes.

"This has been a darn good 1 1/2 years. Western is a much stronger institution," he said.
Alexander plans to leave Western

From Page One

March 20 that Alexander would stay at Western until his contract expired in 1990, but he said he did not say that. Alexander said the controversies since he was named Western's seventh president in December 1985 had nothing to do with his decision to leave.

"We've had an issue a month since I've been here. I would expect before I leave here we'll have a few more," he said.

That's just part of the job of being a university president." Alexander sparked early criticism with some of his appointments to administrative posts.

There were also a flap over an attempt by Western to move Robert Penn Warren's boyhood home to Bowling Green from Todd County.

Alexander said he did not do a poor job of communicating. "There hasn't been a failure to communicate. There's been a failure to listen, perhaps," he said.

Alexander said that he hoped to leave Western by the beginning of the next school year in August, but that he would stay as long as necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

Clark said he saw no problem with Alexander's being released from his contract, saying it would be wrong to hold him back.

Clark said that the state needed to do a comprehensive review of its taxing system and the coordination of state and local spending plans and "bite the bullet" to come up with more taxes.

Among the reasons he gave for his decision was the bleak outlook for education funding in Kentucky. "Higher education and education in general in Kentucky is facing a fairly grim future if we don't face some problems," he said.

He said the state needed to do a comprehensive review of its taxing system and spending plans and "bite the bullet" to come up with more taxes.

Alexander to leave Western

for post at Virginia Tech

By Bill Estep
South-central Kentucky bureau

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, who has often been at the center of controversy, yesterday announced plans to resign and take a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech.

Alexander said the job was clearly a better position than the presidency at Western, offering lifetime tenure, more widespread prestige and a "substantial" salary increase from his current pay of $83,000 a year.

This is something that just comes along once in a lifetime," he said. "I've agonized over the decision, and I've just found I don't have any choice."

He also said the position would allow him to define his own work.

"I've never had the freedom to say, 'What would you like to do with your time,'" he said.

Alexander, 48, a nationally recognized expert on school financing and administration, said he hoped to play a role in state education policies.

Alexander said Virginia Tech offered him the job last year, although he did not apply for it. He said he put off a decision until after the 1988 Kentucky General Assembly.

The decision to leave came as a surprise. The Louisville Courier-Journal reported

"Alexander says job like his new one "comes along once in a lifetime.""
**Western University’s President Alexander leaving for new spot**

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said recent controversies at the school had no part in his decision to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech.

"I want to make that very clear. We have had a controversy a month since I have been here. That is just part of being president. That is the nature of the beast. I have had to deal with many issues and my successor will have to deal with many," he told the Bowling Green Daily News, which reported first word of his departure Monday.

Alexander recently drew controversy for proposed changes in the oversight of student publications and the expansion of class offerings at WKU's Glasgow campus.

Alexander, 48, a native of Marrowbone, Ky., said he informed the WKU board of regents in a series of discussions that he intends to leave his $88,000-per-year job to become one of a dozen distinguished professors at Virginia Tech.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the WKU board of regents, said Alexander "was an extremely innovative president and definitely delivered the momentum to Western that was needed at the time."

Iracane called a special meeting of the board for April 19 in response to Alexander's departure.

John Perry, Virginia Tech interim executive vice president and provost, said Alexander will become a member of the faculty July 1.

"We have been interested for some time in Dr. Alexander. He is a nationally prominent figure in the field of public education finance," said Perry.

Alexander, who became WKU president in December 1985 and still has 1½ years remaining on a four-year contract, said he will remain at WKU as long as regents think necessary to ensure an orderly transition for a new president.

Virginia Tech's distinguished professors decide what work they will do with the general aim being to advance the university.

"I will be totally free to help the university," said Alexander. "That is the nature of the position."

Perry said the duties will be "to maintain a high level of scholarly research doing work with students, especially graduate students, in developing research in the field in which he is an expert."

Although he has not decided on a specific area of work, Alexander cited his interest in state government and said he hopes to be involved in state government educational policies.

Virginia Tech offered Alexander the position last month, but he said he delayed reaching a decision until the end of the 1988 General Assembly session.

Immediately after the legislative session, Alexander said, he decided the Virginia Tech position was the best thing for him to do. He also talked with James Buchanan, who won a Nobel Prize in economics in 1986 while he was a university distinguished professor at Virginia Tech. Buchanan spoke at Western in February.

"Certainly I discussed the position with him and that was one factor in my decision," Alexander said.

"I have enjoyed a wonderful relationship with my board. They have unanimously supported every initiative I have undertaken and they have provided well-reasoned, thoughtful guidance for my administration," he said.

Alexander said he thinks improved faculty morale has been his most important contribution to the university.

"I don't believe it is low now. We have taken on a spirit of looking forward. We have set our sights on goals that enhance and broaden our programs," he said.

He said other contributions of his administration include higher enrollment, expanded evening and off-campus offerings and academically stronger freshman classes.

"This has been a darn good 2½ years. Western is a much stronger institution," he said.
Alexander reportedly turns down offer

BOWLING GREEN (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander will not leave his post to accept a prestigious offer from Virginia Tech, according to a published report.

"The fact that there have been offers of jobs doesn't compromise his leadership position at Western," Joe Iracane, chairman of Western's Board of Regents, said in Monday's editions of The Courier-Journal.

The Louisville newspaper had reported Sunday that Alexander, who has been Western Kentucky's president since December 1985, was considering leaving to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

But the president will not leave Western before his four-year contract expires Jan. 14, 1990, Iracane said Sunday after meeting with Alexander.

The president could not be reached for comment.

Alexander's decision to stay on at Western does not mean he has turned the Blacksburg, Va., school down for good, Iracane said.

"He's not in a position to accept or turn it down," Iracane told the newspaper on Sunday. "There are other offers and other things involved. He doesn't want to be forced into making a decision at this time."

Distinguished professors at Virginia Tech — of which the school has 15 — carry the rank of full professor with tenure. Alexander's current salary is $83,904.

Iracane said Alexander has received several offers but would not elaborate on them. "He did not apply for any of these positions," Iracane said. "He was nominated."

Alexander reportedly turns down offer

President Kern Alexander has been in Frankfort this week to meet with lawmakers about Western's state appropriation for the next two years.

"He's not in a position to accept or turn it down," Iracane told the newspaper on Sunday. "There are other offers and other things involved. He doesn't want to be forced into making a decision at this time."

Distinguished professors at Virginia Tech — of which the school has 15 — carry the rank of full professor with tenure. Alexander's current salary is $83,904.

Iracane said Alexander has received several offers but would not elaborate on them. "He did not apply for any of these positions," Iracane said. "He was nominated."

Alexander, 45, was the prime choice of a faculty panel at Virginia Tech, which conducted a nationwide search for a top educator last year to fill the post, said University of Kentucky President David P. Roselle, who was the Virginia school's provost until he assumed the UK helm last June.

Alexander is a nationally recognized expert in school finance and has been a consultant in that area to numerous states.

Robert Smith, dean of Virginia Tech's College of Education, said last week that no official action had been taken on hiring Alexander, but he said faculty members were "absolutely overwhelmed" by Alexander's academic achievements.

Iracane said controversies surrounding the president were not a factor in whether or not Alexander would accept another job offer.

Last week, Alexander announced plans to install faculty editors to oversee the student newspaper and yearbook — a move that has been widely condemned by journalists and educators.

Iracane said he supports the president's plans.

"He has researched the matter, and it's in the best interest of the university," the regent said.

Iracane would not take a firm stance on Alexander's future at Western, but said, "I hope he's going to be at Western forever."

The issue will come before the board of regents at their next meeting, scheduled for April 26.

Iracane said Alexander and the regents "will weigh the situation down the road."
Faculty editors to stay, WKU president says

BOWLING GREEN (AP) — President Kern Alexander of Western Kentucky University said he won't change his mind about installing faculty editors for the college's newspaper and yearbook despite criticism of the plan.

Alexander said Tuesday the faculty editors would review stories for the College Heights Herald prior to their publication.

The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi; the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

Alexander said Thursday he would not change his approach.

"Of the biggest concern, the creation of a faculty editor," Alexander said, "there is nothing wrong with faculty review."

He also denied that his plans amounted to censorship, a concern some have expressed, citing stories the newspaper has printed that have been critical of Alexander.

"Nothing I've suggested would lead anyone to say that unless they're motivated for some reason to attack what we're trying to do," he said.

Alexander said that under his plan there would never be a situation where a president would exercise prior restraint over the student newspaper.

He merely wants broader student involvement, clearer financial and administrative responsibilities, and some kind of academic status, Alexander said.

Faculty and students rejected the last point, saying that turning the newspaper into a classroom project would destroy its reputation.

Alexander said his model for the student publications was the approach of David B. Whitaker, who was director of university publications from 1970 until he retired last July.

Delta Chi; the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi; the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

No major changes in the way the newspaper is being run were deemed necessary by a faculty committee that Alexander told to review Herald policies last November. Alexander said Tuesday, however, that changes are needed. He enumerated what they are and appointed a subcommittee that is to report back by March 30.

The subcommittee, coordinated by the head of WKU's journalism department, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, met for the first time Friday.

Albers said Thursday that she did not think Alexander's plans were final and that the subcommittee's findings and the opinions of the full committee probably won't parallel what the Western Kentucky president said Tuesday.

Alexander said Thursday he would not change his approach.

"Of the biggest concern, the creation of a faculty editor," Alexander said, "there is nothing wrong with faculty review."

He also denied that his plans amounted to censorship, a concern some have expressed, citing stories the newspaper has published that have been critical of Alexander.

"Nothing I've suggested would lead anyone to say that unless they're motivated for some reason to attack what we're trying to do," he said.

Alexander said that under his plan there would never be a situation where a president would exercise prior restraint over the student newspaper.

He merely wants broader student involvement, clearer financial and administrative responsibilities, and some kind of academic status, Alexander said.

Faculty and students rejected the last point, saying that turning the newspaper into a classroom project would destroy its reputation.

Alexander said his model for the student publications was the approach of David B. Whitaker, who was director of university publications from 1970 until he retired last July.

Delta Chi; the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi; the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

No major changes in the way the newspaper is being run were deemed necessary by a faculty committee that Alexander told to review Herald policies last November. Alexander said Tuesday, however, that changes are needed. He enumerated what they are and appointed a subcommittee that is to report back by March 30.

The subcommittee, coordinated by the head of WKU's journalism department, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, met for the first time Friday.

Albers said Thursday that she did not think Alexander's plans were final and that the subcommittee's findings and the opinions of the full committee probably won't parallel what the Western Kentucky president said Tuesday.

Alexander said Thursday he would not change his approach.

"Of the biggest concern, the creation of a faculty editor," Alexander said, "there is nothing wrong with faculty review."

He also denied that his plans amounted to censorship, a concern some have expressed, citing stories the newspaper has published that have been critical of Alexander.

"Nothing I've suggested would lead anyone to say that unless they're motivated for some reason to attack what we're trying to do," he said.

Alexander said that under his plan there would never be a situation where a president would exercise prior restraint over the student newspaper.

He merely wants broader student involvement, clearer financial and administrative responsibilities, and some kind of academic status, Alexander said.

Faculty and students rejected the last point, saying that turning the newspaper into a classroom project would destroy its reputation.

Alexander said his model for the student publications was the approach of David B. Whitaker, who was director of university publications from 1970 until he retired last July.
Press repression at WKU

We are appalled at the blatant attempt by Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander to control the content of the university's award-winning student newspaper, the College Heights Herald. Apparently upset about stories in the student newspaper that he considers unfavorable, Alexander has proposed appointing faculty editors for both the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school's yearbook. The faculty editor would have the ultimate authority in deciding which stories were published in the student newspaper, which means the faculty adviser now does not have final authority.

In calling for a faculty editor, Alexander is ignoring the recommendations of a faculty committee that had last year reviewed student publications. That committee recommended no substantial changes in the operation of newspaper and yearbook.

However, Alexander has called the committee back and directed it to develop plans for faculty editors. He has also said he will give academic credit to students working on the newspaper, limit the student staff to those receiving credit, and increase the power of the university's publications committee. What is the use of the president appointing a committee if Alexander is going to dictate what the committee decides? For the protection of their own credibility, the committee members should refuse to go along with this sham.

The College Heights Herald is not an irresponsible "scandal sheet." In our view, it is the best college newspaper in Kentucky. Its editors and reporters refused to be public relations tools for the university. Instead, they provide WKU students with hard-hitting stories that require excellent reporting.

We have the highest esteem for the journalism program at WKU. We base much of that opinion on the quality of WKU students who have come to work for this newspaper. Western consistently produces skilled journalists who have the desire to immediately have a positive impact as professional journalists. We think they picked up a lot of those practical skills by working on the College Heights Herald.

The College Heights Herald is an outstanding learning ground for students because it gives them the freedom to make their own decisions and pursue the stories they think other students want to read. In addition to unwisely stifling freedom of the press, Alexander's recommendations would damage both an outstanding student newspaper and journalism program.

When someone in power attempts to stifle the press, it is a sure sign of the abuse of that power.

WKU official: 'Nothing wrong with faculty review'

BOWLING GREEN (AP) - President Kern Alexander of Western Kentucky University said he won't change his mind about installing faculty editors for the college's newspaper and yearbook despite criticism of the plan.

Alexander said Tuesday that the faculty editors would review stories for the College Heights Herald prior to their publication. The national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, the editorial director of USA Today; and two former College Heights Herald faculty advisers denounced Alexander's decision.

No major changes in the way the newspaper is being run were deemed necessary by a faculty committee that Alexander told to review Herald policies last November. Alexander said Tuesday, however, that changes are needed. He enumerated what they are and appointed a subcommittee that is to report back by March 30.

The subcommittee, chaired by the head of WKU's journalism department, Jo-Ann Huff Albers, met for the first time Friday.

Ms. Albers said Thursday that she did not think Alexander's plans were final and that the subcommittee's findings and the opinions of the full committee probably won't parallel what the Western Kentucky president said Tuesday.

Alexander said Thursday that he would not change his approach.

Of the biggest concern, the creation of a faculty editor, Alexander said, "There is nothing wrong with faculty review."

Also denied that he plans amounted to censorship, a concern some have expressed, citing stories the newspaper has published that have been critical of Alexander.

"Nothing I've suggested would lead anyone to say that unless they're motivated for some reason to attack what we're trying to do," he said.

Alexander said that under his plan there would never be a situation where a president would exercise prior restraint over the student newspaper.

He merely wants broader student involvement, clearer financial and administrative responsibilities and some kind of academic status, Alexander said.

Faculty and students rejected the last point, saying that turning the newspaper into a classroom project would destroy its reputation. Alexander said his model for the student publications was the approach of David B. Whittaker, who was director of university publications from 1970 until he retired last July.

But Friday, Whittaker said, "I never edited the copy, and I didn't make it a point to read copy."

Whittaker called Alexander's plans "purely a violation of the First Amendment," which guarantees freedom of speech and of the press.

"Clearly Western does nothing better than journalism — the awards prove it — so why does he want to change it?" said Whittaker.

Jody Richards, faculty adviser to the Herald from 1964 to 1970, said he did not edit copy either and added that he also disagrees with what Alexander has proposed, saying it would result in censorship.

Alexander: Censorship 'not intended'

BOWLING GREEN (AP) - Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says his proposal for more administrative control of the student newspaper and yearbook is meant to buffer — not censor — the publications.

"There have been some world records established as far as leaps to conclusion. I have never heard such wild conjecture as I have heard," he said.

Alexander said there is little difference between his proposed faculty editors for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman and the faculty advisers they have now.

He made his proposal Tuesday to a faculty committee that had recommended making no substantial changes in operations. Robert Adams, faculty adviser to the Herald, said the title of faculty editor seems to imply the faculty member would have a final say in the newspaper's content — something from which he says he steers clear. "I think there's a great misconception I determine the content of the newspaper...that's just not so," Adams said.
 Alexander: Newspaper plan misunderstood at Western

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said his proposals for more administrative control over the student newspaper and yearbook have been mislabeled as an attempt at censorship.

"There have been some world records established as far as leaps to conclusion. I have never heard such wild conjecture as I have heard," he said Wednesday.

"Right now ... if the president wanted to censor the student newspaper there couldn't be a better arrangement. What I proposed is the opposite of that — something that would create a buffer between the (newspaper) and the administration."

Alexander said there is little difference between his proposed faculty editors for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman and the faculty advisers they have now.

He made his proposal Tuesday to a faculty committee that had recommended making no substantial changes in the publications' operations.

He also instructed the committee to expand WKU's publications committee, which would have the task of appointing faculty editors. The faculty editors would then appoint student editors, who are now chosen by their predecessors and faculty advisers.

Robert Adams, faculty adviser to the Herald, said the title of faculty editor seems to imply the faculty member would have a final say in the newspaper's content — something from which he says he steers clear.

"I think there's a great misconception that I determine the content of the newspaper ... that's just not so," Adams said.

"(People) outside of journalism, particularly if they deal with students, sometimes don't understand the concept. They think we should be able to tell students what not to do — because they can tell people to do that."

The Herald has, at times, drawn criticism from the WKU administration. Last spring, university officials labeled the newspaper as insensitive for an article it published about a black, unwed mother who gave birth to her second child the week before the article ran in the Herald's magazine section. The article and pictures stirred protests by black students.

Alexander said his proposals stemmed partly from his desire for stronger organization and better fiscal control of the publications.

The Herald operates on advertising and circulation revenues of about $122,000 a year. The university supplies the building space and utilities, as well as faculty-related costs, Alexander said. Faculty advisers are allowed to reduce their teaching duties by one or two classes a semester, Alexander said, which adds up to one-quarter to one-half of their salaries being used indirectly for the student publications.

"Money control is always a concern of ours," Alexander said. "We have to be fiscally responsible and try to stretch our dollars every way we can."

The Herald is a three-time winner of the national Pacemaker Award, the highest award given by the Associated Collegiate Press. The Talisman has won national honors every year since the mid-1970s.
More publication control sought

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says his order for more administrative control over the school's nationally recognized student newspaper and yearbook is not an attempt to muzzle them.

A faculty committee reviewed student publications last November and recommended no changes, but Alexander called the committee together Tuesday and said he wanted his recommendations implemented by the fall semester.

"There's a definite relation between what he did today and what we've written about him in the past," said Carla Harris, editor of the College Heights Herald.

Much of Tuesday's controversy centered on Alexander's proposal for faculty editors of the College Heights Herald and the Talisman, the school's yearbook. Neither publication has such a position now.

Alexander also directed the committee to expand the university's publications committee and give it the power to appoint the faculty editors, who in turn would appoint the student editors. Student members of the committee would be appointed by the president of the student government.

Western president defends proposals

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says his order for more administrative control of the student newspaper and yearbook is meant to buffer — not censor — the publications.

"There have been some world records established as far as leaps to conclusion. I have never heard such wild conjecture as I have heard," he said.

"Right now ... if the president wanted to censor the student newspaper there couldn't be a better arrangement. What I proposed is the opposite of that — something that would create a buffer between the (newspaper) and the administration."

Alexander said there is little difference between his proposed faculty editors for the College Heights Herald and the Talisman and the faculty advisors they have now.

He made his proposal Tuesday to a faculty committee that had recommended making no substantial changes in the publications' operations.

He also instructed the committee to expand Western's publications committee, which would have the task of appointing faculty editors. The faculty editors would then appoint student editors, who are now chosen by their predecessors and faculty advisors.

Robert Adams, faculty adviser to the Herald, said the title of faculty editor seems to imply the faculty member would have a final say in the newspaper's content — something from which he says he steers clear.

"I think there's a great misconception that I determine the content of the newspaper ... that's just not so," Adams said. "(People) outside of journalism, particularly if they deal with students, sometimes don't understand the concept. They think we should be able to tell students what not to do — because they can tell people to do that."

Carla Harris, editor of the Herald, said she believes the newspaper's criticism of several of Western's administrative moves helped prompt Alexander's proposals.

The Herald has, at times, drawn criticism from the Western administration. Last spring, university officials labeled the newspaper as insensitive for an article it published about a black, unwed mother who gave birth to her second child the week before the article ran in the Herald's magazine section. The article and pictures stirred protests by black students.

Alexander said his proposals stemmed partly from his desire for stronger organization and better fiscal control of the publications.

The Herald operates on advertising and circulation revenues of about $122,000 a year. The university supplies the building space and utilities, as well as faculty-related costs, Alexander said. Faculty advisers are allowed to reduce their teaching duties by one or two classes a semester, Alexander said, which adds up to one-quarter to one-half of their salaries being used indirectly for the student publications.
WKU president gives plans

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, against the recommendation of a faculty committee, wants more faculty and administration involvement in the school's nationally recognized student newspaper and yearbook. Alexander called the committee back Tuesday and directed it to draw up plans to:

1. Establish faculty editors of the College Heights Herald and Talisman. No such position currently exists on either publication.

2. Expand the university's publications committee and give it the power to appoint the faculty editors, who in turn would appoint the student editors. Student members of the committee would be appointed by the president of the student government.

3. Give academic credit for working on the newspaper and yearbook, and limit the student staff to those receiving credit.

Alexander said he wants the plan implemented for the fall semester.

WKU accused of muzzling student paper

Bowling Green, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he wants expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally recognized student newspaper, a move some say is an attempt to muzzle the feisty publication.

"There's a definite relation between what he did today and what we've written about him in the past," said Carla Harris, editor of the College Heights Herald.

Monday's Tuesday's controversy centered on Alexander's proposal for faculty editors of the Herald and the Talisman, the school's yearbook. Neither publication has such a position now. Instead they have faculty advisers, who do not control editorial comment.

Alexander said the new position would be little different from the one that exists now.

But Robert Adams, the faculty adviser, said: "I have no control over the content of the paper. The student editors determine that."

Last November, a faculty committee that Alexander instructed to review student publications recommended no substantial changes in their operations.

"But Tuesday, Alexander called the committee back and directed it to draw up plans for the faculty editors. He also directed it — Expand the university's publications committee and give it the power to appoint the faculty editors, who in turn would appoint the student editors.

Student members of the committee would be appointed by the president of the student government.

— Give academic credit for working on the newspaper and yearbook, and limit the student staff to those receiving credit.

Alexander said he wants the plan implemented for the fall semester.

The newspaper has the circulation of 10,000, and most of its expenses are paid with advertising and circulation revenue, which amounted to $121,824 last year. Staff members are now paid higher wages — amounting to about $45 over a two-week period for a senior reporter — instead of receiving college credit.

Alexander proposed giving credit instead, saying the newspaper is no different from a chemistry lab. He compared it further to sports teams, saying, "You don't pay basketball players; you give them a scholarship."

Albers warned that accreditation requirements limit the amount of credit given for experience, meaning the paper would be run by students with little experience.

"This isn't a laboratory; this is a newspaper," Ms. Harris said.

The faculty editor would be appointed by an advisory committee, which Alexander made clear would have a substantial role in the newspaper. "I would see this committee as one that would be able to sit and talk with the faculty editor about the breadth and scope of the publication," he told the faculty committee.

Giving a committee of faculty members from each of the university's five colleges a role in the newspaper would open the publications for more points of view, he said.

"How could this limit (independence) if we're getting more people involved?" Alexander said after the meeting, adding, "I don't see any problems with the newspaper right now at all."

In 1981, 1982 and 1984, the Herald won the national Pacemaker Award, the top award of the Associated Collegiate Press. The Talisman has won similar honors every year since the mid-1970s.
**Alexander tells local Rotarians about need for educational funding**

By Robyn Libs

Russeville Rotarians heard Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander talk with Russeville Rotarian Joe Coursey Thursday. Alexander spoke to the club about the need for more funding for education.

"We're getting less money to expand our services," later Alexander added that Western will have to struggle to maintain the status quo in the services shattering of classes. That is one reason why Glasgow is now an extended campus for Western. Alexander says the amount of student interest there justified the campus.

Alexander says another problem in Kentucky education is Kentucky ranks at the bottom in numbers of these professionals. There is one scientist for every 279 people compared to Ohio with one for every 134 people. In Kentucky, there is only one engineer for every 469 people. Ohio has one for every 200.

The newspaper has covered the controversy over Alexander's plans for a campus in Glasgow, faculty concerns over his appointments of administrators and his failure to appear at a meeting between university presidents and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Jo-Ann Haff Albers, who heads the journalism department and is on the committee drawing up the plans, said: "I personally don't feel it appropriate for a faculty editor to make editorial decisions. We're trying to teach the students to make decisions on their own."

The Herald and Talisman faculty advisers provide "steady guidance" and stop student journalists "when they're going astray," she said.

The paper has a circulation of 10,000, and most of its expenses are paid with advertising and circulation revenue, which amounted to $22,854 last year.

Staff members are now paid meager wages — amounting to about $45 over a two-week period for a senior reporter — instead of receiving college credit.

Alexander proposed giving credit for faculty editors of the Herald. The Herald and Talisman faculty members are "steady advisers" for faculty editors of the Herald. The Talisman, the school's yearbook, has not had a faculty adviser, said: "I have no control over the content of the paper. The student editors determine that."

Last November, a faculty committee that Alexander instructed to consider student publications rece-

**BOWLING GREEN (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander says he wants expanded faculty and administrative involvement in the school's nationally recognized student newspaper, a move some say is an attempt to muzzle the feisty publication.**

"There's a definite relation between what he did today and what we've written about him in the past," said Carla Harris, editor of the College Heights Herald.

Much of Tuesday's controversy centered on Alexander's proposal for faculty editors of the Herald and the Talisman, the school's yearbook. Neither publication has such a position now. Instead they have faculty advisers, who do not control editorial comment.

Alexander said the new position would be little different from the one that exists now. But Robert Adams, the faculty adviser, said: "I have no control over the content of the paper. The student editors determine that."

The newspaper has covered the controversy over Alexander's plans for a campus in Glasgow, faculty concerns over his appointments of administrators and his failure to appear at a meeting between university presidents and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Jo-Ann Haff Albers, who heads the journalism department and is on the committee drawing up the plans, said: "I personally don't feel it appropriate for a faculty editor to make editorial decisions. We're trying to teach the students to make decisions on their own."

The Herald and Talisman faculty advisers provide "steady guidance" and stop student journalists "when they're going astray," she said.

The paper has a circulation of 10,000, and most of its expenses are paid with advertising and circulation revenue, which amounted to $22,854 last year.

Staff members are now paid meager wages — amounting to about $45 over a two-week period for a senior reporter — instead of receiving college credit.

Alexander proposed giving credit for faculty editors of the Herald. The Herald and Talisman faculty members are "steady advisers" for faculty editors of the Herald. The Talisman, the school's yearbook, has not had a faculty adviser, said: "I have no control over the content of the paper. The student editors determine that."

Last November, a faculty committee that Alexander instructed to consider student publications rece-
WKU president, committee meet

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander discussed the university's desire to expand in Owensboro with members of the local Citizens Committee on Higher Education Thursday afternoon.

No decisions were made and the meeting was mainly a sounding board for Alexander and the board to let each know the interest is still there, said Mayor Dave Adkisson, the committee's research and development director.

Alexander said the General Assembly must come through with extra money before WKU can expand in Owensboro.
President of WKU finds controversy in change

By Bill Estep
South-central Kentucky bureau

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has done little to change the look of the office he moved into two years ago. The furniture is the same and so are the decorations, except for photographs of his four sons.

But the school he leads is undergoing dramatic changes:

• An aggressive recruiting campaign has brought near-record enrollments. Western passed Eastern Kentucky University last fall to become the state’s third-largest university, behind the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Western’s enrollment of first-time freshmen is the largest in the state, larger even than that at UK’s Lexington campus.

• Alexander’s ambitious plans for Western include almost 200 new teachers, more student housing, a new student recreation and health services building, and a hotel operated by the university.

• He is pushing to boost access to Western’s classes, with a new community college on the main campus and expanded off-campus offerings.

But Western’s move late last year to create a satellite campus 30 miles away in Glasgow caused the biggest controversy of Alexander’s presidency. Western was accused of trying to build an empire that would take state money away from other universities.

(Turn to CONTROVERSY, back page)
Controversy and change go together for WKU president

From Page One

And Western got into a well-publicized squabble with Guthrie, a small northern Kentucky county, over a plan to move the home where author and poet Robert Penn Warren was born from the town to the campus.

On campus, some teachers think Alexander's expansion plans are unrealistic because of the grim outlook for the state budget. They are concerned that state money might not keep pace with the rapid increase in students. Quality would be strained, they said.

Enrollment at Western jumped 105 percent last fall and is still growing. The school is expanding faster than at any time since the 1960s, when then-President Kelly Thompson transformed Maryville College, a sleepy college with 1,200 students, into a bustling regional university with 11,000 students.

Thompson, still a revered figure on campus, is impressed with Alexander.

"It looks to me like Western is in good hands," he said.

Questions about Glasgow

Others have not been so sure. Alexander raised eyebrows statewide when he announced in November that it planned to expand its course offerings in Glasgow into a full-fledged branch campus.

Questions were raised: How would the state pay for the branch campus? Would quality suffer? What would be the impact on Glasgow, a town of 60 miles east of Bowling Green, has the second-highest mortality rate in the state?

Alexander's philosophy also was shaped by his parents, both longtime educators who now live in Glasgow.

When he was growing up, Alexander said, the conversations in his family probably were different than those in many families.

"We always talked about what was going on in education." Alexander said public universities have a responsibility to encourage as many qualified students as possible to attend college.

He said people's fears that Western planned to build a new university at Glasgow were unfounded because a vacant elementary school, which it leases for $1 a month, is large enough to accommodate the programs.

He told the Council on Higher Education that Western would work with UK if money was ever approved for a Glasgow Community College.

The number of people taking classes this semester at Glasgow is 1,316, almost twice last semester's enrollment. An additional 361 students registered there but are taking classes in nearby counties.

Last fall, 2,886 first-time freshmen registered at Western, bringing total enrollment to 12,550.

While many classes at the university are full, there apparently have not been any student complaints from faculty members. But Alexander acknowledged that if Western continued to grow, the state would have to provide more money for its education needs.

If more money were not approved, the school could find itself in financial trouble. "They quality certainly would decline," he said.

He said the state needed to do more to support all state universities, not just Western.

Alexander is not simply trying to generate numbers, and recruiting qualified students is a priority, Alexander said.

Before Alexander's presentation in Frankfort last week, the council had decided that Western's Glasgow classes conformed to state guidelines.

Chairman Michael N. Harreld said Western's plans for Glasgow might be the most efficient way to serve students.

However, council members still have serious questions about Western's plans to offer four-year degrees at Glasgow.

The council ordered a comprehensive study of off-campus course offerings by Kentucky's public universities.

The study, which could affect thousands of students, will recommend ways to coordinate off-campus offerings by Kentucky universities. It could throw a wrench into Western's plans to offer degrees at Glasgow.

Communication problems

In Glasgow, many people said, was an example of the most consistent criticism of Alexander: that sometimes it has failed to communicate adequately about the university's plans.

People outside Western's area were not the only ones surprised by the announcement of the Glasgow campus.

"It would have been just a surprise to me, and I think to most people on campus," said Gene Jones, a professor in the management and marketing department who represents the faculty on Western's board of regents.

The Glasgow controversy could have been avoided had Alexander and others done a better job of explaining it at the outset, journalism instructor Bob Adams said.

"I don't think it was a good idea," Adams said. "I think it was a badly presented idea."

Faculty members say that Alexander sometimes has not communicated with the faculty as much as they would like, in part because of his demanding schedule.

Then there was Western's confrontation with Guthrie over the Robert Penn Warren house.

Some faculty members think Western did not communicate well with the town over the Guthrie house. Guthrie went on the defensive and was able to keep the house. Alexander acknowledged that if Western continued to grow, the state would have to provide more money for its education.

The true measure of how well a leader communicates is whether jobs get done and staff morale is high, Alexander said.

Fred Murphy, chairman of the Faculty Senate, said the faculty generally had a good relationship with Alexander, who said he supported the faculty in running the university.

"Can-do" management style

It took some faculty members and administrators a while to get used to Alexander's management style, though.

Associates said Alexander often studied an issue at length, but pushed for quick progress on what he had decided on a course of action.

The former Little All-America quarterback from Centre College can still stand in against opponents.

"I'm not afraid to hurt my feelings," Murphy said, "but better, Murphy said.

"I think there's a feeling we can accomplish things."
Plans such as Alexander's:
how to guarantee mediocrity

Kern Alexander simply refuses to understand the obvious.

On Monday, the Western Kentucky University president presented a case for Western's establishing a full-service campus at Glasgow to the state Council on Higher Education; at the same meeting, the council's members worked themselves into a lather about higher education's status as a prime target for budget cuts that will sink the system ever lower into poverty.

What's wrong with this picture? Adventures such as Alexander's, that's what. That's why the council plans to review off-campus offerings by Kentucky's public universities, although what the council could do to limit such offerings isn't clear.

What is clear is that even if empire-building such as Western's were desirable, Kentucky can't afford a Glasgow campus for Western. It can't afford a University of Kentucky community college for Glasgow, which the legislature authorized long ago. It can't afford the higher education offerings it has now. Every time the state has an economic snuffle, higher education feels the budget-cutting fever.

Setting up a full campus at Glasgow might not cost much this year. But eventually it will be as great a drain on the state treasury as any other college campus. Bricks and mortar aren't cheap. Instruction isn't cheap. A full range of course offerings, laboratories and libraries won't be cheap. Surely, Western wouldn't plan a second-rate campus for Glasgow.

There's no compelling evidence that Glasgow, population 12,646, is any more underserved by higher education than other cities of similar size. That's especially true given the fine four-lane highways between Glasgow and Bowling Green. Still, Western officials project that the Glasgow campus will grow to 5,000 or 6,000 students. That's an amusing thought, since it would mean that every other man, woman and child in Glasgow will be pursuing a degree at Alexander's University.

Kentuckians deserve access to higher education. Fortunately, they have it. What they need now is access to fully funded, good quality higher education. They don't have that — and with ill-conceived expansion plans such as Western's, they may never get it.
WKU considers expansion

OWENSBORO, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University is considering Owensboro for a permanent campus, an official said.

"There certainly is potential in Owensboro for expansion," said Stephen D. House, executive assistant to WKU President Kern Alexander.

He said while the university has no definite plans for establishing a building there, Owensboro has the most potential of any of the current extended campuses, except for Glasgow.

Officials announced Monday night plans for a Glasgow campus, which could open as early as next spring.

In Owensboro, Western already offers almost 40 classes — most of them graduate level — to more than 450 students per semester. The classes are conducted at Owensboro High School, Brescia College, Owensboro Vocational School and other buildings since Western has no facilities here.

"Owensboro does provide Western with a large number of students," House said. "We want to continue to expand there.

"There certainly is potential in Owensboro for expansion," said Stephen D. House, executive assistant to WKU President Kern Alexander.

He said while the university has no definite plans for establishing a building there, Owensboro has the most potential of any of the current extended campuses, except for Glasgow.

Officials announced Monday night plans for a Glasgow campus, which could open as early as next spring.

In Owensboro, Western already offers almost 40 classes — most of them graduate level — to more than 450 students per semester. The classes are conducted at Owensboro High School, Brescia College, Owensboro Vocational School and other buildings since Western has no facilities here.

Officials announced Monday night plans for a Glasgow campus, which could open as early as next spring.

In Owensboro, Western already offers almost 40 classes — most of them graduate level — to more than 450 students per semester. The classes are conducted at Owensboro High School, Brescia College, Owensboro Vocational School and other buildings since Western has no facilities here.

"Owensboro does provide Western with a large number of students," House said. "We want to continue to expand there."
Alexander takes stand for education

Call his remarks courageous, and complimenting him for his stand in support of education, Western Kentucky University Board of Regents recently commended WKU President Kern Alexander for his comments as an expert witness in the trial of a lawsuit challenging the quality of the state's public school system.

"As a board we appreciate Dr. Alexander's stand on education in Kentucky," said Regent Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro. "It took a lot of courage and we are behind his efforts in this field."

Appearing as an expert witness on behalf of the Council for Better Education, a group of 66 relatively poor school districts in Kentucky, Alexander testified that the state should raise the money to improve elementary and secondary education even if it means less for higher education.

"Higher education in Kentucky cannot be successful without adequate funding for an elementary and secondary system," he said. "If you did not fund higher education at all, it would be better to take those resources and fund an adequate elementary and secondary system before we go off and try to add on to a system that doesn't have a foundation."

"It really is a matter of putting first things first," said Judge John Palmore, a member of the WKU board. "We find ourselves really, unwittingly sometimes, in competition with the needs of the common schools."

Palmore offered a formal commendation for the WKU president for his stand and the board unanimously approved the measure.

"For those of us who support and try to promote education in Kentucky, it cannot be segmented into various interest groups; it's all one interest from elementary and secondary to higher education," said Regent Patsy Judd. "It all works together and we all need to support it."

Alexander also received the appreciation of the superintendent of the Western Kentucky Educational Cooperative who said it took "courage on your part to stand publicly that if a choice must be made on funding, it is better to spend more money on elementary and secondary education than on higher education."

The suit alleges that children in poor districts generally have lower paid teacher, inferior facilities, fewer instructional resources and higher dropout rates. "There is a feeling of unity as far as education is concerned," said Iracane. "I think Dr. Alexander has taken a great step in providing this unity between the elementary and secondary schools and higher education."

"I commend him for his comments and his stand on this particular issue, and I commend him for it."

Facility leased to WKU

GLASGOW, Ky. — Plans by Western Kentucky University to establish a Glasgow campus took a step forward Monday night when the Glasgow Board of Education approved an agreement under which Western will lease an empty elementary school building on Liberty Street as its main facility.

The six-month agreement approved by the board calls for Western to pay a token $1 a month to lease the 16-room facility, which was recently vacated when students there moved to a new building. Western is also responsible for paying utility bills and custodial costs in maintaining the building, which is connected to a middle school that remains in use.

"The lease agreement apparently paves the way for Western to have the campus in operation for the spring 1988 semester — which was the plan announced last week in Glasgow by a Western official."

Stephen House, executive assistant to WKU President Kern Alexander, told a gathering of Glasgow business and civic leaders that Western plans to begin with an enrollment of several hundred students and grow to 3,000 within five-six years.

Still to be announced is an estimate of the cost of establishing a Glasgow campus and the size of the staff.

Western currently serves about 580 Glasgow area students who attend classes in rooms at a shopping center, a high school and a library.
Alexander: WKU will work with area

By CHARLES WOLFE  
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander testified Tuesday in a lawsuit by 66 relatively poor school districts challenging the constitutionality of the state's method of funding schools.

The suit alleges that children in poorer districts generally have lower-paid teachers, inferior facilities, fewer instructional resources and higher dropout rates. Those districts usually have inadequate tax bases because of lower property values, higher unemployment and smaller populations, the suit claims.

Attorneys for the defendants, which include the governor and other top state officials, counter that many of Kentucky's poor-performing districts usually have themselves to blame because of nepotism, patronage and an unwillingness to collect existing taxes or raise new ones.

But Alexander and other witnesses for the plaintiff districts said Tuesday that the Kentucky Constitution placed responsibility for assuring an efficient school system on the General Assembly.

"The legislature has the responsibility and the legislature cannot delegate away that responsibility," Alexander said.

But Arnold Guess, an associate superintendent of the Department of Education, said legislators have taken a "local option" approach to education funding, setting a legal minimum and then leaving it to districts to decide how much of a tax effort to make above the minimum.

Many districts, predictably, have made nearly no effort at all and should be required by the legislature to do so, Guess said. If they lack the resources, the state should provide them, but legislation passed in the last 20 years to cut or eliminate various taxes compounded the difficulty of raising local funds, Guess added.

"It seems to me we have let our lowest aspirations ... become the common denominator for those school districts," Guess said.

He said the simplest plan for equitable school funding would be a state-mandated local tax, with the state adding enough "power equalization" money to ensure that the same amount was generated per child, regardless of how rich or poor the district.

Guess pointed out that Kentucky once required a 3 percent utility tax, but the General Assembly repealed it.

John Brock, who as the Democratic nominee for superintendent of public instruction is heavily favored to be heading the Department of Education the next four years, also said he did not believe Kentucky had an efficient school system.

The state's high rates of adult illiteracy and high school dropouts are not products of an efficient system, said Brock, who is the Rowan County school superintendent.

Brock said a "totally new method" of school funding was needed and could be in place in several months, but he declined to suggest possible remedies.

Alexander said the state property tax rate should be raised and that the state should have an unminded minerals tax, but he declined to suggest an amount.

A decision in the case by Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns is months away. Corns gave both sides until about Christmas to submit written briefs.

Regardless of Corns' decision, the case is expected to reach at least the Kentucky Supreme Court.

Inequality charged in schools' funding

By CHARLES WOLFE  
Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander testified Tuesday that the General Assembly has not only failed to meet its constitutional mandate to provide an efficient system of public schools, but has saddled the state with a method of school funding that breeds inequalities between rich districts and poor.

"The words 'system' and 'efficient' mean something, ... a redistribution of resources so that rich and poor will have equal access to an education," Alexander testified Tuesday in Franklin Circuit Court.

He was the final witness in the trial of a lawsuit by 66 relatively poor school districts challenging the constitutionality of the state's method of funding schools.

The suit alleges that children in poorer districts generally have lower-paid teachers, inferior facilities, fewer instructional resources and higher dropout rates. Those districts would naturally have inadequate tax bases because of lower property values, higher unemployment and smaller populations, the suit claims.

Attorneys for the defendants, which include the governor and other top state officials, counter that many of Kentucky's poor-performing districts usually have themselves to blame because of nepotism, patronage and an unwillingness to collect existing taxes or raise new ones.

But Alexander and other witnesses for the plaintiff districts said Tuesday that the Kentucky Constitution placed responsibility for assuring an efficient school system on the General Assembly.

"The legislature has the responsibility and the legislature cannot delegate away that responsibility," Alexander said.

But Arnold Guess, an associate superintendent of the Department of Education, said legislators have taken a "local option" approach to education funding, setting a legal minimum and then leaving it to districts to decide how much of a tax effort to make above the minimum.

Many districts, predictably, have made nearly no effort at all and should be required by the legislature to do so, Guess said. If they lack the resources, the state should provide them, but legislation passed in the last 20 years to cut or eliminate various taxes compounded the difficulty of raising local funds, Guess added.

"It seems to me we have let our lowest aspirations ... become the common denominator for those school districts," Guess said.

He said the simplest plan for equitable school funding would be a state-mandated local tax, with the state adding enough "power equalization" money to ensure that the same amount was generated per child, regardless of how rich or poor the district.

Guess pointed out that Kentucky once required a 3 percent utility tax, but the General Assembly repealed it.

John Brock, who as the Democratic nominee for superintendent of public instruction is heavily favored to be heading the Department of Education the next four years, also said he did not believe Kentucky had an efficient school system.

The state's high rates of adult illiteracy and high school dropouts are not products of an efficient system, said Brock, who is the Rowan County school superintendent.

Brock said a "totally new method" of school funding was needed and could be in place in several months, but he declined to suggest possible remedies.

Alexander said the state property tax rate should be raised and that the state should have an unminded minerals tax, but he declined to suggest an amount.

A decision in the case by Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns is months away. Corns gave both sides until about Christmas to submit written briefs.

Regardless of Corns' decision, the case is expected to reach at least the Kentucky Supreme Court.
Alexander expects Western to expand to 2 campuses in '90s

Western Kentucky University President Kem Alexander told his faculty and staff Wednesday, Aug. 19, to expect WKU to expand to two campuses by the mid-1990s with more than 20,000 students.

Alexander was delivering the President’s annual address before the University’s professional staff at the school year’s opening.

In an upbeat speech, Alexander praised faculty for their dedication and productivity over the past year, and said the University expects an enrollment expansion this fall to be as large as last fall’s 6.5 percent increase, the largest increase among the state’s public institutions. Last fall Western had more than 12,000 students enrolled.

“The University’s continued growth indicates a need for this institution by the public,” Alexander said.

“Western has experienced a revitalized image throughout Kentucky,” Alexander said. “Words to remember are aggressiveness and expansiveness, tempered with accommodation and genuine concern for the welfare of the students,” he added.

Alexander attributed WKU’s continuing growth in students to a rapport with public schools across the state, which has been one of his main goals since he assumed Western’s presidency in 1985.

“The quality of student at Western has increased as well as quantity. More is better,” he said, noting WKU’s freshman class has an average ACT score of 19.1 over last year’s 18.6.

Alexander also listed as other accomplishments over the past year Western’s increased off-campus offerings to students across the state and expanded evening course offerings, more than 75 research projects which were conducted by faculty and students and the establishment of the China-USA Consortium which consists of 23 schools led by Western to help improve China’s teacher education programs.

Besides enrollment growth in the future, Alexander told faculty new buildings would be requested of the state’s General Assembly, including a $16 million student activities center, library facilities, a communications facility and more residence halls.

“We are a campus with vitality, bustling with an intellectual environment and it is stimulating to be a part of it,” he said. “Western’s campus is no longer confined simply to this hill,” he said, referring to Western’s main campus.

“We must have new buildings, new programs, and I will be calling upon you,” he told his faculty, “to assist us in achieving these goals.”

Final testimony in school funding suit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
FRANKFORT, Ky. — The president of Western Kentucky University said in court Tuesday that the General Assembly, far from fulfilling its constitutional mandate to provide an efficient system of public schools, has brought a slapdash method of school funding that breeds inequalities between rich districts and poor.

“The words ‘system’ and ‘efficient’ mean something... a redistribution of resources so that rich and poor will have equal access to an education,” Kem Alexander testified in Franklin Circuit Court.

Alexander was the final witness for the plaintiff districts in the trial of a lawsuit by 66 schools. Alexander was the final witness for the plaintiff districts in the trial of a lawsuit by 66 schools.

Any districts, particularly, who make almost no effort at all and should be required by the legislature to do so, said. If they lack the resources, the state should provide them, but legislation passed in the last 20 years to cut or eliminate various taxes compounded the difficulty of raising local funds, Guess said.

Sen. Arnold Guess, an associate superintendent of the Department of Education, said legislators have taken a “local option” approach to education funding, setting a legal minimum and then leaving it to districts to decide how much of a tax effort to make above the minimum.

Many districts, predictably, have made almost no effort at all and should be required by the legislature to do so, said. If they lack the resources, the state should provide them, but legislation passed in the last 20 years to cut or eliminate various taxes compounded the difficulty of raising local funds, Guess said.

He said the simplest plan for equitable school funding would be a state-mandated local tax, with the state adding enough “power equalization” money to ensure that the same amount was generated per child, regardless of how rich or poor the district.
President Kern Alexander predicts future growth

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander told his faculty and staff recently to expect WKU to expand to two campuses by the mid-1990's with more than 20,000 students.

Alexander was delivering the President's annual address before the university's professional staff at the school year's opening. "The quality of student at Western has increased as well as quantity. More is better," he said, noting WKU's freshman class has an average ACT score of 19.1 over last year's 18.6.

Alexander attributed WKU's continuing growth in students to a rapport with public schools across the state, which has been one of the university's main goals since he assumed Western's presidency in 1985.

"We are a campus with vitality, bustling with an intellectual environment and it is stimulating to be a part of it," he said. "Western's campus is no longer confined simply to this hill," he said, referring to Western's main campus.

"We must have new buildings, new programs, and I will be calling upon you," he told his faculty, "to assist us in achieving these goals."
Kern tells of WKU expansion plans

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander told the faculty and staff Wednesday to expect the school to expand to two campuses and 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

Alexander, in his annual address to the professional staff, said Western expects this fall's enrollment increase to equal last year's 6.5 percent, the largest among the state's public institutions. Last fall, Western had more than 12,000 students. He attributed Western's growth to a rapport with public schools across the state, which has been one of his main goals since he assumed the presidency in 1985.

Alexander also told the faculty that the school will ask the 1988 General Assembly for new buildings, including a $15 million student center, library and communications facilities and more residence halls.

Western president predicts expansion

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University's president told the faculty and staff Wednesday to expect the school to expand to two campuses and 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

"The university's continued growth indicates a need for this institution by the public," Kern Alexander said in his annual address to the professional staff. He said Western expects this fall's enrollment increase to equal last year's 6.5 percent expansion, the largest among the state's public institutions. Last fall, Western had more than 12,000 students.

Alexander attributed Western's growth to a rapport with public schools across the state, which has been one of his main goals since he assumed the presidency in 1985.

"The quality of student at Western has increased as well as quantity. More is better," he said, noting that this year's freshman class has an average ACT score of 19.1, compared with last year's 18.6. His college also told the faculty the college will ask the 1988 General Assembly for new buildings, including a $15 million student activities center, library facilities, a communications facility and more residence halls.

"We are a campus with vitality, bustling with an intellectual environment, and it is stimulating to be part of it. Western's campus is no longer confined to this hill," he said.

Western president expects to expand to two campuses

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University's president told the faculty and staff Wednesday to expect the school to expand to two campuses and 20,000 students by the mid-1990s.

"The university's continued growth indicates a need for this institution by the public," Kern Alexander said in his annual address to the professional staff. He said Western expects this fall's enrollment increase to equal last year's 6.5 percent expansion, the largest among the state's public institutions. Last fall, Western had more than 12,000 students.

Alexander attributed Western's growth to a rapport with public schools across the state, which has been one of his main goals since he assumed the presidency in 1985.

"The quality of student at Western has increased as well as quantity. More is better," he said, noting that this year's freshman class has an average ACT score of 19.1, compared with last year's 18.6.
Western: more than a regional school

President wants school to expand reputation, develop statewide role

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander said he hopes the school will shed its regional status and be recognized as a major institution by the mid-1990s.

"Philosophically, this is a more expensive plan, a different mode of thinking than in the past. You can't think within the geographical boundaries of your region, but how to better serve students. The regional complexion begins to fade as you reach a larger number of students, and we're doing that."

Currently, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville are recognized as the state's major universities. The other six public colleges are regarded as regional.

Western's budget for the 1986-87 academic year was $79.4 million, while UK's was $551.8 million.

"If nurtured properly, Western will emerge as an institution that has to expand, that will continue to expand," Alexander said Tuesday during an interview with The Daily News in Bowling Green.

"We want to move toward major university status rather just being a large undergraduate institution."

Alexander predicted the university will have an enrollment of at least 20,000 by 1994.

"That's a realistic goal considering our growth rate," he said.

Enrollment jumped from 11,000 students in 1985 to 12,257 in 1996. School estimates are that 13,400 students will enroll for the fall of 1987, 14,510 in 1988, and 15,560 in 1989.

"If our projections are right, the fall of 1988 will be the largest enrollment Western has ever had," Alexander said. "This fall we will fully recover from the decline in enrollment we experienced in the early 1980s. We will be back at maximum strength, and we'll be building on that in '88 and '89."

"It's almost required of us to do this because we find many high school students want to enroll here. Apparently we've become very formidable in Kentucky's college market."

The large-scale plan calls for spending millions of dollars on major capital construction projects; hiring more teachers and for better pay; initiating doctoral studies; expanding undergraduate and graduate study offerings, and expanding the extended campus program.

Alexander said he will ask the 1988 General Assembly for debt service to retire bonds on $16 million to build a student center complete with recreational facilities and for permission to build three or four new residence halls at a cost of $15 million.

Long-range capital construction goals include the building of a $20 million library, an $11 million computer and communications center, a housing area for sororities and fraternities, and a 200-room university hotel that will house a new continuing education center.

Alexander said talks are continuing with local government officials to help out with financing of the hotel.

Alexander's articles included in book

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, a native of Cumberland County, has had two articles selected for inclusion in a volume of best entries from journals on educational finance.

Published by Phi Delta Kappa, honorary education society, the "Hot Topic Series" featured issue in which Alexander's articles appear is entitled "School Finance," and the publication is prepared for administrators, educators, parents and readers from a variety of professions who must deal with current problems and issues in education.


Alexander is president-elect of the American Education Finance Association which published the Journal Education Finance, and for which he serves as executive editor.

Alexander testifies

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — The state should raise the money to improve elementary and secondary education even if it means less for higher education, the president of Western Kentucky University has testified.

Kern Alexander's statement came Wednesday during the second day of testimony in the trial of a lawsuit challenging the quality of the state's public school system.

Higher education in Kentucky cannot be successful without adequate funding for an elementary and secondary system," Alexander said.

"If you did not fund higher education at all, it would be better to take those resources and funnel an adequate elementary and secondary system before we go off and try to add on to a system that doesn't have a foundation," he added.

The suit was filed against Gov. Martha Layne Collins, the state Board of Education and legislative leaders by the Council for Better Education, a group of 69 poor school districts. It claims the General Assembly has not fulfilled its constitutional mandate to provide for an "efficient" system of common schools.

The suit also alleges that there are "gross disparities" in funding levels among Kentucky's 178 school districts.
IT'S BOTH rare and refreshing to hear a university president testify that there's something on earth more important than more funds for his university. It's particularly gratifying when such testimony comes from a president of one of Kentucky's ill-financed institutions of higher learning.

So commend Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander for his testimony in the suit challenging the disparity in financing between rich and poor school districts in Kentucky. Dr. Alexander testified that higher education is ineffective if it must draw its students from students poorly prepared in elementary and high schools.

In fact, Kentucky has been doing things wrong-end foremost. The state ranked 23rd among the states in dollars spent per student on higher education, and only 43rd in per-pupil spending in elementary and secondary schools. Kentucky's public universities don't rank as highly as that level of spending would indicate, because much of the money goes for duplicative, expensive programs in medicine and dentistry, and unnecessary duplication of effort in other fields.

So Kentucky doesn't need to divert money from higher education to elementary and secondary schools. It does need to spend more total dollars on education, if and when it can be demonstrated that the spending will lead to better teaching. In the process, Dr. Alexander's words should be remembered. No building can be sound without a solid foundation.
Alexander is inaugurated as Western’s 7th president

Marrowbone native Dr. Kern Alexander was formally inaugurated the seventh president of Western Kentucky University during ceremonies on the WKU campus last Saturday.

Alexander, 47, the son of Sam and Emma Alexander, took his post at Western shortly after he was picked from five finalists on Dec. 14, 1985.

Attending the inauguration were Gov. Martha Layne Collins, three past governors, various state officials, and representatives of colleges and universities all across the country, as well as the oldest institution in the world, Oxford University in England.

During his speech at Van Meter Auditorium, Alexander said that state universities must recognize the people’s needs and respond to those needs.

“In order to do this,” he said, “the university must draw nearer to the public schools in identifying and shaping the educational programs necessary to address those student needs.”

Since coming to Western, Alexander has visited 120 of the state’s 180 school districts recruiting students to attend the regional institution. His efforts are reflected in an 8.8 increase in fall enrollment.

Alexander also stated the university should not pursue knowledge for its own end, but meet the specific needs of the state.

“The university,” he said, “is an instrument of the people to be used to advance our civilization and to enrich our culture by cultivation of the poet, the artist, the scholar and the person versed in the affairs of the state as well as keep in mind that the primary reason for existence of the state university is to educate the youth of the state.”

Continued on page A8
Dr. Kern Alexander Jr. Inaugurated as Western Kentucky University's Seventh President

The Seventh President of Western Kentucky University, Dr. Kern Alexander Jr., was inaugurated in special ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13, in WKU's Van Meter Auditorium, almost a year to the date of his appointment by WKU's Board of Regents.

By Sheila Conaway
WKU News Editor
Bowing Green — Wearing the official medallion of Western Kentucky University Saturday, Dec. 13, Dr. Kern Alexander Jr. was officially installed as WKU's seventh president during 2 p.m. ceremonies in Van Meter Auditorium.

The investiture of the President was the culmination of a week-long inaugural celebration which included special tributes to him as well as to past presidents, a community dinner and a host of receptions by student, faculty and alumni groups.

"I accept the presidency of Western Kentucky University with a deep sense of humility," Alexander, a native of Marrowbone, Ky., said. "There is no honor that the people of my native state could have bestowed on me which I could cherish more than the opportunity to serve them as president of Western ."

"We should always keep in mind that the primary reason for existence of the state university is to educate the youth of the state," Alexander said, adding one way to recognize the needs of the state is to "draw nearer to the elementary and secondary schools in identifying and shaping the educational programs necessary to address those student needs."

The philosophy, goals and purposes of Western Kentucky University, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, must be, Alexander said, to:

"Instill a desire and appreciation for knowledge, both for its own sake and as a means for betterment of our society;"

"Conduct research and bring the intellectual power of the university to bear on the problems of our society;"

"Join the liberal and practical studies into a close union in order to more clearly influence the advancement of our social and economic conditions;"

"Provide an opportunity for all the youth of the Commonwealth to develop their innate capacities to the maximum extent possible;

"Expand the borders of the campus to borrow the 'beneficence of the university' on every family of the state;"

"Keep in the forefront of the University's ideals the broad humanitarian purpose of service to the community and;"

"Remain adaptable and flexible in interpreting the needs of the people of Kentucky ."

Alexander stressed that "an overreaching objective" of the University must be the mitigation of inequality that might prevent students from being able to attend Western, regardless of their status or their need.

"Western should stand forthright and assert a will to erase economic, social and hereditary privilege that seek to foster a society where all who are industrious, knowledgeable, ethical and moral will be highest esteem."

THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT of Western Kentucky University, Dr. Kern Alexander Jr., was inaugurated in special ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13, in WKU's Van Meter Auditorium, almost a year to the date of his appointment by WKU's Board of Regents Dec. 14, 1985. Photo A: Alexander delivers his philosophy of education during his inaugural address, in which he said: "We should always keep in mind that the primary reason for existence of the state university is to educate the youth of the state."
WKU’s regents re-elect Clark and enrollment is announced

The official enrollment for the fall semester at Western Kentucky University is 12,257, an increase of 8.8 percent over last year's number.

Western President Kern Alexander announced the figures at the University's regular quarterly Board of Regents meeting Friday, Nov. 7. The increase represents a 17 percent increase in freshmen, Alexander said, and this is the first time the University has exceeded the 12,000 mark since 1983. Enrollment is up 998 students from 1985 figures.

Regents re-elected Joe Iracane of Owensboro as chairman and elected Ronald Clark of Franklin as vice chairman.

The Regents adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of $8.45 million consolidated educational buildings revenue bonds and approved the 1985-86 financial report for the University.

In personnel actions, WKU's governing board approved appointment of two department heads, Dr. Stephen B. Schaack, department of educational leadership, and Dr. Jerry R. Kinard, department of management and marketing, and named Dr. Richard M. Greer, director of the University's Counseling Services Center.

Many believe that it will not be difficult for Dr. Alexander to top these accomplishments. His scholarly standards can only push Western Kentucky University to higher planes of academic excellence.

Good luck, Dr. Alexander.
Education needs across-the-board investment

By BILL MARDIS
C-J Managing Editor

Green has charged that Kentucky has made a low effort in education, and he called for an across-the-board investment to improve the situation.

"Education means business," said Dr. Kemner, paraphrasing a state gubernatorial campaign position several years ago which stressed the importance of education to the economy.

"There are returns to investment in education," declared Kemner speaking yesterday during a luncheon meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

"Why do the Nile Valley farms produce rice when it has the greatest farmland anywhere in the world?" Dr. Kemner asked.

"Why are parts of India underdeveloped although it has some of the richest soil anywhere in the world?" Kemner added.

"Why is Japan well developed with some of the poorest soil and physical resources of any region in the world?"

"The answer is, of course," Kemner continued, "investment in the minds of their people." Kemner recalled a few years ago when India had a tremendous problem feeding its people. He said about 1960 the United States assisted the country in developing agricultural universities, and last year for the first time India became an exporter of grain.

"Areas that have the richest soil, whether it is in foreign countries or this country, are areas that are going to develop economically," insisted the WKU president.

"We must invest (in education) in Pulaski County and Kentucky ... and we must invest across-the-board.

"We need to invest in research at our universities. We need to invest in the public school system.

"And I would say that's most important to all of us - sustaining strong investment in our public schools.

"We have a system of education in Kentucky which includes the public (elementary and secondary) schools, community colleges and universities. We need to view that as a total system with investment across-the-board in each of these elements of our educational program.

"We know we're not doing a very good job (in education) in Kentucky. The drop-out rates in our schools are high. We have a low percentage of students going on to college.

"We have made a strong investment in our public school program. We in Kentucky - and I'm from Cumberland County - have always been a low-income state, but in addition to that we have had a low effort.

"We have not aspired to education and educational attainment. We're poor, but we've put forth a low effort.

"For the development of this state, we need to do both. We need to raise our level of effort which will, in turn, provide for enhancement of education.

"That, in turn, our economic level will be enhanced," assured Kemner.

"In Kentucky we have a certain condition beyond that. We have a first-generation of college students ... just off the farms ... rural areas of Kentucky ... whose parents have not gone to college ... or thought very much about college.

"That's a condition which has to do with aspiration ... one that's very important," said the WKU president.

"We have a situation at the national level which indicates to us the federal government is not going to pull us up very far."

"Eight years ago the federal and state governments expended 7.5 percent of the gross national product (GNP) for education.

"Today, expenditures for education amount to only 5.5 percent of the GNP, and most of that leveling off is at the federal level.

"Five years ago the federal government provided 9 percent of expenditures in elementary and secondary education. Today (from this source) only 5.9 percent.

"So, we must look to ourselves ... we cannot look to the federal government to help us," said Alexander.

"We have higher education, particularly public institutions, has experienced a similar decline in assistance from the federal government.

"According to Alexander, federal government financial assistance to private institutions has increased since 1960 from 7 percent to 24 percent of each school's budget.

"During the same period, federal aid to public institutions of higher education has remained at 11 percent, he said.

"Alexander also noted a movement away from the traditional student.

"Ten out of 12 students today are part-time students," observed the WKU president.

"Today's college student is more likely to be 35 years of age than in the 18-24 age bracket." He said the traditional student who stays on campus in the dormitory has increased 10 percent during the past decade.

"The non-traditional, or part-time student, has increased 35 percent," he said.

"Alexander stressed the need for colleges to "... renew our efforts" to cooperate with public schools in providing research and concentrating on the drop-out problem.

"In closing, Alexander made a strong recruitment pitch, reminding that the Bowling Green school is preparing a transitional program to more efficiently enable students to move from Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, following a luncheon meeting at which Alexander was principal speaker."

"The WKU president called for an across-the-board investment in education."

By BILL MARDIS
C-J Managing Editor

The WKU president called for an across-the-board investment in education.

"We must invest (in education) in Pulaski County and Kentucky ... and we must invest across-the-board.

"We need to invest in research at our universities. We need to invest in the public school system.

"And I would say that's most important to all of us - sustaining strong investment in our public schools.

"We have a system of education in Kentucky which includes the public (elementary and secondary) schools, community colleges and universities. We need to view that as a total..."
WKU president says classes won't compete with colleges

By Paula Eubanks
Kentucky Press Service

Kern Alexander, president of Western Kentucky University, said the school's expansion of course offerings in Owensboro will not compete with similar offerings of Breasia and Kentucky Wesleyan colleges because they are aimed at different students.

The planned WKU courses and degree programs won't cost as much as similar courses at Brescia and Kentucky Wesleyan, he said. The programs will fill the needs of moderate-to-low-income older students who work part-time, Alexander said.

One reason those students usually don't go to the two local private, four-year colleges is because they can't afford it, he said.

Alexander made his remarks at a press conference in Owensboro Wednesday.

Alexander said the state school is making its move to expand in Owensboro based on strong enrollment at Owensboro Community College, another low-cost school that caters to older part-time students.

Joe Iracane, chairman of WKU's Board of Regents, said WKU's expansion has the blessing of the Citizens Committee for Higher Education. The committee is a group of mainly businessmen and education officials from the Owensboro area who say education can be used to improve the region's economic health.

"The success of the community college is no accident," Iracane said. "Needs are not being met." Alexander said, "Owensboro's problems might be related to lack of low cost education."

Alexander announced the schedule for the school's expansion and said undergraduate programs to start in the spring of 1987 are:
- Course work leading to a degree in business administration with majors in accounting and management, as well as course work needed for admission to the master of business administration program.
- Course work leading to a degree in elementary education, including courses needed for the elementary endorsement of the high school teaching certificate.
- Alexander announced the schedule for the school's expansion and said undergraduate programs to start in the spring of 1987 include:
  - A revived corporate communication degree program.
  - Course work for a master of business administration degree.
  - Course work for a master of science in criminal justice degree, to be offered in partnership with Eastern Kentucky University.

Also, he said starting in spring 1987, WKU would offer a graduate program leading to a master of public administration degree.

George Overstreet, head of WKU's Owensboro programs, said the school hopes to have at least 100 students working for each degree. Overstreet said the WKU extension program now has about 125 students in the nursing program and he used that program as a basis for the enrollment projections.

An important part of WKU's expansion will be OCC's telecommunication center to be built as part of the community college's new campus, according to a report on the expansion handed out at Alexander's press conference. It reported that through the center, WKU intends to bring satellite, videotape and computer-based instruction to Owensboro.

Dr. Ruth Alexander to receive award

Dr. Ruth Alexander, wife of Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander, will accept an award in Washington, D.C. Saturday, Sept. 13 for her participation in a national fitness leaders awards program.

Sponsored by the United States Jaycees and All State Insurance, the Healthy Americans Fitness Leaders Program recognizes persons who have demonstrated at the national level leadership in fitness and administration of fitness programs.

Dr. Alexander received the award also in 1982, and she is again being recognized for continued service and participation as a judge for the 1986 awards.

This year's recipients also will include President Ronald Reagan and several persons representing medicine, business, education and government.

WKU president's views on financing are published

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has a chapter on the value of education appearing in the association for the Study of Higher Education's newest "Reader on "Finance in Higher Education."

President Alexander's is among a collection of essays on the financing of American higher education, and the volume was developed cooperatively with professors in the field.

Two years ago, the ASHE, which is made up of educators and administrators from across the country, decided to encourage the preparation of "Readers" on major subfields of higher education. The purpose of the Reader series is to provide supplementary textbook material for use in graduate courses in the field of higher education.

Dr. Alexander's article serves as an introduction, and Western's President provides a detailed analysis of higher education benefits, including the nonmonetary benefits and the value gained directly by the higher education consumer.

WKU president's views on financing are published

Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander has a chapter on the value of education appearing in the association for the Study of Higher Education's newest "Reader" on "Finance in Higher Education.

President Alexander is among a collection of essays on the financing of American higher education, and the volume was developed cooperatively with professors in the field.

Two years ago, the ASHE, which is made up of educators and administrators from across the county, decided to encourage the preparation of "Readers" in the major subspecialties of higher education. The purpose of the Reader series is to provide supplementary text material for use in graduate courses in the field of higher education.

Dr. Alexander's article serves as an introduction, and Western's President provides a detailed analysis of higher education benefits from an economic perspective, including the nonmonetary benefits and the value gained directly by the higher education consumer.


Dr. Kern Alexander to speak to WKU alumni

The Muhlenberg County Chapter of the Western Kentucky University Alumni Association will hold its annual dinner meeting Monday, Oct. 13 at 6:30 p.m in the Longest Elementary School Cafeteria in Powderly.

Dr. Kern Alexander, new WKU president, will be the keynote speaker.

Others from WKU planning to attend are Alumni Director Jim Richards, Associate Director Ron Beck, Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Wood. Dinner reservations are $5 per person and may be sent to Alumni President Rick Turley, 303 West Third St., Central City, Ky.

Business women honor Alexander

Western Kentucky University's President Kern Alexander was honored last Monday night when the Hilltopper chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) made him an honorary business associate.

Hilltopper '86 President Linda Powers presented Western's President with a plaque indicating his membership, and also presented Western senior from Bowling Green, Linda Morales with a $500 scholarship.

Dr. Alexander spoke to the group in May, and acknowledging the ABWA's 26th year of support to Western Kentucky University and its generosity in awarding scholarships to women students at Western, invited the organization to hold its meeting on Western's campus.
Dr. Alexander tells ‘community’ plans for Western

By Robyn Libs

At the monthly breakfast Tuesday, the Russellville-Logan County Chamber of Commerce heard from a man with a mission—a mission to make Western a university that serves the community.

Dr. Kern Alexander likened himself to a corporate president who was making an annual report to stockholders because the people of Russellville have an interest in Western.

“Russellville is as much a part of Western as Bowling Green is,” Alexander said.

Many generations of Russelvillians have attended Western and have come back and directly affected the community’s economy.

He said that Western has “a great deal of respect for the business community. It’s at the heart of everything we do.”

In continuing this respect Western plans to bring education back to the people rather than have the people come to education.

Alexander said that the highest cost of an education is foregone earnings. It just costs too much for a person to go off to college for four years and not work.

Some may not even work for some time after college. They may find that they didn’t learn employable skills while in school.

Thus, Alexander said that his mission is to give students the opportunity to learn employable skills.

To help accomplish this Alexander plans to bring more programs into communities conduct classes in businesses and have weekend and evening programs on the Bowling Green campus. Alexander also sees the need for a community college at Western.

He said, “there is probably a pool of 3,000 that would benefit from such a program.”

Also in Alexander’s plans are the need to reassert Western’s role as an educator of the common man and the need to work with the public school systems, teachers, students and administrators.

He said “I want to have university stockholders are proud of.”
Preliminary figures released today by Western Kentucky University show an enrollment of 12,186 students, a 6.5 percent increase over 11,388 students enrolled last fall. "While we are certainly pleased about the preliminary enrollment figures, we are most pleased by Western's increase in entry-level freshmen students," Student Affairs Vice President Jerry Wilder said at a news conference.

In this category, Western's enrollment is up 406 students, representing an increase of 17 percent from the same date one year ago. "This significant increase in the enrollment of first-year students will provide a healthy enrollment base upon which to build during the ensuing years," Wilder said, adding: "This base coupled with the institution's plans to make Western more accessible to part-time and non-traditional students are hopeful signs for growth in the future."

Wilder attributed WKU's growth in enrollment to initiatives taken by Western President Kern Alexander, whose efforts over the spring and summer have involved Western faculty, staff and students in conveying Western's message to high schools across the state.

"We are happy to announce Western has stopped the decline in enrollment," President Alexander said, attributing success of Western's enrollment reversal also to response by public schools in the state to Western's invitation to serve Kentucky's high school students.

"We need to continue to focus on providing service to the students, and to do this we must serve the adult population as well as the traditional student," Alexander said. "An indicator of how well we do this is our enrollment," he said.

Western officials stressed the numbers announced are preliminary figures, that enrollment figures will vacillate during the next few weeks as Western continues its registration process, which includes completion of fee payment and reports from extended campus enrollments.

As of Sept. 16, figures show 1,950 graduate students; 2,429 seniors; 1,807 juniors; 1,961 sophomores and 4,039 freshmen.

A PRESS CONFERENCE was held at Western Kentucky University last week to announce WKU's first enrollment increase in several years. Dr. Jerry Wilder, left, vice president for student affairs, announced WKU's preliminary figures show an enrollment of 12,186 students, a 6.5% increase over 11,388 students enrolled last fall. Western increased its freshman enrollment by 17% this fall. Western President, Dr. Kern Alexander, right, attributed WKU's enrollment reversal to efforts by WKU faculty, staff and students, and also to public school superintendents across the state who have been "especially supportive," Alexander said.
Progressive attitude contributes to growth in Bowling Green area

By FRED HENSLEY

Long known for its hospitality and progressive atmosphere, Bowling Green and Warren County represent the fastest-growing area of Kentucky.

The growth for the southcentral Kentucky retail, wholesale, cultural and educational center can be measured in various ways, but the progressive attitude of the community is evident in the building, expansion and revitalization in virtually all areas of the community.

The Center for Urban Studies at the University of Louisville projects a nearly 40 percent increase in Bowling Green's population during the 1980s, and forecasts that population could surpass 100,000 by the year 2000.

Bowling Green serves as the economic center of southcentral Kentucky's education, employment, health care, industrial services, transportation, distribution and retail/wholesale activity. More than 250,000 people reside in its trade area.

A large number of well-known manufacturing firms have chosen Bowling Green in recent years for corporate headquarters and for the location of new and expanded facilities.

The city is home to the world's only Corvette Assembly Plant, serves as the corporate headquarters for Camping World, Union Underwear and Kroger's Country Oven Bakery, and is the home of various nationally known athletic events including the Wendy's OK Road Race, the Wendy's Classic Basketball Tournament, and the prestigious Girls State High School Basketball Tournament.

Higher education is a positive force in Bowling Green with Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green Junior College and the Bowling Green State Vocational School providing instruction to more than 16,000 students. More than 12,000 students are enrolled in the Bowling Green Independent and Warren County public schools.

The city maintains more than 700 acres of public parks facilities, and various cultural events are staged in the renovated Capitol Arts Center. The arts center is just one of many projects in the city's ambitious downtown revitalization program.

Only a 35-minute drive from Mammoth Cave National Park and a 60-minute drive from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, Bowling Green's tourism potential is being promoted nationally through an aggressive awareness campaign. More than $70 million was...
WKU contributes to development

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B-1

ing four years to a college education.

Admission requirements will differ from WKU’s standards to better accommodate less prepared students.

According to Alexander, the working student is becoming more important to higher education institutions across the country as part-time enrollments continue a national decline.

The university has the opportunity to attract students while providing a service to the business community and contributing to the economic development of the community, according to Alexander.

“We can assess employees’ strengths and weaknesses and design programs for employees who move into management or other areas,” said Alexander. “Not only can we assist business in evaluating personnel, but we can also design programs to assist in the retention and improvement of current employees.”

Western’s community college program will be funded from existing resources and will fall under the Council on Higher Education’s formula funding plan.

“The community college is an effort on the part of Western to educate the non-traditional student,” said Alexander. “It will make this institution more accessible to the people of Kentucky.”
Western OKs budget, college

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents on Thursday approved a $72.9 million operating budget for 1986-87 and accepted a recommendation to establish a community college on campus, the university said.

The budget represents a 6 percent increase over the 1985-86 figure of $68.7 million. The board also accepted the recommendation of Western President Kern Alexander to establish a community college to provide better educational access for non-traditional students.

Western regents approve budget

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents have approved a $72.9 million operating budget for 1986-87 and accepted a recommendation to establish a community college on campus, the university says.

The budget represents a 6 percent increase over the 1985-86 figure of $68.7 million. "We're not out of the woods yet in terms of additional revenue," Joe Cook, chairman of the regents' finance committee, said Thursday. "We are operating in about as thin an atmosphere as we can reasonably expect to operate."

The funding package includes 5 percent pay increases for classified employees and 4.5 percent pay raises for faculty and administrative staff.

Tuition for 1986-87 will be $515 per semester for Kentucky undergraduates and $565 for graduate students, while out-of-state students will pay $1,455 and $1,605.

In other developments, the board approved the appointment of Jerry Wilder as vice president for student affairs to succeed the retiring John Minton.

The board also accepted the recommendation of Western President Kern Alexander to establish a community college to provide better educational access for non-traditional students.

WKU administrative shakeup

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Western Kentucky University is considering a shakeup of its administrative structure, with appointed department heads replaced by elected department chairs.

Kern Alexander, the university's new president, said the objective was to find "ways in which the faculty can play a more significant role in determining each department's direction."

A committee headed by Robert Haynes, vice president of academic affairs, and including faculty members and the Council of Deans is studying the concept, Alexander said. The committee's findings will be released by December, he said.
College System Is Sought

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The president of Western Kentucky University has devised a plan that calls for expansion of the school's traditional programs into a full-fledged community college system.

Dr. Kern Alexander, president of Western Kentucky University, has devised a plan that calls for expansion of the school's traditional programs into a full-fledged community college system. The plan, to be presented Thursday to Western's board of regents, is essentially an expanded two-year program on the Western Kentucky campus that would serve adults who do not have the time or inclination to pursue a four-year degree.

The proposal is expected to be presented Thursday to Western's board of regents.

"We've studied the community college plan and we're going to recommend it to the board," Alexander said recently. "We're doing it because there are many people in the community who don't have access to a community college."

Alexander said there is an array of non-traditional courses already available and he would like to see the associate and arts programs expanded.

"We want to serve the region as best we can," said Joe Iracane, chairman of the Western regents. "This has been here for the asking for a long time and Dr. Alexander just picked right up on it.

"What we hope to do is serve the needs of the young people, build with them and if they do well, allow them to move into our structured programs without wa­tering down any of our academic areas," Iracane said.

Western already offers non-traditional programs and a two-year nursing program. The non-traditional programs are for people 25 and older. The same programs are offered by the state's five other regional universities.

Alexander seeks to expand the program and get an official Western Kentucky community college system, add extra employ­ees and name the faculty and administrators that would be involved.

If the plan is approved, there would have to be some restructuring on campus, said Iracane.

"We will get started without hiring new personnel," he said. "But as activities begin to flour­ish, naturally we will require additional employees.

"We're not out of the woods yet in terms of additional revenue," Joe Cook, chairman of the regents' finance committee, said Thursday. "We are operating in about as thin an atmos­phere as we can reasonably expect to operate.

The funding package includes 5 percent pay increases for classified employees and 4.5 percent pay raises for faculty and central staff.

The board also accepted the recommendation of Western President Kern Alexander to establish a community college to provide better educational access for non-traditional students.

The community college, to be staffed and funded with existing personnel and resources, will not require an additional expenditure by the university, a press release said.

"The creation of a community college is an effort on the part of Western to educate the non-traditional student," said Alexander.
WKU president plans community college system

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The president of Western Kentucky University has devised a plan that calls for expansion of the school's traditional programs into a full-fledged community college system.

Dr. Kern Alexander's plan is essentially an expanded two-year program on the Western Kentucky campus that would serve adults who do not have the time or inclination to pursue a four-year degree.

The proposal is expected to be presented Thursday to Western's board of regents.

"We've studied the community college plan and we're going to recommend it to the board," Alexander said recently. "We're doing it because there are many people in the community who don't have access to a community college."

Alexander said there is an array of non-traditional courses already available and he would like to see the associate and arts programs expanded.

"We want to serve the region as best we can," said Joe Iracane, chairman of the Western regents. "This has been here for the asking for a long time and Dr. Alexander just picked right up on it."

"What we hope to do is serve the needs of the young people, build with them and if they do well, allow them to move into our structured programs without watering down any of our academic areas," Iracane said.

The proposal is expected to be presented Thursday to Western's board of regents.

"We've studied the community college plan and we're going to recommend it to the board," Alexander said recently. "We're doing it because there are many people in the community who don't have access to a community college."

If the plan is approved, there would have to be some restructuring on campus, said Iracane.

"We will get started without hiring new personnel," he said. "But as activities begin to flourish, naturally we will require additional employees. We don't have a name for the school yet, or a syllabus, but we plan to establish it as a regular, ongoing program."

Gary Cox, deputy executive director of the state Council on Higher Education, said the program falls under the state's higher education formula and therefore will be appropriately funded.

"We have statutory authority to have a community college," said Alexander. "The legislature, several years ago, gave the regional universities the right to establish community colleges on campus. It's just that it's never been implemented here as such. We think we should do it now."
President of Western announces plan to create community college

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — The president of Western Kentucky University has devised a plan that calls for expansion of the school's traditional programs into a full-fledged community college system.

Dr. Kern Alexander's plan is essentially an expanded two-year program on the Western Kentucky campus that would serve adults who do not have the time or inclination to pursue a four-year degree.

"The proposal is expected to be presented Thursday to Western's board of regents," Alexander said recently. "We've studied the community college plan and we're going to recommend it to the board."

"We want to see the associate and arts programs expanded," said Joe Iracane, chairman of the Western regents. "This has been here for the asking for a long time and Dr. Alexander just picked right up on it."

"What we hope to do is serve the needs of the young people, build with them and if they do well, allow them to move into our structured programs without watering down any of our academic areas," Iracane said.

Western already offers non-traditional programs and a two-year nursing program. The non-traditional programs are for people 25 and older. The same programs are offered by the state's five other regional universities. Western seeks to expand the concept and get an official Western Kentucky community college system, add extra employees and name the faculty and administrators that would be involved.

If the plan is approved, there would have to be some restructuring on campus, said Iracane.

"We will get started without hiring new personnel," he said. "But as activities begin to flourish, naturally we will require additional employees. We don't have a name for the school yet, or a syllabus, but we plan to establish it as a regular, ongoing program."

Gary Cox, deputy executive director of the state Council on Higher Education, said the program falls under the state's higher education formula and therefore will be appropriately funded.

"We have statutory authority to have a community college," said Alexander. "The legislature, several years ago, gave the regional universities the right to establish community colleges on campus. It's just that it's never been implemented here as such. We think we should do it now."
**Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony**

**Clipping Division**

**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

**Dawson Springs Progress**

Dawson Springs, Ky.

Circulation: 3,424

---

**Alexander sworn in as Western President**

**By The Associated Press**

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Kern Alexander was sworn in as Western Kentucky University’s seventh president during a board of trustees meeting.

Alexander, a native of Cumberland County, replaces Donald Zacharias, who left to become president at Mississippi State University.

Alexander, 46, worked as an education professor at Florida State University before coming to WKU.

---

**New WKU president sworn in**

**From AP and Special Dispatches**

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Dr. Kern Alexander was sworn in as Western Kentucky University’s seventh president.

Alexander, a native of Cumberland County, replaces Donald Zacharias, who left to become president at Mississippi State University.

Alexander, 46, worked as an education professor at Florida State University before coming to WKU.

---

**Alexander Is New Western President**

**By The Associated Press**

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Kern Alexander was sworn in as Western Kentucky University’s seventh president.

Alexander, 46, worked as an education professor at Florida State University before coming to WKU.

He was selected by the regents in December.

---

**Clipping Division**

**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Dawson Springs Progress

Dawson Springs, Ky.

Circulation: 3,424

---

**Dr. Kern Alexander named WKU president**

**Kentucky Press Service, Inc.**

332 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Adair Co. News

Columbia, Ky.

Circulation: 2,678

---
President inaugurated at Western Kentucky

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Kern Alexander Jr. was inaugurated yesterday as Western Kentucky University's seventh president, and told those gathered, "There is no honor...I could cherish more."

"I accept the presidency of Western Kentucky University with a deep sense of humility," Alexander, a native of Marrowbone in Cumberland County, said in his inauguration speech to about 800 people.

"There is no honor that the people of my native state could have bestowed on me which I could cherish more than the opportunity to serve them as president of Western."

Gov. Martha Layne Collins told the audience, "We are proud to have such a distinguished Kentucky scholar and educator return to one of our premier institutions."

Alexander stressed that a main objective of the university had to be the mitigation of inequality that might prevent students from being able to attend Western.

"Western should stand forthright and assert a will to erase economic, social, and hereditary privilege and seek to foster a society where those who are industrious, knowledgeable, ethical, and moral will be held in highest esteem," he said.

Alexander earned a master's degree from Western. He assumed the Western presidency after working as director of the Institute for Education Finance at the University of Florida.

Alexander is installed

Wearing the official medallion of Western Kentucky University Saturday, Dec. 13 Dr. Kern Alexander Jr. was officially installed as WKU's seventh president during 2 p.m. ceremonies in Van Meter Auditorium.

The investiture of the President was the culmination of a weeklong inaugural celebration which included special tributes to student, faculty and alumni groups.

Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro, who made the official installation with the University medallion, said, "This is a time to celebrate...the rich heritage of this institution. It is a time for each of us to re dedicate ourselves to the advancement of this institution and its vital role in expanding education opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in our region."

On behalf of the Commonwealth, Gov. Martha Layne Collins said: "We are proud to have such a distinguished Kentucky scholar and educator return to one of our premier institutions."

The inaugural address, delivered by Dr. Charles B. Reed, chancellor of the State University System of Florida, was full of praise for Alexander, who worked with Reed at one time on the Governor of Florida's educational policy.

"He has the values of a leader," Reed said of WKU's President..."integrity, personal security, a sense of priority and vision. He can see clearly what needs to be done and he knows how to get it done."

Western's President took the occasion of his inauguration to address the audience of 800, including representatives of colleges and universities all across the country, as well as the oldest institution in the world, Oxford University in England, on his philosophy of education, "principles for which Western has stood for 80 years, and a formula for the future," he said.

"I accept the presidency of Western Kentucky University with a deep sense of humility," Alexander, a native of Marrowbone, Ky., said. "There is no honor that the people of my native state could have bestowed on me which I could cherish more than the opportunity to serve them as president of Western."

"We should always keep in mind that the primary reason for the existence of the state university is to educate the youth of the state," Alexander said, adding one way to recognize the needs of the state is to "draw nearer to the elementary and secondary schools in identifying and shaping the educational programs necessary to address those students needs."

"It is a time for each of us to re dedicate ourselves to the advancement of this institution and its vital role in expanding educational opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in our region."

Western, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, during his administration. Those included instilling a desire for knowledge, having a direct influence on Kentucky society, and remaining adaptable and flexible in interpreting the needs of the people of Kentucky.

Alexander stressed that a main objective of the university had to be the mitigation of inequality that might prevent students from being able to attend Western.

"Western should stand forthright and assert a will to erase economic, social, and hereditary privilege and seek to foster a society where those who are industrious, knowledgeable, ethical, and moral will be held in highest esteem," he said.

Alexander earned a master's degree from Western. He assumed the Western presidency after working as director of the Institute for Education Finance at the University of Florida.
Dr Kern Alexander to be inaugurated

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University’s Board of Regents will inaugurate Dr. Kern Alexander as WKU’s seventh president during ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13.

"We are pleased that the inauguration committee has scheduled a week-long program of activities leading up to the inauguration," said Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro. "We are especially pleased that Gov. (Martha Layne) Collins and the four living former WKU presidents will be attending.

The inauguration ceremony will be held in Van Meter Auditorium at 2 p.m. and Dr. Charles Reed, chancellor of the University of Florida system, will deliver the inaugural address.

The inauguration activities begin on Sunday, Dec. 7, with the Christmas Madrigal Feast, a modern invention based on several Renaissance and Medieval traditions. The 7 p.m. program will be held in the Garrett Conference Center. Tickets are $13.50 and are available from the WKU Ticket Office.

Receptions will be hosted by the WKU Student Alumni Association Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. and by the WKU National Alumni Association on Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both receptions will be held in the Craig Alumni Center.

The unveiling of "Western Presidents 1906-1986" will take place at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Kentucky Museum. Former presidents Kelly Thompson, Dero Downing, and John Minton will unveil the exhibit. It will be on display Thursday and Friday in the lobby of Wetherby Administration Building and Saturday at Van Meter Auditorium.

At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Galleries K and L of the Kentucky Museum, Dr. Lowell Harrison, university historian, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are $10 and are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, a reception will be hosted by the Faculty Senate at 4:30 p.m. in the College of Education Building Auditorium. A lecture by Dr. Vivian Williams of Oxford University will follow at 5:15 p.m. The University Concert Band will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

The unveiling of "Western Presidents 1906-1986" will take place at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Kentucky Museum. Former presidents Kelly Thompson, Dero Downing, and John Minton will unveil the exhibit. It will be on display Thursday and Friday in the lobby of Wetherby Administration Building and Saturday at Van Meter Auditorium.

A community dinner, hosted by the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Galleries K and L of the Kentucky Museum. Dr. Lowell Harrison, university historian, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are $10 and are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, a reception will be hosted by the Faculty Senate at 4:30 p.m. in the College of Education Building Auditorium. A lecture by Dr. Vivian Williams of Oxford University will follow at 5:15 p.m. The University Concert Band will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

Following Saturday’s inauguration ceremonies, a reception will be held in the ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center.

Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents will inaugurate Dr. Kern Alexander as WKU's seventh president during ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 13.

"We are pleased that the inauguration committee has scheduled a week-long program of activities leading up to the inauguration," said Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro. "We are especially pleased that Gov. (Martha Layne) Collins and the four living former WKU presidents will be attending.

The inauguration ceremony will be held in Van Meter Auditorium at 2 p.m. and Dr. Charles Reed, chancellor of the University of Florida system, will deliver the inaugural address.

The inauguration activities begin on Sunday, Dec. 7, with the Christmas Madrigal Feast, a modern invention based on several Renaissance and Medieval traditions. The 7 p.m. program will be held in the Garrett Conference Center. Tickets are $13.50 and are available from the WKU Ticket Office.

Receptions will be hosted by the WKU Student Alumni Association Monday from 3 to 5 p.m. and by the WKU National Alumni Association on Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both receptions will be held in the Craig Alumni Center.

The unveiling of "Western Presidents 1906-1986" will take place at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Kentucky Museum. Former presidents Kelly Thompson, Dero Downing, and John Minton will unveil the exhibit. It will be on display Thursday and Friday in the lobby of Wetherby Administration Building and Saturday at Van Meter Auditorium.

At 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Galleries K and L of the Kentucky Museum, Dr. Lowell Harrison, university historian, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are $10 and are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, a reception will be hosted by the Faculty Senate at 4:30 p.m. in the College of Education Building Auditorium. A lecture by Dr. Vivian Williams of Oxford University will follow at 5:15 p.m. The University Concert Band will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

A community dinner, hosted by the Bowling Green-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Galleries K and L of the Kentucky Museum. Dr. Lowell Harrison, university historian, will be the featured speaker. Tickets are $10 and are available from the Chamber of Commerce.

Thursday, a reception will be hosted by the Faculty Senate at 4:30 p.m. in the College of Education Building Auditorium. A lecture by Dr. Vivian Williams of Oxford University will follow at 5:15 p.m. The University Concert Band will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

Following Saturday's inauguration ceremonies, a reception will be held in the ballroom of the Garrett Conference Center.
WKU plans special program

BOWLING GREEN, KY-Inauguration ceremonies for Western Kentucky University President Kern Alexander are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 in Van Meter Auditorium.

Dr. Charles B. Reed, chancellor of the University of Florida System, will be the featured speaker.

The inauguration will be followed by a 3:30 p.m. reception in the Ballroom of Garrett Conference Center. Other activities scheduled will include receptions during the week hosted by student and alumni groups and the Bowling Green-Warren County community.

Musical performances will be held, plus an unveiling of a display of presidential memorabilia, and there will be a special address during the week by Dr. Vivian Williams of Oxford University in England.
Education said a boost to economy

By MARY D. FERGUSON

The new president of Western Kentucky University says the state must make a reasonable investment in education to enjoy enrichment of the community, region and state economies.

Dr. Samuel K. Alexander, accompanied by Dr. Chuck Anderson, associate dean of academic services at Western, spoke Wednesday to a Chamber of Commerce Sandwich Hour audience here.

They showed a film in which members of the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education discuss the needs of the state's colleges and universities.

Comprising the discussion group were university faculty members, administrators, and students—among them Dr. Raymond Burse, a Hopkinsville native who is president of Kentucky State University.

Moderator of the filmed discussion was David Dick, a former CBS newsman who currently is a professor of journalism at the University.

Please turn to Page 2A

Continued from Page 1A

The group discussed Kentucky's long battle to upgrade education and the need for $100 million to fund the state's higher education system.

The film concluded with a comment by the late Edward Prichard, a Kentucky education advocate, who said the "one factor which will have the greatest impact on the economy of the state is in the area of education."

The discussion stressed the importance of the community college system, which should offer educational opportunities to students of all ages across the state. Alexander said the system should have colleges within "striking distance" of all Kentuckians.

The Western president is in only his second week on the job at the Bowling Green university. A native Kentuckian, he has his doctorate from Indiana University, with advanced study at Oxford University in England.

Alexander pleaded for Kentucky to rise above the "poor" status, noting that investment in education at any and all levels is the answer to an improved economy.

For each dollar invested in a student, he said, the state receives thousands of dollars in return from a more productive citizen.

"Kentucky is poor because we have put forth a low effort," Alexander said, noting that no longer are neighboring states lagging behind Kentucky.

In recent years, Virginia and, more recently, Tennessee have gone far beyond Kentucky in financing for education, he said.

He called for an "investment in the human beings of Kentucky."

Alexander pointed out that only 11 percent of Kentucky citizens have four or more years of college and that 500,000 Kentuckians are functionally illiterate.

Alexander predicted that the legislature will respond to education needs and that any investment made will enrich the state's economy.

"If we move out, our children and our children's children will thank us," he said.

In other action at the Sandwich Hour, Les Bloom, chairman of the chamber's education and business committee, noted that the Kentucky Educational Network (KET) will air a program on school and business partnerships at 2:30 p.m. Friday and at 8:30 a.m. Saturday. He said the show includes a segment on Christian County.
As Western Kentucky University's new president, Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander is due congratulations and best wishes as he assumes the duties of the office even as he continues his work at the University of Florida. Dr. Alexander is beginning his work at Western at a critical time. The 1986 General Assembly is just getting under way, and the session is being called on to more adequately fund higher education in Kentucky. Thus, Dr. Alexander must immediately devote time and energy to the battles soon to be waged in Frankfort.

At the same time, Dr. Alexander will remain under contract to the University of Florida where he is a professor of education administration and director of the Institute for Educational Finance. This is a heavy load to carry. But Dr. Alexander appears to accept the challenge willingly, even eagerly. Dr. Alexander has said that the Western presidency is the only one that he has ever sought, and according to published reports, it is his desire to remain in that position for many years to come.

Western's seventh president has not yet moved to Bowling Green, but he is no stranger to the city. He attended elementary and junior high school here and received a master's degree from Western.

We take this opportunity to welcome him to Bowling Green even as he divides his time between Kentucky and Florida. We feel that his tenure at Western will prove beneficial both to the university and the community in which it is located.
The Dawson Springs Progress

COMMITTEE NARROWED LIST TO 5

WKU’s Search For President Was Done Professionally, Efficiently

Commentary
By Joe Iracane
Chairman
Board of Regents
Western Kentucky University

The selection of a new president for Western Kentucky University is unquestionably the most important task undertaken by the board of regents since I became chairman in 1984. The board accepted the responsibility of selecting WKU’s seventh president with sincere dedication. We viewed the scope and magnitude of the job before us with a sense of purpose shared by the members individually and as a governing unit.

The citizens of Kentucky may share with pride in the appointment of Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. as president of the university. We, as a board, are extremely pleased with the way the search was conducted, with the professional and efficient work of the board of regents and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and the ensuing results.

The success of the selection process did not just happen. The board decided at the outset that the selection would be methodical, careful and professional, with an optimistic and ambitious vision for Western’s future always foremost in mind.

We began by talking at length about the selection of a capable search committee. We wanted members who were not only familiar with Western and its mission in the university system, but also men and women who had demonstrated a strong commitment to Western’s enhancement, love for its rich tradition, and knowledge of its program and administration.

The 16-member search committee named by the board included leaders from Western’s external constituency — the professionals, business and commerce in the regional community — as well as internal leaders from the faculty and student body.

This committee worked diligently and deserves praise for its performance. They recommended five highly qualified candidates for consideration by the board in evaluating candidates’ credentials.

The board then focused on defining the kind of president Western needs for the immediate future. The major questions to be considered were: What academic credentials would best be suited to the mission of the university; and what personal qualifications of leadership would be necessary to unify the students, faculty and administration to best achieve the mission of the university?

The board of regents feels these questions have been answered with the appointment of Dr. Alexander as president.

I am pleased to report to the citizens of this state that the presidential search process at Western Kentucky University was completed with professionalism and efficiency. We look forward to Western’s continued contribution as one of this nation’s outstanding educational institutions.

Early in the process the board decided that protecting the integrity and confidentiality of the selection process was crucial and deserved close attention. This required planning, trust and careful communication. Each member of the committee respected our commitment to confidential treatment of the candidates’ credentials.

The board then focused on defining the kind of president Western needs for the immediate future. The major questions to be considered were: What academic credentials would best be suited to Western’s future?; and what personal qualifications of leadership would be necessary to unify the students, faculty and administration to best achieve the mission of the university?

The board of regents feels these questions have been answered with the appointment of Dr. Alexander as president.

I am pleased to report to the citizens of this state that the presidential search process at Western Kentucky University was completed with professionalism and efficiency. We look forward to Western’s continued contribution as one of this nation’s outstanding educational institutions.

His appointment to the presidency of Western Kentucky University is the culmination of his career, Dr. Kern Alexander said at his first campus appearance Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Western’s new president, who has been a member of the University of Florida faculty for the past 17 years, told reporters and WKU faculty and staff attending a news conference, “I’m certainly pleased to return to Kentucky and to Western.” The native of Cumberland County said “to get back to Western and to be able to assist in the advancement and progress of this great institution” has been his goal.

“I’m enthusiastic about Western’s future,” Alexander said, adding, “We don’t have to be in an era of limitations; we can expand, improve our programs, we can work with the public schools of Kentucky in bringing students through higher education, and we have a bright future.”

Alexander announced that he would recommend Dr. Paul B. Cook, who has been serving as interim president of WKU during the search for the school’s seventh president, be named by the university’s board of regents as executive vice president of administrative affairs.

However, Joe Iracane, chairman of the board from Owensboro, said he will assume duties immediately, meaning Alexander will be available to the university and will attend sessions of the 1986 General Assembly.

Christmas Came Early For Ranch

Christmas came early for the Kentucky Sheriffs’ Boys and Girls Ranch.

Sheriff Ralph Baskett of Hardin County called to ranch and informed them that a generous lady, the late Elizabeth C. Ray of Radcliff, had bequeathed some of her monies to the ranch.

The will named the Kentucky Sheriffs’ Boys and Girls Ranch the recipients of $32,500 as a first installment. Mrs. Ray, originally from Germany, owned an apartment house in Germany, which she sold in 1984.

Timber Is Big Business

Kentucky’s annual timber harvest
Western's new president, who has been a member of the University of Florida faculty for the past 17 years, told reporters and WKU faculty and staff attending a news conference, "I'm certainly pleased to return to Kentucky and to Western." The native of Cumberland County said "to get back to Western and to be able to assist in the advancement and progress of this great institution" has been his goal.

"I'm enthusiastic about Western's future," Alexander said, adding, "We don't have to be in an era of limitations; we can expand, improve our programs, we can work with the public schools of Kentucky in bringing students through higher education, and we have a bright future."

Alexander announced that he would recommend Dr. Paul B. Cook, who has been serving as interim president of WKU during the search for the school's seventh president, be named by the university's board of regents as executive vice president of administrative affairs.

Cook's duties will include continuing to work in planning and budgeting for the university, with additional duties to be worked out during the next few months, Alexander explained.

One of Western's biggest challenges, Alexander said, "is attracting good quality students and maintaining open access. Western was established to provide higher education and service to Kentucky. Western must in the future expand its role in bringing quality students to Western as well as students who have high aspirations for attending college. We must provide them the opportunity to become productive members of our society."

Three goals for Western, Alexander said, are recruitment and retention of students, expansion of curriculum offerings to make them more attractive to students and increased emphasis on development activities to secure external, non-governmental support for Western.

Alexander also said Western enjoys a good relationship with members of the General Assembly and that he will work to continue that relationship.

In response to what he feels the role of athletics should be, Western's new president said he believes that sports are an important part of the university community and of life. "I am in favor of a good strong athletic program," he said, indicating he would look at the cost of athletics, however, and work within the university's budget.

Alexander was named president of Western Saturday, Dec. 14, following a unanimous decision by the school's board of regents. His contract will officially begin in May.
A Cumberland County native, Alexander attended elementary and junior high school in Bowling Green and received his master's degree in education at Florida's College of Education. He withdrew as a finalist for the Western presidency in 1979, but he said Wednesday that the post was the only presidency he had sought.

Alexander said he wanted to increase the statewide importance of education and to take Western beyond limits that have been placed on it.

"I've been distressed the past few years to see some things happening at Western and in Kentucky," he said. "I categorically reject that notion of Western as a regional institution."

The school's regents met Wednesday in the third straight day of interviews with finalists for the job left vacant when Donald Zacharias became president of Mississippi State University. Paul Cook, another finalist, is interim president.

The selection of a new president for Western Kentucky University was unquestionably the most important task undertaken by the Board of Regents since it became chairman in 1984.

Board members accepted the responsibility of selecting WKU's seventh president with sincere dedication. We viewed the scope and magnitude of the job before us with a sense of purpose shared by the members individually and as a governing unit.

The citizens of Kentucky may share pride in the appointment of Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. as president of the university.

"As a board, we are extremely pleased with the way the search was conducted, with the professionalism and efficient work of the Board of Regents and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and the ensuing results."

The success of the selection process did not just happen. The board decided at the outset that the selection would be methodical, careful and professional, with an optimistic and ambitious vision for Western's future always foremost in mind.

We began by talking at length about the selection of a capable search committee. We wanted members who were not only familiar with Western and its mission in the university system, but also men and women who had demonstrated a strong commitment to Western's enhancement, love for its rich tradition and knowledge of its programs and administration.

The 16-member search committee named by the board included leaders from Western's external constituency — the professions, business and commerce in the regional community, as well as internal leaders from the faculty and student body.

This committee worked diligently and deserves praise for its performance. It recommended five highly qualified candidates for the board to evaluate in making the presidential selection. Members of the search committee served the university, the educational system and the citizens of the Commonwealth with distinction as they reviewed and evaluated 172 applications and nominations.

Early in the process the board decided that protecting the integrity and confidentiality of the selection process was crucial and deserved close attention. This required planning, trust and careful communication. Each member of the committee respected our commitment to confidential treatment of the candidates' credentials.

The board then focused on defining the kind of president Western needs for the immediate future. The major questions to be considered were: What academic credentials and personal qualifications of leadership would be necessary to meet the needs of the university and what personal qualifications of leadership would be necessary to meet the needs of the students, faculty and administration to best achieve the mission of the university?

The Board of Regents feels these questions have been answered with the appointment of Alexander as president.

I am pleased to report to the citizens of this state that the presidential search process at Western Kentucky University was completed with professionalism and efficiency. We look forward to Western's continued contributions to one of this nation's outstanding educational institutions.
Higher education is expected to be one of the top priorities of the legislative session, according to Richards, but how much money will be available is still unsure. Richards agreed with Alexander's comments that the legislature should be as cooperative as possible in helping to fund education reforms passed during the special session last summer, said Smith. The cost has not been finalized, he said.

First, the legislature will have to fund education reforms passed during the special session last summer, said Smith. The cost has not been finalized, he said. Also, the state could be facing a smaller surplus than projected, said Smith. The state had hoped for a $250 million surplus, but indications now are the surplus will be between $100 million and $150 million, Smith said.

Alexander realizes the governor and legislators will feel pressure to increase funding from several groups. However, Alexander said he is guardedly optimistic about what higher education might accomplish.

"I don't think the revenue situation is as bad as I originally thought," he said.

Alexander will be able to build on the groundwork already laid by the man he replaces, Dr. Donald Zacharias, and Cook, Smith said. He added that Cook is well known by legislators.

Western will need a president who is "a leader who has a dream of what the school can be and a person who is not bound by any limits," Richards said.

Kentucky's higher education system is structured better than Florida's, said Alexander, who was Education Policy Coordinator for the Florida governor from 1982-1984.

In that position, Alexander said he had more authority over higher education than university presidents and chancellors. "We can't define what good is," he said.

Kentucky's universities need to cooperate, but Alexander said he is ready to assume the leadership role of former president Donald Zacharias. Presidents Zacharias, Kelly Thompson and Dero Downing worked several years to develop leadership, he said.

"I wouldn't expect to be as effective as those men right off the bat," he said.

Western's seventh president also has had experience with Kentucky's educational system. He began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County and worked in the state Department of Education. And, among the group's Alexander has served as a consultant for is the Council for Better Education, a group that is suing the General Assembly. The group of school superintendents and leaders wants the courts "to define what constitutes efficiency in education," Alexander said. The state constitution calls for an "efficient" system but that has never been defined by the courts or the legislature, he said.

Alexander was asked to assist the group after he helped the state Chamber of Commerce on its study of "Kentuckians for Education Excellence" in 1983-84. That study defined the needs of elementary and secondary education in Kentucky, he said.

Smith said he didn't think Alexander's involvement with the school superintendents would hurt his efforts to lobby the legislature for Western.

"The business community in Kentucky recognizes the importance of higher education for business and the economy generally," Alexander said. That group's efforts will be "very important in the legislative session," he said.

When Dr. Kern Alexander returns to Bowling Green early next month, he will face his first challenge as president of Western Kentucky University.

The General Assembly opens its session Jan. 7 in Frankfort, and Alexander plans to lead Western's efforts to gain more funding.

"I'm just getting in here in midstream," Alexander said in a telephone interview from his office at the University of Florida. "I hope to carry through the plans that have already been made and try to squeeze as much from them (the legislature) as we can. "We won't be starting any new initiatives this late. It would be impossible."

The Council on Higher Education has recommended $5.4 million in additional funds and $16.6 million for capital construction for Western in 1986-88, according to Paul Cook, executive vice president for administrative affairs.

Western's state appropriation is about $34 million this year, Cook said.

Alexander also plans to meet with key legislators in early January. Alexander, Cook, Regents Chairman Joe Iracane and Alumni Director Jimmy Feix met with Gov. Martha Layne Collins last Tuesday.

"We talked briefly about the higher education situation, the formula (for funding the system), the level of funding and so forth," he said.

Western's main funding needs are for salaries and for deferred maintenance, he said. "Deferred maintenance and repair problems are starting to build up at all universities," he added.

"I think it is imperative that the new president spend time getting to know various legislators and presenting his program to them," said state Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green.

Getting to know the legislators will be crucial to building Alexander's credibility among them, said state Rep. Billy Ray Smith.
Dr. Alexander new WKU president

His appointment to the presidency of Western Kentucky University is unquestionably the culmination of his career, Dr. Kern Alexander said at his first campus appearance this month.

Western’s new president, who has been a member of the University of Florida faculty for the past 17 years, told reporters and WKU faculty and staff attending a news conference, "I’m certainly pleased to return to Kentucky and to Western," the native of Cumberland County said, "to go to Western and to be able to assist in the advancement and progress of this great institution" has been his goal.

"I’m enthusiastic about Western’s future," Dr. Alexander said, adding, "We don’t have to be in an era of limitations; we can expand, improve our programs, we can work with the public schools of Kentucky in bringing students through higher education, and we have a bright future.”

Dr. Alexander announced that he will recommend Dr. Paul B. Cook, who has been serving as interim president of WKU during the search for the school’s seventh president, be named by the University’s Board of Regents as executive vice president of administrative affairs.

Cook’s duties will include continuing to work in planning and budgeting for the University, with additional duties to be worked out during the next few months, Dr. Alexander explained.

One of Western’s biggest challenges, Dr. Alexander said, "is attracting good quality students and maintaining open access. Western was established to provide higher education and service to Kentucky. Western must in the future expand its role in bringing quality students to Western as well as students who have high aspirations for attending college. We must provide them the opportunity to become productive members of our society," he said.

Three goals for Western Dr. Alexander outlined as recruitment and retention of students, expansion of curriculum offerings to make them expanded and attractive to students and increased emphasis on development activities to secure external non-fundamental support for Western.

Dr. Alexander also said Western enjoys a good relationship with members of the General Assembly and that he will work to continue that relationship.

In response to what he feels the role of athletics should be, Western’s new president said he believes that sports are an important part of the university community and of life. "I am in favor of a good strong athletic program," he said, indicating he would take a strong look at the cost of athletics, however, and work within the University’s budget.

Alexander was named president of Western Dec. 14 following a unanimous decision by the school’s board of trustees. His contract will officially begin in May; however, Joe Iracane, chairman from Owensboro, said he will assume duties immediately, meaning Dr. Alexander will be available to the University and will attend sessions of the 1986 General Assembly.

WKU’s Board of Regents select a new president

By Joe Iracane, chairman Board of Regents Western Kentucky University

The selection of a new president for Western Kentucky University is unquestionably the most important task undertaken by the Board of Regents since I became chairman in 1984.

The Board accepted the responsibility of selecting WKU’s seventh president with sincere dedication. We viewed the scope and magnitude of the job before us with a sense of purpose shared by the members individually and as a governing unit.

The citizens of Kentucky may share with pride in the appointment of Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander Jr., as president of the university. We, as a board, are extremely pleased with the way the search was conducted, with the professional and efficient work of the Board of Regents and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and the ensuing results.

The success of the selection process did not just happen. The board decided at the outset that the selection would be methodical, careful and professional, with an optimistic and ambitious vision for Western’s future always foremost in mind. We began by talking at length about the selection of a capable search committee. We wanted members who were not only familiar with Western and its mission in the university system, but also men and women who had demonstrated a strong commitment to Western’s enhancement, love for its rich tradition, and knowledge of its programs and administrations.

The 16-member search committee, named by the board, included leaders from Western’s external constituency — the professions, business and commerce in the regional community, as well as internal leaders from the faculty and student body.

This committee worked diligently and deserves praise for its performance. They recommended five highly qualified candidates for the board to evaluate in making the presidential selection. The search committee served the university, the educational system and the citizens of the Commonwealth with distinction as they reviewed and evaluated 172 applications and nominations.

Early in the process the board decided that protecting the integrity and confidentiality of the selection process was crucial and deserved close attention. This required planning, trust and careful preparation. A member of the committee respected our commitment to confidential treatment of the candidates’ credentials.

The board then focused on defining the kind of president Western needs for the immediate future. The major questions to be considered were: What academic credentials would best suit the needs of the university? and what personal qualifications of leadership would be necessary to unify the students, faculty and administration to best achieve the mission of the university?

The Board of Regents feel these questions have been answered with the appointment of Dr. Alexander as president.

I am pleased to report to the citizens of this state that the presidential search process at Western Kentucky University was completed with professionalism and efficiency. We look forward to Western’s continued contributions as one of this nation’s outstanding educational institutions.
Former Cumberland County resident

Alexander named WKU president

A former Cumberland Countian is now the seventh president of Western Kentucky University.

Samuel Kern Alexander, Jr., 46, was unanimously approved as the new president of WKU by the Board of Regents on Saturday, December 14, and was given a three-year contract at $75,000 per year. He currently teaches education administration and directs the Institute for Educational Finance at the University of Florida.

Alexander will replace Donald W. Zacharias, the university's sixth president and first non-Kentuckian selected for the University's top post. Zacharias left Western after six years to accept the presidency of Mississippi State University.

Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane said in published reports that the transition from the interim administration of Paul B. Cook will begin this week, although Alexander will not begin duties officially until May 15 when he will be completely free of his obligations at Florida.

Cook will stay at Western to serve as an administrator and advisor to the new president.

Iracane said he was impressed with Alexander's enthusiasm for student recruitment, fund raising and his commitment to build on the university's traditions.

He also pointed out Alexander's ties to Kentucky were "useful" in his consideration, but it was not an overriding factor in his selection. One of the finalists was Ray O. Nystrand, Dean of the School of Education at the University of Louisville, who is also a Kentuckian.

WKU Regent and Cumberland County News Publisher Patsy Judd said of Alexander, "He will bring to Western outstanding academic and administrative experience. I am confident that he will provide Western with excellent leadership."

Alexander's father, Samuel Alexander of Louisville, began his teaching career in Cumberland County, later moving to Jefferson County where he served as assistant superintendent of Jefferson County schools. The senior Alexander also served as deputy superintendent of public instruction for Kentucky in 1976.

Alexander's mother, Emma McClure Alexander, taught in Jefferson County schools from 1953 to 1975.

The new WKU president received his undergraduate degree from Centre College at Danville, his graduate degree at Western and his doctorate in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. He has a post-doctorate diploma in educational studies from Oxford University in Oxford, England.

WKU regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander's selection followed a concentrated search process, starting with the appointment of a 16-member advisory committee to the board which screened applicants. Beverly Kirk, a junior communications major from Burkesville, was a member of that committee.

He received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he served since 1968.

From 1966-67 he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Office of Education's of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. Alexander was responsible for the implementation of Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizations to facilitate long-range educational planning.

In 1965 he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and was legislative liaison. Initial strides were taken toward creating a state education management information system during this period.

Alexander has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for many Education Department agencies.

Farm Bureau re-elects Mackey president

Kentucky Farm Bureau's three top officials were re-elected to one-year terms at the December 14 closing session of the 66th Kentucky Farm Bureau convention in Louisville.

Ray Mackey of Hardin County won an eighth one-year term as president of the organization. W.R. Sprague of Union County remains as first vice president, and Sam Moore of Butler County will continue as second vice president.
Alexander Chosen To Head WKU

In a unanimous decision December 14th, Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents appointed Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander, Jr., as the school's seventh president.

Alexander's contract becomes official May 15, 1986. However, Iracane said Western's new president "will be available for Western immediately."

Regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander is a native Kentuckian from Cumberland County and holds a master of arts degree in education from Western Kentucky University. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College in English and history and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University. He completed postdoctoral studies with distinction at the University of Oxford, England.

Alexander received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

Having worked in education both in Washington, D.C., on the national level and in Frankfort in the state department of education, WKU's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the Journal of Education Finance, a national journal, served on the editorial board of the Journal of Law and Education and was an advisory editor for the Education Law Reporter.

He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition.
Of Western Kentucky University

Dr. Alexander new president

In a unanimous decision Saturday, Dec. 14, Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents appointed Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. as the school's seventh president.

Alexander, professor of educational administration and director of the University of Florida's Institute for Educational Finance, will be in Bowling Green Monday and will appear at a news conference Tuesday at 10 a.m., said Joe Iracane, chairman of the WKU Board.

Alexander's contract becomes official May 15, 1986. However, Iracane said Western's new president "will be available for Western immediately."

Regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander's selection followed a concentrated search process, starting with appointment of a 16-member advisory committee to the board which screened applicants. Iracane commended the committee for its methodical and professional search process which was designed to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the candidates.

Following the Board meeting, Iracane told reporters Alexander would be available to Western throughout the legislative session which opens next month.

Alexander is a native Kentuckian from Cumberland County and holds a master of arts degree in education from Western Kentucky University. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College in English and history and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University. He completed postdoctoral studies with distinction at the University of Oxford, England.

Alexander received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

From 1966-67 he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Office of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. His responsibility was to implement Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizational and staffing patterns to facilitate long-range educational planning.

In 1965 he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and was legislative liaison. During this period the initial strides were taken toward creating a state education management information system.

He also served a supervisor of the state Department of Education, and his activities included assisting school districts in fiscal planning.

WJU's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the Journal of Education Finance, a national journal, served on the editorial board of the Journal of Law and Education and was an advisory editor for the Education Law Reporter.

He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition.
Cumberland native selected as new WKU president

A former Cumberland Countian is now the seventh president of Western Kentucky University.

Samuel Kern Alexander Jr., 46, was unanimously approved as the new president of WKU by the Board of Regents on Saturday, and was given a three-year contract at $75,000 per year. He currently teaches education administration and directs the Institute for Educational Finance at the University of Florida.

Alexander will replace Donald W. Zacharias, the university's sixth president and first non-Kentuckian selected for the university's top post. Zacharias left Western after six years to accept the presidency of Mississippi State University.

WKU Regent and Cumberland County News Publisher Patsy Judd said of Alexander, "He will bring to Western outstanding academic and administrative experience. I am confident that he will provide Western with excellent leadership."

Alexander's father, Samuel Alexander of Louisville, began his teaching career in Cumberland County, later moving to Jefferson County where he served later as assistant superintendent of Jefferson County schools. The senior Alexander also served as deputy superintendent of public instruction for Kentucky in 1976.

Alexander's mother, Emma McCune Alexander, taught in Jefferson County schools from 1953 to 1975.

The new WKU president received his undergraduate degree from Centre College at Danville, his graduate degree at Western and his doctorate in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. He has a postdoctorate diploma in educational studies from Oxford University in Oxford, England.

WKU regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander's selection followed a concentrated search process, starting with the appointment of a 16-member advisory committee to the board which screened applicants. Beverly Kirk, a junior communications major from Burkesville, was a member of that committee.

He received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

From 1966-67 he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U. S. Office of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. Alexander was responsible for the implementation of Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizations to facilitate long-range educational planning.

In 1965 he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Educational Programs and was legislative liaison. Initial strides were taken toward creating a state education...
Regents name Dr. Alexander as new president of Western

Western —continued from A-1—

Western. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College in English and history and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University. He completed postdoctoral studies with distinction at the University of Oxford in England.

Alexander received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968. From 1966-67, he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Office of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. His responsibility was to implement Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizational and staffing patterns to facilitate long-range educational planning.

He was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and was legislative liaison in 1965. During this period the initial strides were taken toward creating a state education management information system. He also served as supervisor of the state Department of Education, and his activities included assisting school districts in fiscal planning.

WKU's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the 'Journal of Education Finance,' a national journal, served on the editorial board of the 'Journal of Law and Education' and was an advisory editor for the 'Education Law Reporter.'

He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition. Enrollment at Western during the fall semester was 11,259.

Zacharias served as president for six years.

WKU's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the 'Journal of Education Finance,' a national journal, served on the editorial board of the 'Journal of Law and Education' and was an advisory editor for the 'Education Law Reporter.'

He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition. Enrollment at Western during the fall semester was 11,259.

Zacharias served as president for six years.
A promising choice at Western

The Selection of Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. as president of Western Kentucky University is a good omen for continuation of the forward-looking administration Western has enjoyed in recent years. But, more than that, it's a hopeful sign for the future of education at all levels in Kentucky.

This is because Dr. Alexander, a professor and head of the Institute for Educational Finance at the University of Florida, has a vision of the whole spectrum of education. As a nationally recognized consultant, he has helped to chart school reforms in Florida and other states, including Kentucky.

Among many other services to Kentucky, Dr. Alexander helped in the study of public education launched by the state Chamber of Commerce in 1983. So better than most, he knows Kentucky's problems can't be solved if the focus is on higher education alone. A key to improving the state universities is the ability of the elementary and secondary schools to send them properly prepared students.

Conversely, the universities have a heavy share of the duty to train teachers equipped to send well prepared students to college. Western's emphasis on this task is traditionally strong.

So Dr. Alexander's appointment, just as Kentucky is re-thinking its programs for educating and certifying teachers, is particularly well timed. Based on his record, he seems likely to be amenable to improvements — even changes that disturb the comfortable.

The fact that Dr. Alexander, the son of a widely respected Kentucky educator, has a master's degree from Western and strong family ties to the university is more than a sentimental consideration. His background knowledge of this state's problems is certain to be helpful, both to Western and the cause of education generally.

Nevertheless, if Western's new president is stepping into any roses at all, they will be thorny ones. He's taking over at a time when all of Kentucky's public universities are having extreme difficulty competing financially with their counterparts in more educationally progressive neighboring states. Part of his task will be to convince Kentuckians of something their neighbors already seem to have learned — that quality education is an investment that's costly to make, but far more costly to ignore.

The News-Democrat, Thursday, December 19, 1985 A-10

Of Western Kentucky University

Dr. Alexander new president

In a unanimous decision Saturday, Dec. 14, Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents appointed Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander Jr. as the school's seventh president.

Alexander, professor of educational administration and director of the University of Florida's Institute for Educational Finance, will be in Bowling Green Monday and will appear at a news conference Tuesday at 10 a.m., said Joe Iracane, chairman of the WKU Board.

Alexander's contract becomes official May 15, 1986. However, Iracane said Western's new president will be available for Western immediately.

Regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander's selection followed a concentrated search process, starting with appointment of a 16-member advisory committee to the board which screened applicants. Iracane commended the committee for its methodical and professional search process which was designed to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the candidates.

Following the Board meeting, Iracane told reporters Alexander would be available to Western throughout the legislative session which opens next month.

Alexander is a native Kentuckian from Cumberland County and holds a master of arts degree in education from Western Kentucky University. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College in English and history and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University. He completed postdoctoral studies with distinction at the University of Oxford, England.

Alexander received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

From 1966-67 he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Office of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. His responsibility was to implement Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizational and staffing patterns to facilitate long-range educational planning.

In 1965 he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and was legislative liaison. During this period the initial strides were taken toward creating a state education management information system.

He also served a supervisor of the state Department of Education, and his activities included assisting school districts in fiscal planning.

WUK's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the Journal of Educational Finance, a national journal, served on the editorial board of the Journal of Law and Education and was an advisory editor for the Education Law Reporter. He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition.
New Western president wants to seek rapport with legislators

Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN — Western Kentucky University President Samuel Kern Alexander said yesterday that he would try to develop a rapport with legislators in 1986 to benefit the school in years to come.

Alexander, who was hired September 1, said in a news conference that his influence probably would have little impact on the General Assembly session that begins in January because so few people will know him.

He agreed with a statement by regents Chairman Joe Iracane that Alexander and interim President Paul Cook give Western “the best 1-2 punch in the state,” and Alexander added that the school will “need as many punches as we can get” to lobby the legislature.

Alexander’s contract doesn’t officially begin until May 15, but he will be on campus between now and then organizing his administration. He also will be finishing his term as a professor of educational administration and director of the Institute for Educational Finance at the University of Florida.

Alexander is a professor of educational administration and is the director of the University of Florida’s Institute for Educational Finance.

A native of Cumberland County, Alexander holds a master of arts degree in education from Western.

The day’s regents have selected Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander of the University of Florida as the new president.

Alexander, who will be the university’s seventh president, was one of five finalists for the job that became vacant when Donald Zacharias left in August.

The regents’ decision on Saturday was unanimous. Alexander’s contract becomes official May 15, 1986, said Joe Iracane, chairman of the board.

Iracane said, however, that Alexander will be available for Western immediately.

Alexander is a professor of educational administration and is the director of the University of Florida’s Institute for Educational Finance.

A native of Cumberland County, Alexander holds a master of arts degree in education from Western.

Cook will continue to run the day-to-day operations of the university in the interim, Alexander said, adding that he has recommended that Cook be appointed executive vice president for administrative affairs. Cook was among four others who competed against Alexander for the president’s job.

Cook will retain his duties as Western’s budget director, and additional duties will be determined within a few months, Alexander said.

Alexander, a Cumberland County native, succeeds Donald Zacharias, who resigned Aug. 31 to become president of Mississippi State University. Returning to Western, where he earned a master’s degree, “is the culmination of my career,” Alexander said.

Among Alexander’s top priorities are finding more money for the university, expanding the school’s curriculum to make it more attractive to potential students, and trying to clear the athletic association’s deficit, he said.

“I’m enthusiastic about Western’s future,” Alexander said. “We don’t have to be in an era of limitations. We can expand, improve our programs; we can work with the public schools of Kentucky in bringing students through higher education, and we have a bright future.”

Athletics are an important part of university life, but they must operate within budget requirements, Alexander said.

In his first few hours on the job, Alexander said, he talked about the football program’s deficit with Cook, Iracane and others.

Correcting the problem is “something that may take modification at the NCAA level,” Alexander said. The university needs to look carefully at costs, but “I want to maintain the strength of the program,” he said.

“Can’t envision Western without having a top-notch basketball team and an outstanding football team,” he said.

Winning a top-notch basketball team and an outstanding football team, he said.

Winning a top-notch basketball team and an outstanding football team, he said.

Winning a top-notch basketball team and an outstanding football team, he said.
The new president is professor of educational administration and director of the University of Florida's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education. A native of Cumberland County, Alexander holds a master of arts degree in education from Western. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College and a doctor of education degree from Indiana University. Alexander completed postdoctoral studies at the University of Oxford, England.

He received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

Alexander, 46, began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County. In 1965, he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and in 1966-67, he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Department of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington.

The regents' search for a president began last September and was narrowed from 172 candidates to five finalists.
WKU appoints Fla. professor new president

Regents pick S. Kern Alexander Jr., Kentucky native and Western graduate

By Art Jester
Herald-Leader staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — S. Kern Alexander Jr., a University of Florida professor and son of a well-known Kentucky educator, was chosen yesterday to become the seventh president of Western Kentucky University.

Alexander, 46, an authority on the economics and financing of public schools, apparently edged out Paul B. Cook, a Western professor and administrator for 25 years.

Cook has been Western's interim president since Donald Zacharias resigned Aug. 31 to become president of Mississippi State University.

The Western board selected Alexander after a 22-minute executive session yesterday morning. Although the vote was unanimous in the subsequent open meeting, interviews with some regents indicated that the choice was not clear cut and that at least three of the five finalists had been seriously considered.

Faculty regent Mary Ellen Miller said that Alexander and Cook appeared to be rated fairly evenly by the 10-member board, leaving it with a close decision.

Mrs. Miller said that Thomas A. Bond, the president of Clarion (Pa.) State University, also was a “heavy contender.”

She said that a fourth finalist, Edward Jakubauskas, the president of the State University of New York at Geneseo, also had some support among Western faculty. The fifth finalist from an initial field of 172 candidates was Ray O. Nystrand, the dean of the University of Louisville School of Education.

Regent Patsy Judd of Burkesville, who made the motion to select Alexander, said the decision was based on “objective evidence.”

She said Alexander “values Western's traditions, has outstanding academic and administrative experience, has authored extensive publications and has an outstanding reputation.”

Her motion was seconded by student regent Mitchell McKinney of Bowling Green.

By phone from his home in Gainesville, Fla., yesterday, Alexander said by phone from his home in Gainesville, Fla., yesterday that he intended to retain Cook as his top assistant. He called Cook an “excellent administrator . . . and great asset to Western.”

Alexander said he was not at liberty to discuss Cook's future position.

His salary was set at $75,000 a year. In addition, the university will provide Alexander and his family with Western's presidential residence at university expense, an expense account for social functions and a car for official business.

By a separate vote, the board approved Alexander’s contract, which will begin May 15 and will extend through June 30, 1989.

His salary was set at $75,000 a year. In addition, the university will provide Alexander and his family with Western's presidential residence at university expense, an expense account for social functions and a car for official business.

By a separate vote, the board approved Alexander’s contract, which will begin May 15 and will extend through June 30, 1989.

By a separate vote, the board approved Alexander’s contract, which will begin May 15 and will extend through June 30, 1989.

Bond, the president of Clarion (Pa.) State University, said that he was “confident that we have picked a leader who will lead Western to new heights.”

Alexander said his top priority at Western would be to help improve the high school graduation rate in Kentucky — now the nation’s lowest — and to step up recruiting of Western students. He said there was also continuing concern that Kentucky’s universities were not receiving an adequate amount of state money.

The parents of Western’s president-designate, as well as his brother and two sisters, all earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Western. All of the family members have been teachers or professors.

Alexander started his career as a teacher in Jefferson County and has worked for the state Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

He had been a finalist for the Western presidency in 1979 but withdrew after “stiffle” developed in what many observers viewed as a politically charged search process.

He said yesterday that he had always been interested in Western because it “is very important” to his family.

Alexander is a native of Cumberland County, attended elementary school and junior high school in Bowling Green and graduated from Louisiana’s Valley High School.

He was named one of 75 “Outstanding Young Education Leaders in America” in 1981 by Phi Delta Kappa, the education honor society. He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.

He joined the Florida faculty in 1968 and attained the rank of professor of educational administration in 1970. He has also been given the “Distinguished Faculty Award” at Florida.

He has written, co-written and edited a host of books and articles.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 16, 1985

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—In a unanimous decision Saturday, (Dec. 14) Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents appointed Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander Jr., as the school's seventh president.

Alexander, professor of educational administration and director of the University of Florida's Institute for Educational Finance, will be in Bowling Green Monday and will appear at a news conference Tuesday at 10 a.m., said Joe Iracane, chairman of the WKU Board.

Alexander's contract becomes official May 15, 1986. However, Iracane said Western's new president "will be available for Western immediately."

Regents began a search for a replacement for Donald W. Zacharias last September, and narrowed 172 candidates for the job to five earlier this month.

Alexander's selection followed a concentrated search process, starting with appointment of a 16-member advisory committee to the board which screened applicants.

Iracane commended the committee for its methodical and professional search process which was designed to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the candidates.

Following the Board meeting, Iracane told reporters Alexander would be available to Western throughout the Legislative session which opens next month.

Alexander is a native Kentuckian from Cumberland County and holds a master of arts degree in education from Western Kentucky University. He has a bachelor's degree from Centre College in English and history and a doctor of education degree in educational administration from Indiana University. He completed postdoctoral studies with distinction at the University of Oxford, England.

Alexander received a distinguished faculty award at the University of Florida, where he has served since 1968.

From 1966-67 he served with the Division of State Agency Cooperation for the U.S. Office of Education's Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education in Washington. His responsibility was to implement Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and his office was charged with assisting state agencies in restructuring their organizational and staffing patterns to facilitate long-range educational planning.

—more—
In 1965 he was director of the Kentucky Department of Education's Division of Statistical Services and was legislative liaison. During this period the initial strides were taken toward creating a state education management information system.

He also served as supervisor of the state Department of Education, and his activities included assisting school districts in fiscal planning.

WKU's 46-year-old president began his career as a teacher in Jefferson County.

Alexander has an extensive list of publications primarily on finance in education, is a former editor of the Journal of Education Finance, a national journal, served on the editorial board of the Journal of Law and Education and was an advisory editor for the Education Law Reporter.

He has held both national and state leadership positions and has served on numerous occasions as a U.S. Government consultant for such agencies as the U.S. House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, the U.S. Commissioner of Education's Task Force on School Finance, the Committee for Study of Educational Finance Statistics, National Center for Educational Statistics for the U.S. Office of Education and National Urban Coalition.

SC/cel

Alexander

For more information contact, Fred Hensley, director of public information, 502-745-4295. Sheila Conway, news editor, 502-745-5380.
Alexander takes over as Western president

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) - Kem Alexander Jr. was inaugurated Saturday as Western Kentucky University's seventh president, and told those gathered "there is no advancement of this institution and its vital role in expanding educational opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in our region."

In his speech, Alexander outlined what he said would be the purpose of Western, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, during his administration. Those included instilling a desire for knowledge, having a direct influence on Kentucky society and remaining adaptable and flexible in interpreting the needs of the people of Kentucky.

Alexander stressed that a main objective of the university must be the mitigation of inequality that might prevent students from being able to attend Western.

"Western should stand forthright and assert a will to erase economic, social and hereditary privilege and seek to foster a society where those who are industrious, knowledgeable, ethical and moral will be held in highest esteem," he said.

WKU regents name alumnus as new university president

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) - Western Kentucky's regents picked Dr. Samuel Kern Alexander today at the university's new president.

Alexander, 46, currently is a professor at the University of Florida. He was one of five finalists for the job vacated last August by Donald Zacharias.

A native of Bowling Green, Alexander received his master's degree from Western. He will be on campus Monday.

The meeting today continued deliberations that lasted Monday through Wednesday and included interviews with all five candidates.

Zacharias resigned the presidency to become president of Mississippi State University. The interim president, Paul Cook, is the school's budget director and also a finalist for the permanent post.

Other finalists were Alexander, a professor of educational administration and director of the Institute for Educational Finance at the University of Florida; Ray Nystrand, dean of the School of Education at University of Louisville; Thomas Bond, president of Clarion University in Clarion, Pa.; and Edward Jakubauskas, president of State University of New York at Geneseo.

WKU Board of Regents chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro made the official installation by presenting Alexander the university medallion.

"This is a time to celebrate ... the rich heritage of this institution," Iracane said. "It is a time for each of us to rededicate ourselves to the advancement of this institution and its vital role in expanding educational opportunities and enhancing the quality of life in our region."

In his speech, Alexander outlined what he said would be the purpose of Western, which is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year, during his administration. Those included instilling a desire for knowledge, having a direct influence on Kentucky society and remaining adaptable and flexible in interpreting the needs of the people of Kentucky.

Alexander stressed that a main objective of the university must be the mitigation of inequality that might prevent students from being able to attend Western.

"Western should stand forthright and assert a will to erase economic, social and hereditary privilege and seek to foster a society where those who are industrious, knowledgeable, ethical and moral will be held in highest esteem," he said.
WKU president must sell school, candidate says

A finalist for the president's job at Western Kentucky University said university presidents must be salesmen to promote what the school does for the people it serves.

"I think a president has to be highly visible in his work" and that means meeting with students, faculty, community leaders and state officials, said Edward Jakubauskas, president of the State University of New York at Geneseo. He met with Western officials Tuesday.

"The president "has to generate a feeling that he thinks the institution is a good one," he said. Paul B. Cook, Western's interim president, said in his interview that he feels strongly that Western "is an undergraduate institution and that instruction is our primary focus."

Cook, also interviewed for the position Tuesday, said Western should look at the latest marketing trends to "get the message out that education is important to the state of Kentucky."