

MINUTES
OF THE ACADEMICS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

January 7, 2000

AGENDA ITEM 1 - Call to Order

Required statutory notice having been given, the meeting of the Academics and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in the Regents Conference Room of the Wetherby Administration Building on the Western campus. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m., CST, by Ms. Lois Gray, Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 2 - Roll Call

Committee members present were:

Ms. Kristen Bale
Ms. Amanda Coates
Ms. Lois Gray
Professor Mary Ellen Miller

In addition, Ms. Liz Esters, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Burch and members of her staff, and Dr. Jerry Wilder, Vice President for Student Affairs, and members of his staff were in attendance.

On the agenda for discussion only were the following items:

- **Approval of a new Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Technology**
- **Approval of new Bachelor of Science Degrees in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering**
- **Approval of a new Intellectual Property Policy for Western Kentucky University**

Submitted as action items, but with Committee approval, pulled from action and placed in the informational/discussion items were:

- **Center for Community Journalism and Communication as a Program of Distinction**
- **Proposed New Charter of the University Senate**

Other informational items included:

- Implications of Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) "System wide Placement and Assessment Policy" for Western Kentucky University

- Report on the preliminary evaluation of academic programs at Western in the context of new CPE “productivity” standards
- Report on implications of proposed new CPE academic program approval process including negotiation of “program bands” for Western
- Development of a “Report Card” to assess progress toward achievement of University Strategic Plan goals
- Report on adoption of new class scheduling plan to be effective beginning Fall 2000
- Status report on proposal for a new university governance structure
- Report on activities of the state P-16 Council and plans for development of regional P-16 Councils
- Update on progress and plans for the Early Start Program partially funded by the Raymond B. Preston Foundation
- Status report on home Internet services for faculty and staff

Reports from the Vice President for Student Affairs on the following areas:

- Update on Greek Housing
- Status of residence hall sprinkler installation
- Overview of renovation of residence halls.

The following action items received committee attention:

REQUEST: Approval to initiate a new Bachelor of Science in Applied Technology degree program.

FACTS: Western has a well-established commitment to meeting the needs of students for education and training in an efficient and effective manner. The initiation of this degree program in Applied Technology would be a good example of that commitment because it will be based on cooperation and collaboration with other post-secondary institutions to maximize opportunities for students to upgrade their education while avoiding unnecessary duplication in course offerings.

The proposed program will be a variation on the 2+2 model and will be based on articulation/transfer agreements that will be made with technical and community colleges. Candidates for the proposed bachelor’s degree would be individuals who have already completed specialized technical training leading to an Associate of Applied Technology or Associate of Applied Science degree. Students admitted to the proposed program would then complete a common core of industrial technology, supervision, and team building courses, along with needed general education course work, and then graduate with a bachelor’s degree.

Development of this program proposal has taken place with the knowledge and cooperation of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) leadership and discussions for specific articulation agreements are already well advanced with Elizabethtown Community College and Elizabethtown Technical College. Other KCTCS institutions in Owensboro and Bowling Green have also expressed interest. We anticipate that, once approved, this will prove to be a popular program throughout this region of the state and possibly beyond.

To facilitate access to the program, Western plans to incorporate extended campus, KCVU, and other distance education delivery systems to bring this program to place-bound students. This will be particularly beneficial because it is anticipated that many of the students interested in this program will already be employed.

Adoption of this program will advance goals contained in the University's Strategic Plan including: **Strategic Goal 1: Increasing Student Learning, and Strategic Goal 4: Enhancing Responsiveness to Constituents.**

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: No additional faculty will be needed to implement this program.

RECOMMENDATION: President Ransdell recommends the establishment of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Technology at Western Kentucky University effective with the Fall, 2000 semester.

Dr. Terry Leeper, who serves as Chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, reviewed the proposal with the Committee. He noted that Western will be the first in the State to actually put in place a seamless 2+2 program in this area. The delivery of these courses will be both on-site and via web.

MOTION for approval to establish a new degree program, Bachelor of Science in Applied Technology, effective Fall semester 2000, was made by Professor Miller, seconded by Ms. Bale, and carried. The recommendation will be placed on the January 28 Board Agenda.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Barbara Burch reported that the Council on Postsecondary Education is changing the program approval process, and this program will fall in the bank that does not require CPE approval.

REQUEST: Approval of new Bachelor of Science degrees in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

FACTS: Western Kentucky University proposes to replace existing Bachelor of Science degree programs in Civil, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, and Mechanical Engineering Technology with Bachelor of Science degree programs in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. This change will allow the programs to be eligible for accreditation under the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and will allow graduates of the programs to be candidates for registration as Professional Engineers in the state of Kentucky.

A comprehensive assessment, undertaken with the cooperation of the University of Kentucky, has revealed the fact that existing engineering programs have not met the need for fully-trained professional engineers, particularly in this region of the state. The proposed programs would address that need and would do it in a way consistent with Western's particular mission to emphasize applied research and technology in its programs. The programs are planned so that they will complement existing engineering programs at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville in part through their focus on the currently under served south central region of the state, and in part through a distinctive emphasis on applied study and the training of engineering *practitioners*. The programs would make a significant contribution to the economic development of the state and region as evidenced by endorsements received from many business and industry leaders.

The proposed programs will advance goals in the University's Strategic Plan including **Strategic Goal 1: increasing Student Learning** and Strategic Goal 4: **Enhancing Responsiveness to Constituents**. In addition, the adoption of these programs will directly address those aspects of the overall university mission designed to “**produce nationally and globally competitive graduates**” and to “**provide optimum service and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents**”.

Instruction in the program will be primarily through face-to-face interactions between students and faculty, but distance learning technologies will be employed where appropriate, particularly as opportunities for collaboration with other universities in the state are developed.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Implementation of this recommendation will require additional faculty positions and increased operating budget support. External private support will be required for start-up expenses and on-going budget support will be provided through the shift of resources currently allocated to the Engineering Technology programs, through reallocations within Ogden College of Science, Technology, and Health, and through private giving.

RECOMMENDATION: President Ransdell recommends the establishment of Bachelor of Science degrees in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering effective with the Fall, 2000 semester and the phasing out of existing Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Following a brief review of the recommendation by Dr. Joel Lenoir, motion for approval to establish Bachelor of Science degrees in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering effective Fall semester 2000, and phasing out of existing Bachelor of Science degrees in Civil, Electrical, Electro-Mechanical, and Mechanical Engineering was made by Ms. Coates, seconded by Ms. Bale, and carried. This recommendation will be placed on the January 28 Board of Regents agenda.

Ms. Coates stated, “This is a tremendous opportunity for the students, and I’m very excited for the students.”

Ms. Gray commented, “I applaud the University, too, in your working with the business and industry communities and having their endorsement. I think that’s what we need to be doing, and I want to brag on you for doing business that way.”

REQUEST: Approval of a new Intellectual Property Policy for Western Kentucky University.

FACTS: Western Kentucky University, like other universities, is committed to the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The university seeks to serve as a catalyst and facilitator for faculty and staff professionals engaged in pedagogical, scholarly, and service activities. The proposed Intellectual Property Policy is intended to articulate the rights and responsibilities of faculty, staff and the university with respect to the creation and dissemination of knowledge through both traditional classroom and print mediums and through newer forms of

electronic communication mediums. The objectives of the policy include clarification of the university's values regarding intellectual property and the generation of new knowledge; facilitating the dissemination of new knowledge; provision of an administrative system to evaluate commercial value of discoveries and developments and help bring them to public use; provision of equitable division of interests in shared intellectual property among the creator, the university, and the external sponsor (where applicable); provision of appropriate incentives for intellectual property creators; and safeguarding of intellectual property created at or through the University.

The proposed policy is the result of a study and recommendation made by an ad hoc Intellectual Property Committee, appointed by the Provost and consisting of faculty and staff members and an outside attorney with specialized expertise in this field. Drafts of the policy were circulated throughout the campus for comment and the final version was approved by the Council of Academic Deans and the Administrative Council and recommended by the Provost to the President.

In view of changes that are taking place in the contemporary environment of higher education, particularly the impact of new technologies, it is timely for the university to adopt this proposed Intellectual Property Policy.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: Adoption of this policy should result in no added costs to the university.

RECOMMENDATION: President Ransdell recommends the adoption of the proposed Intellectual Property Policy to be effective upon approval by the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents.

Professor Miller asked that the faculty have one more opportunity to review this document noting that not everyone had access to the earlier posting on the Web or the document was too long to print on their personal computers. Dr. Burch has indicated that if the faculty have been instructed to communicate any concerns by January 20. Every department has been provided with hard copies, and additional copies can be obtained from the Sponsored Programs Office. If there are substantive concerns they will be communicated to the Board as an amended document for Board consideration on January 28.

MOTION for approval of the proposed Intellectual Property Policy for Western Kentucky University effective upon approval by the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents was made by Ms. Bale, seconded by Ms. Coates, and carried.

The Committee heard a series of informational updates on subjects listed on pages 1 and 2 of these minutes.

Concerns were expressed and suggestions made for slight modifications to the charter for the University Senate. Those modifications are reflected in the document forwarded to the full Board for the January 28 meeting.

Ms. Jo-Ann Albers was recognized for receiving the national “*Journalism Administrator of the Year*” award which resulted in a \$10,000 stipend to Ms. Albers plus \$10,000 to the School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

Upon completion of the review of informational items on the agenda, motion for adjournment was made by Professor Miller and seconded by Ms. Bale. The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.