INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT
OF SEPTEMBER 10, 1981

Ronald Seeger, Chairman

This report will be given in three parts: past, present and future.

There was little carry-over from the past. Last year the committee spent most of its time in designing a questionnaire to determine what the faculty believes the institutional goals of Western to be, and what they should be. This effort was overtaken by time and events. The events were the rewriting of the Western Kentucky University Mission Statement and its approval by the Council of Academic Deans on March 17, 1981, and by the Board of Regents on March 21, 1981.

This document was sent forward to the Council of Higher Education as part of a report of how the mission statement of 1977 was being implemented. The report contained: The new Mission Statement, the mission statement adopted by the Council on Higher Education, a section of goals (eleven were enumerated), a section of objectives (70 total, divided as follows: 47 instructional, 8 research/creative activity, and 15 public service).

This leads to the present activities of the committee. The first order of business will be to consider the document described above, as a working paper. We have been asked by the Senate Chairperson to study the question of utilization of faculty members in areas other than that for which they were hired or previously used. We have also been asked to look into cooperation with other Kentucky institutions: What are we doing; what can we do?

Looking to the future, two trends have been identified which could be perceived as threats: one is external, the other internal. The external threat comes from the clear conflict between Western and the Council of Higher Education staff over missions and roles. In quotes from the two sides Senator Seeger showed that the Western Administration wishes to continue as a broad, comprehensive University, while the CHE staff emphasize "regional service." The internal problem is a matter of faculty involvement in important policy affairs. In the past few months:

1. Important committees have been formed;
2. The new Mission Statement for the University with goals and objectives (reported above) was written, approved and sent to the Council on Higher Education;
3. The report of the Task Force on Admissions (one of the above mentioned committees) was prepared, including a recommended policy, and sent forward to the Regents;
4. Important administrative and academic changes were made;
5. After the university received permission to set its own policy on admissions of out-of-state students, a policy was apparently set, and sent forward, and approved by the regents.

All of the above actions were taken without Faculty Senate participation.