1998

UA3/9/6/1 Programs of Distinction

Gary Ransdell
WKU President's Office

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Biographical/Historical Note:
The president's office was created in 1906. Dr. Gary A. Ransdell was named the ninth president of Western Kentucky University on September 12, 1997.

Dr. Ransdell received his Bachelor of Arts degree from WKU in 1973 in Mass Communications, a Master of Public Service degree in Public Administration in 1974, and a Doctor of Education degree from Indiana University in 1978.

Dr. Ransdell re-joined WKU as President after serving four years as Vice President for Administration and Advancement and seven years as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina.

His previous professional experiences at WKU also include service as a field representative in the Office of University School Relations from 1974 to 1976 and as Associate Director of Alumni Affairs from 1978 to 1981.

Dr. Ransdell became Director of Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University in 1981, a position he held until 1987 when he was named as a Vice President at Clemson.

Description: Interview regarding programs of distinction.

Dates: 1998

Formats: 1 audiotape, 1 wav file, 1 mp3 file

Subject Analytics:
Audio recording
Education
Education & Behavioral Sciences (WKU)
Folk Studies & Anthropology (WKU)
Interviews

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

Access Restrictions: none
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<tr>
<th>Media ID</th>
<th>Side</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tape 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>00:00:00</td>
<td>Reporter: Dr. Ransdell are these programs now going to Frankfort as programs of distinction?</td>
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<td>GR: Yes, they will be submitted beginning this Friday in keeping with the CPE mandate of process. And we look forward to success with each of these programs, although as stated in this meeting our full Board of Regents meets on May 15th and these are submitted pending full board approval. And for whatever reason the Board chooses to take action with any one of them, then we withhold that prerogative. But they are submitted as a package representing this university as our programs of distinction.</td>
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<td>Tape 1</td>
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<td>Reporter: As of May 15th?</td>
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<td>GR: As of, why yes, as of the action taken by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee who've been given that authority by the Board. But this committee has opted to come back to the full Board on May 15th to formally approve as a complete board this action.</td>
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<td>Tape 1</td>
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<td>Reporter: Just your general opinions about the four programs.</td>
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<td>GR: I'm most impressed by the efforts made by our faculty to engage in a very difficult process to consider many programs and to have these four programs emerge. Clearly there are three broad based interdisciplinary programs that speak to the heart of the strengths of this university. And we have one graduate program that has achieved national recognition and meets the criteria outlined by the Council on Postsecondary Education. So it's an unusual mix with three broad programs representing the physical sciences, representing education, representing journalism and communications and then a narrowly focused graduate program in folk studies that speaks to our culture and history as a state. So I think we've done a good job of putting a very unique and highly intellectual package together.</td>
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