

SFL MEETING

October 2, 2009

Western Kentucky University Student Services Building

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education met at Eastern Kentucky University on Oct. 2, 2009. Attendees included the following (with WKU and Northern representatives using ITV):

Liam Salazar, Morehead State (Faculty member)

Richard Ware, ECU (Faculty Senate Chair & COSFL Vice Pres.)

Colm Frisbie, ECU (Faculty Regent)

Tracy McKenney, ECU (COSFL Secretary & Faculty Rep. to the CPE)

Greg Pittman-Munke, Murray State (Faculty Senate V.P. & COSFL President)

Ben Janssen, ECU (AAUP Rep.)

Tom Conner, KSU (Faculty Senate President)

Bob Bredemeyer, NKU (Faculty member)

Mark Lipping, NKU (Faculty Senate President)

Tim Kerby, WKU (Faculty member & COSFL Treasurer)

Steve Hudepohl, WKU (Senate Rep.)

Report from the Faculty Representative to the CPE:

Tracy McKenney, newly appointed Faculty Representative to the Council on Postsecondary Education, reported on the Council's meeting on Oct. 1st. This was a special meeting to allow Council members to discuss the CPE's 2010-2012 Operating and Capital Budget Recommendation." This budget is still under development and will likely undergo changes

to its final approval at the November 6th meeting of the Council. It was emphasized by CPE President Robert King that the development of this budget, which is actually an “appropriations request” that will go to the Kentucky General Assembly in 2010, is a collaborative process involving numerous meetings with presidents and chief budget officers of the state universities and KCTCS. Eastern President Doug Whitlock was present at this Council meeting, and he expressed appreciation for the collaborative nature of the CPE’s approach.

CPE’s appropriations request is broken down into 3 categories: 1) Institutional Operating Funds (educational and general expenditures, including faculty and staff salaries, benefits, scholarships, utilities, etc.); 2) Capital Investments (new building construction, renovation of existing buildings, and updating of technology across the system); 3) Agency Operating Funds (funds support statewide educational programs such as Kentucky Adult Education, Kentucky Virtual Library, etc.).

University presidents, their chief budget officers, and the CPE agreed to certain “Points of Consensus” in this process. These included the following:

The operating and capital request will be simple and abbreviated and will include two parts—Base Funding and Capital Investments.

Each part of the request will directly advance the goals of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 (now known as House Bill 1).

No redistribution among institutions of existing institutional General Fund base appropriations should occur.

General Fund appropriations to institutions should continue to be lump sum with necessary accountability requirements. (In other words the CPE will not micro-manage individual budgets.)

As part of this process, each university and KCTCS submitted a 2-page “Strategic Initiative Summary” describing what they would do should any additional money become available for higher education in the next biennium. Although it is unlikely that there will be any extra money, it was thought advisable to be prepared for the possibility.

The faculty representative, Nancy McKenney raised a concern that only one university had listed improvement of faculty retention as a goal in their document. The CPE President had indicated that graduation and retention should be the primary goals and had praised UK’s document which uses the catch phrase “War on Attrition.” McKenney said that while she

ainly supports that kind of goal, it should not be forgotten that we must have excellent faculty to achieve this. When
ries at our institutions are below average, it is difficult to recruit or retain the best faculty. Pres. King assured her that
ry time university presidents gather, they discuss the need to improve faculty salaries. However, he thinks it may be bes
to be explicit about this matter in the budget request at a time when numerous people in the state are out of work. COSI
nbers gave McKenney a round of applause for raising this issue!

ort from COSFL President on Governor's Higher Education Work Group:

SFL President Peggy Pittman-Munke had attended a recent meeting of the Governor's Higher Education Work Group
(HEWG). She indicated that the Work Group has taken stability of funding for higher education "off the table" because of t
r financial picture. Instead, the HEWG is emphasizing the issues of transfer and financial aid. A consultant named Patr
ly, who works for an organization that does statistical studies, was the primary speaker at the Work Group meeting. He
ed at great length about "productivity" of faculty (via such means as online classes and large classes) and also productiv
niversities. According to his figures, the total cost of a degree at UK is \$60,000; at U of L, \$48,000; at the regionals,
,000; and at KCTCS, only \$6,000. He also pointed out that Kentucky universities get about 30% of their funding from t
e, while there are other states whose universities get as little as 8% of their funding from state government.

ussion of Issues to include in a COSFL Recommendation to the HEWG:

remainder of the COSFL meeting was spent in a brainstorming session on issues and concerns that members feel should
addressed in COSFL's recommendations to the Higher Education Work Group. Issues raised in the discussion included
owing:

he problem of faculty pay not keeping up, while demands on faculty continue to increase;

he value of our institutions not all being exactly alike;

he proliferation of administrative positions and the expenditure of money for optional things such as wellness centers,
screen TVs, etc. rather than for things directly related to high quality education;

he expense of keeping up with technology (technology may be important, but could we find ways to save such as statew
ing?);

ransferability (is the problem primarily one of public perception? If so, what to do?);

he importance of better advising (to help with transferability issue);

roblems with transfer when students have a technical school AA degree;

he need to get registrars and faculty to work together;

he need to reach people who return to school after a long absence;

graduation rates (what causes delays in graduation?);

financial problems of students (they can no longer earn enough during the summer to pay a semester's tuition, etc., tuition increases in the recent past);

financial aid challenges (too much used up on developmental courses, lack of money for transfer students, students who neither needy nor high income and thus fall through the cracks).

President Peggy Pittman-Munke will e-mail a preliminary draft to the COSFL Secretary Nancy McKenney to make sure that significant issues from our discussion have been included, and then a document will be sent out via the COSFL list-server for corrections, additions, and comments from the members. The HEWG is supposed to issue its final report on November 1st, so it will be necessary for COSFL to work rapidly in order to have input into the Work Group's report.

Next COSFL meeting:

The next meeting will be Sat. Nov. 21st at 10:00 a.m., location TBA. [Subsequently COSFL members were notified that the meeting will be in Frankfort at the CPE's offices.]

Minutes submitted by,

Nancy McKenney, COSFL Secretary and Faculty Rep. to the CPE