



Board of Regents ~ First Quarterly Meeting
January 23, 2015 ~ 9:00 a.m. (CT)
Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room ~ Mass Media and Technology Hall

AGENDA

- Call to Order (*Mr. J. David Porter, Chair*)
 - Roll Call (*Dr. Melissa B. Dennison, Secretary*)
 - Approval of Minutes
 - Fourth Quarterly Meeting – October 31, 2014
-

1. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (*Dr. Phillip W. Bale*)

Action Items:

- AA-1 Approval of a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree type and a MFA in Creative Writing program [pp 1-61]
- AA-2 Approval of a Master of Arts in Education Gifted Education and Talent Development [pp 62-73]
- AA-3 Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Special Education Learning and Behavioral Disorders and Elementary Education [pp 74-85]
- AA-4 Approval of Minor in Psychological Science [pp 86-93]
- AA-5 Approval of Name Change to Department of Information Systems [p 94]
- AA-6 Approval of Sabbatical Leaves [p 95]
- AA-7 Approval of Emeriti Appointments [p 96]

***AA-5** = Agenda item was not presented at the December 12 Committee meeting and is exempt from Consent Agenda.

2. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE (*Mr. John W. Ridley*)

Action Items:

- FB-1 Acceptance of Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 [p 1 reports previously distributed]
- FB-2 Approval of 2014-15 Operating Budget Revisions [p 2-4]
- FB-3 Approval of Personnel Actions [p 5 and attached reports]
 - Staff [pp S1-S14]
 - Faculty [pp F1-F17]
- FB-4 Acceptance for filing the 2014-15 First Quarter Statement of Revenues & Expenditures [pp 6-7]

Information Item:

- 2015 Employee Health Plan [pp 8-9] (*Ms. Ann Mead*)
-

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(Dr. Gary A. Ransdell)*

Information Items:

- Athletics Mid-Year Report *(Mr. Todd Stewart)*
 - Construction Progress Report [pp 1-3] *(Mr. Bryan Russell)*
 - Development Calendar Year-End Report *(Ms. Kathryn Costello)*
 - 2015 General Assembly Preview *(Ms. Robbin Taylor)*
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4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE *(Mr. J. David Porter)*

Action Items:

EX-1 Approval of the Honorary Naming of the WKU Child Care Center (WKUCCC) as the *Colleen B. Mendel Child Care Center* [p 1]

EX-2 Approval of the Confucius Institute Design/Build Project [p 2]

*EX-2 = Agenda item was not presented at the December 12 Committee meeting and is exempt from Consent Agenda.

EXECUTIVE / CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)

For the discussion of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the University

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING DATES

- March 27 ~ 9:00 am – Committee Meetings *(MMTH – Regents Room)*
 - April 24 ~ 9:00 am – Second Quarterly Board Meeting *(MMTH – Regents Room)*
 - May 15 ~ 5:00 pm – Graduate Commencement *(Diddle Arena)*
 - May 16 ~ 9:30 am / 2:00 pm / 6:00 pm – Undergraduate Commencement *(Diddle Arena)*
 - May 29 – Finance and Budget Committee Meeting *(MMTH – Regents Room)*
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6. ADJOURNMENT

**MINUTES
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

January 23, 2015

• **CALL TO ORDER**

Required statutory notice having been given, the first quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in the *Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room* in the Mass Media and Technology Hall on the Western Kentucky University campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair David Porter at approximately 9:00 a.m., (CST).

• **ROLL CALL**

The following Regents were present, representing a quorum of the Board:

Mr. J. David Porter, Chair
Dr. Phillip W. Bale
Dr. Barbara G. Burch, Faculty Regent
Dr. Melissa B. Dennison, Secretary
Ms. Cynthia Harris

Mr. Gillard B. Johnson III
Mr. James Kennedy, Staff Regent
Mr. John W. Ridley
Ms. Nicki Taylor, Student Regent

Absent from the meeting:

Mr. Frederick A. Higdon
Mr. Laurence J. Zielke

Others in attendance included the following:

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, President
Mr. Howard Bailey, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Randy Capps, Parliamentarian
Ms. Kathryn Costello, Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations
Dr. A. Gordon Emslie, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Gordon Johnson, Chief Information Technology Officer
Ms. Julia McDonald, Assistant to the President for Board & Executive Relations
Ms. Ann Mead, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration
Dr. Brian Meredith, Chief Enrollment & Graduation Officer
Dr. Richard C. Miller, Vice Provost & Chief Diversity Officer
Mr. Bryan Russell, Chief Facilities Officer

Mr. Todd Stewart, Director of Athletics
Ms. Robbin Taylor, Vice President for Public Affairs
Ms. Deborah T. Wilkins, General Counsel

In keeping with the policy of the Board, the agenda for the meeting and information and materials pertinent to items thereon had been mailed in advance of the meeting to members of the Board.

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the following meetings were presented for adoption

- Fourth Quarterly Meeting – October 31, 2014

MOTION

Motion to approve the minutes of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting held on October 31, 2014, was made by Regent Gil Johnson and seconded by Regent James Kennedy.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

Page numbers reflect where the items are located in the meeting agenda book.

CONSENT AGENDA STATEMENT:

Chair Porter announced that the Committees of the Board met on December 12, 2014, and discussed each item on their respective agendas with the exception of items AA-5 and EX-2. These items are exempt from the consent agenda and shall be discussed and voted on separately.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – ACTION ITEMS

AA-1 Approval of a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree type and a MFA in Creative Writing program [pp 1-61]

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-1 was made by Regent Barbara Burch and seconded by Regent John Ridley.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

AA-2 Approval of a Master of Arts in Education Gifted Education and Talent Development [pp 62-73]

AA-3 Approval of a Bachelor of Science in Special Education Learning and Behavioral Disorders and Elementary Education [pp 74-85]

AA-4 Approval of Minor in Psychological Science [pp 86-93]

MOTION

Motion to approve items AA-2, AA-3, and AA-4 was made by Regent Gil Johnson and seconded by Regent James Kennedy.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

AA-5 Approval of Name Change to Department of Information Systems [p 94]

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-5 was made by Regent James Kennedy and seconded by Regent Gil Johnson.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

AA-6 Approval of Sabbatical Leaves [p 95]

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-6 was made by Regent James Kennedy and seconded by Regent Gil Johnson.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

AA-7 Approval of Emeriti Appointments [p 96]

MOTION

Motion to approve item AA-7 was made by Regent Barbara Burch and seconded by Regent John Ridley.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE – ACTION ITEMS

FB-1 Acceptance of Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014

[p 1 reports previously distributed]

FB-2 Approval of 2014-15 Operating Budget Revisions [p 2-4]

FB-3 Approval of Personnel Actions [p 5 and attached reports]

- Staff [pp S1-S14]
- Faculty [pp F1-F17]

FB-4 Acceptance for filing the 2014-15 First Quarter Statement of Revenues & Expenditures [pp 6-7]

MOTION

Motion to approve items FB-1, FB-2, FB-3, and FB-4 was made by Regent Gil Johnson and seconded by Regent James Kennedy.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

- An update on the 2015 Employee Health Plan was provided by Ms. Kari Aikins.
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – INFORMATION ITEMS

- An Athletics Mid-Year Report was provided by Mr. Todd Stewart.
 - A Construction Progress Report was provided by Mr. Bryan Russell.
 - A Development Calendar Year-End Report was provided by Ms. Kathryn Costello.
 - A 2015 General Assembly Preview was provided by Ms. Robbin Taylor.
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – ACTION ITEMS

EX-1 Approval of the Honorary Naming of the WKU Child Care Center (WKUCCC) as the *Colleen B. Mendel Child Care Center* [p 1]

MOTION

Motion to approve EX-1 was made by Regent Phillip Bale and seconded by Regent Barbara Burch.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒Approved ☐Not Approved ☐Other _____

EX-2 Approval of the Confucius Institute Design/Build Project [p 2]

MOTION

Motion to approve EX-2 was made by Regent Cynthia Harris and seconded by Regent Phillip Bale.

DISCUSSION

President Ransdell: To give you a little background, we were successful in receiving \$1.5 million from Han Ban, which is the Chinese Education Ministry. For the last few years, we have been building our Confucius Institute and which, as you know, opened 2010. You have a document that describes this building and what will be done in it, along with other pertinent variables related to our Confucius Institute (CI) at your place.

There are about 400 CIs across the globe and 100 in the US, with two in Kentucky. We were the first and the University of Kentucky received a CI shortly after we were approved for one in 2010. At the annual CI conference in 2012, they let it be known that they were going to create and devote funding to, what they call, a model CI, which would include a building of some yet to be determined sort. And, so, we have been competing since that time with all the other CIs across the globe. Over the course of the past year, it was announced that they were going to approve ten of these and two were going to be in the United States. So, we were in a pretty heated competition with the other 99 CIs across America to get one of these buildings. Our

pursuit started out with requesting \$6 million dollars, then went down to \$4 million, and then went down to \$2 million, and we ended up getting \$1.5 million dollars approved and to our knowledge, that may be the highest appropriation that they are approving. San Diego State was the other university in America that is receiving one of these first ten buildings. My hunch is that there will be more next year, and more the following year. The Chinese Education Ministry devotes about \$3 billion dollars a year to funding their CIs across the globe. It is a major outreach initiative for Chinese culture and cross-cultural relations with all the nations across the globe on each continent.

So, we fought hard for this and we are very pleased. At least my last three trips to China have included meetings with Madame Xu Lin, who is the Director General of Han Ban and who calls the shots. We hosted the North American CI Conference for the first time, as you recall, back in September of 2013. All of that was kind of a precursor to build the relationships and the confidence. Long story short, we were able to close that gift this past December. That check was received by December 31 and is in the bank in the WKU Foundation.

Now, specifically, you saw Bryan Russell indicate the site and the site is included on your material here, along with a projected floor plan. Over the course of the last year we had our architectural design students engaged in a design competition for this building and now all those designs were based on a much more expensive building than the money we ended up getting. But there is some really creative stuff in there that our students had a lot of fun proposing. As it turns out, we are projecting a building that will be very modest brick and stone, much like the Adams-Whitaker Student Publications building just down the street on Normal. 7,100 feet is the projected square footage so it will be a pretty small building. The projected floor plan is in your information. So, it required matching of funds from the university and the way we arrived at the matching was the projected value of the land. There is a fund that I will meet with the WKU Foundation Board about to redirect to this purpose and that is a reserve fund for the Institute of Combustion Science and Environmental Technology (ICSET). ICSET has had a dramatic change in its focus and we're in the process of leasing that space to the private sector. That reserve fund is now a discretionary fund and the Foundation Board will be asked to redirect it to this purpose. Dr. Wei-Ping Pan is ironically the Director of our Confucius Institute and was the Director of ICSET before he retired about a year and a half ago. So, that's the way the matching is being achieved. Total project budget would then be \$3 million, total expenditures at \$2.3 million, actual construction \$1.5 million. So their funding will pay for the construction of the building and Han Ban is ready to move forward. We are ready to invite Madame Xu Lin, who is a high ranking official in the Chinese government, back to campus in August of 2016 to participate in the opening of this building. The primary use will be to work with the teachers. If you look at the back section in the annual report, you'll see photos of the 40 or so Chinese teachers that are teaching Chinese language in public schools, elementary and middle grades. This will be a bit of a home for these Chinese teachers and will be a Chinese training center. Dr. Sam Evans is here and Sam has been heavily involved in helping us get a couple of Master's degree programs that are joint degrees. This will be a bit of an extension to the College of Education that Sam and his faculty have been involved in with considerable detail. At any rate, I apologize for putting this on the agenda without coming through committee but we closed the gift in December, they sent us the money, and we promised them we would get right on it. That's why we haven't had a committee discussion about it before, but I believe most of you have followed my trips to China and have been aware that we were in pursuit of this building. If you haven't had the detail that I'm describing now, I apologize for that but at any rate, we are where we are, and I would like to go on and get board approval so we can go to CPE and get the necessary approval. We seek CPE approval for any building on campus even if it is private funds, and this is all private funds. Then we can get the process underway this spring and have it open by the summer of 2016. This is a quick overview, but our Confucius Institute has become a significant programing element on our campus. We try to keep some distance with our Confucius Institute and direct engagement of our curriculum because we do not want to do anything that would involve our Chinese friends in anything related to academic freedom or anything of that nature. Our Confucius Institute is a programing element but we do teach Chinese language in about 40 different schools and 25 different school districts. That has become a very important part of the youth of our regional communities in learning the Chinese language. I will be glad to answer specific

questions that you might have. It is a modest project, but one that I think is important symbolically and pragmatically in continuing to build our Chinese relations. We believe the Chinese market place for prospective students is opening up for us. This is an important dimension to continue to build that relationship and try to make WKU a destination point for Chinese students who would enroll here. I'll defer to you Mr. Chairman and would be happy to respond to any specific questions, thoughts, conversations that you might have.

Regent Bale: I read recently where nationwide there is like 800,000 foreign students and 29% of them are Chinese.

President Ransdell: I don't know if I saw that exact study but my instincts are that that would be accurate.

Regent Bale: How many Chinese students do we have here?

President Ransdell: About 150 Chinese students; that may not be exactly right, but about 150ish.

Regent Bale: Most of them are paying full tuition?

President Ransdell: Oh yes. They are our third largest population. They were first a couple of years ago. The Saudi Arabian population is now first and the Brazilian is second. Those are two phenomenons that have grown in just the last few years. But we think we can get to several hundred Chinese students in the next few years.

Regent Bale: One might anticipate this would help in this effort.

President Ransdell: That is why we have persuaded it so aggressively.

Regent Burch: We have actually grown what 47 Chinese students in the last four years.

President Ransdell: Right.

Regent Burch: Grown to 175.

President Ransdell: Ok. Thank you.

Regent Johnson: Can I ask a question about the budget? Gary I was trying to write down numbers and you went too fast for me. We've got \$1.5 million that is in the bank that they have given us and we have to match that \$1.5 million. I understand that we don't have to write a check. We must have put a value to the land, a value to the A&E, and the balance is the Foundation check.

President Ransdell: Correct.

Regent Johnson: Do you have the numbers on the land and the A&E?

President Ransdell: Wei-Ping Pan would have that and he is not here today but I cannot recall specifically and that was more of a conversation than. Actually, we did not give them a document. You are dealing with a foreign government and mostly a conversation in the negotiation rather than precise. Ok that works, so but approximately the land would be about \$400,000 a couple of hundred thousand in architectural fees when you consider the time for our faculty and students. I don't know maybe \$100,000 for Kerra Ogden's time as the project manager. So that is how we kind of arrived at \$700,000 in in-kind services in good will and land. Those are the numbers we shared with her but they did not ask for a precise number document.

Regent Johnson: And the balance is coming from the Foundation?

President Ransdell: That fund has now grown over the years to about \$800,000 and would be redirected to this purpose and Kathryn will have me on the Foundation agenda at its next meeting to have that decision with the Foundation Board.

Regent Johnson: So that makes up our part; do we have to enter into any sort of contract or arrangement with them?

President Ransdell: I signed an agreement which I got from Dr. Pan yesterday that I can get to you but it is basically a typical gift agreement that you would expect when a government enters into a relationship with another country.

Regent Burch: Would there be any restrictions in that agreement? First of all, let me make a statement. I feel I'm brand new on this Board, so I don't want to enter things into the discuss that are unfair to air because this is something I understand that Gary has been working on for some time and most of you have some knowledge of and I really appreciate the fact that he probably spent more time with me in the last week than he planned—he probably said a prayer that I never came back. In all fairness, I don't know of anything else I can ask him. Now I might improve his answers. I want to say about the Confucius Institute, I think this really is quite a remarkable thing that our campus has. It is. As Phillip commented, the number that are internationally present is impressive, and I do understand to get one of these grants is highly competitive. It is the kind of thing that is complicated. It is not the kind of thing that you can lay out there and say to the world, "this is what I am doing" - I do understand that. I think it is quite a compliment to Gary to have been able to get it and I would not for one minute want to suggest what we are doing in CI isn't good. It is great. I mean Sam and others will tell you how in the world we have so many teachers out in our schools and so many kids and others to experience language where the districts couldn't pay for it, the culture. I can't say enough good things about it. Having said that, there are a couple of things that I wish we could figure out how to address on this. I'm really pleased that Dr. Ransdell got this in a way that you have gift money and is able to come up with private funds so this is not taking away from any other priority. We have so many but it is not taking away from any other priority and I think that is a real positive. The one question I had, and a couple of questions came to me, I think it is an important part of our international efforts and I think that it is really important that it be put in place in a way that it is sustainable over time. My biggest question was to understand the use and need. I shared with the President my first thought was we are building another building right next door to this international building and I was struggling to figure out need. He convinced me a little bit but then I thought about use. This program is being designated as the Chinese teacher training institute. That suggest I mean we are seeing it and I think somewhere in the descriptors it talks about this literally being a core part of WKU. And it is. I know it is about culture and Chinese language but as with any initiative like this on a campus and with our constituents ultimately you have got to really figure out how you get your faculty, your department's direction and your community engaged. And I understand that sometimes you do that too soon and you mess up what Confucius could do. I understand that Gary. There are a lot of things the institute does or at least so far, but this is a Chinese Teacher Training Institute and for one thing that makes it something I'm assuming institutes have to be academically approved. Provost Emslie as an institute. I mean I don't know it is not Confucius Institute it's the Confucius Teacher Training Institute. And when you talk about teacher training in addition to the College of Ed we've got a number of campuses on a number of departments on campus that are engaged in teacher training. You certainly have the language department that's heavily involved. And what I wish is we have the money it's in the bank it is an honor to be selected for it and I don't want to do anything that suggest not valuing this program, but I am wishing we could find a way that before we go off and determine how it is going to be used that we could reach out beyond just the Confucius Institute staff and engage the faculty the programs that are going to be a part of this. I know it is about those 40 teachers but the fact is those 40 teachers unless they are in elementary are all

having to work toward certifications. So they are either enrolled or getting certified most of them live in the communities that they are teaching in so it isn't like they come to campus very often but I do understand symbolically it says something to them to have a place. So Gary I am not for one minute saying there cannot we value and I know that you've got an August 16 target date. I don't know when this has to go to the board over to the council.

President Ransdell: It will be our next meeting.

Regent Burch: Which is?

President Ransdell: I don't know if it will be at our next meeting, but our next meeting is next week. It will probably be the meeting after that I guess. The Council on Postsecondary Education.

Provost Emslie: The next meeting is February 13.

Regent Burch: It wouldn't make that.

Provost Emslie: April.

Regent Burch: The April meeting. I'm interested in the sustainability of this and I'm interested in how it becomes really a part of Western. And how it engages the faculty and the departments that you are going to need to make it come alive. You already have the money,

President Ransdell: Sam, can you help us with this. It is your faculty that will be most directly engaged and you have obviously been closely involved with the joint Masters Degrees that we now have with Chinese Institutions. Do you have some thoughts on that?

Dr. Evans: Just a couple of thoughts in regards to what has been shared. We right now have six individuals from China in our MAP Program to become *certified in Mandarin*. They will be here next year as well and we are in the process of recruiting a new class. As of this day, there are eight potential new students to come next year. In addition to that group, and I don't have the numbers because Han Ban does the initial screening, we have worked with individuals in China. We are looking to go over there at the end of May to help those individuals become professionally certified in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It is what we do to help them to make sure that the government feels good about the quality of the teachers in the classroom. Those individuals do come to WKU prior to school starting and they do have things that they take them through to kind of acclimate to the culture, to Kentucky, to Bowling Green, and the surrounding areas-- literally across the state. We do that work once they get here. We do work through webinars. We go to China and work with them. That's a different group of individuals. They work in the schools and I don't want to say it is a free labor, there is a small cost there to Han Ban, but it is a huge asset to the school districts and they love it. As Barbara indicated, those folks do live in the communities in which they are teaching. So yes, we can pull folks together. What can we do to enhance the nature, the intent of the facility, to make sure that the faculty is utilized as described?

One beauty of what we are doing with the MAP individuals: they go to class with folks who are not becoming teachers of Mandarin Chinese. They have to take at least 9 hours a semester; they are on campus. We want them to get the big picture of the schools they are working in, not just the Mandarin Chinese classrooms.

Regent Ridley: So, there is a larger group that they are a part of also?

Dr. Evans: In response to your question, the short answer is yes.

President Ransdell: Help us understand what Barbara is seeking, and you and your faculty would be most engaged, so help us arrive at that. Thank you.

Regent Ridley: I have a question. Just hypothetically. Middle East is in a mess right now and there is lots of stuff going on. What if politically- geopolitically- something took place with the Chinese government and the relationships with the United States? Are we contractually, by accepting a gift, again we go back to the gift part and forget everything but the gift part- are we contractually entering into an agreement that that facility and that program has to be sustainable regardless of something we would have no control over?

President Ransdell: No. If they withdraw, then the building is ours and it becomes something else. If we withdraw, then yes. There is an expectation that we are in this for the long term and there would be a pro-rated at \$1.5 million. If we chose to withdraw and terminate our Confucius relationship, then we would pro-rate refund the money. That is not unlike any corporate or political dynamic. The agreement allows for both parties to get out of it. If we choose to do so, you pro-rate how much length of time you have been in it and then arrive at a calculation to send them back some of the money. But we don't anticipate doing that. CIs are only ten years old; this was the 10th anniversary this past December. This is a growing phenomenon. But you are absolutely right; things change. In 20, 30, 40, 50 years, I hope our Chinese relationships are strong and trade is strong because that is what we are training our students to embrace and be part of. But the world can change. You are right.

Regent Johnson: I think we can all take Barbara's comments and concerns to heart. I think that they are well placed and hopefully, as this matures over the next few months with whatever things that can be done to make the faculty as a whole feel part of it.

President Ransdell: There is one caution. I want to be careful to keep this a program and not part of our actual curriculum because I don't think we want to be involved with the Chinese government in matters that relate to our curriculum per say. Institutions have gotten crossways with their faculty in that regard and I don't ever want our Chinese relations to be an issue with anything that we relate to academic freedom or anything of that nature. I tell our students, and our faculty, every chance I get- you don't have to condone a country's politics to understand its culture and embrace its people and understand the value of trade. Those three things that our CI is mostly about- understanding culture, language, and trade. Let other people deal with the politics and governmental policies.

Regent Johnson: Can I go back to one question? I want to digress a second. I wrote it down in my notes. What happens, this is a small facility-7100 square feet, so you don't have that much problem with overruns- what is our obligation in the event that there is a construction over-run? Or is it design-build?

President Ransdell: It is going to be design-build and our students are doing it. Bryan Russell and Kerra Ogden will reduce the square footage if we sense at any point that it will be over the projected \$1.5 million budget because there is no source to go to request additional funding.

Regent Johnson: And contractually, we can do that?

President Ransdell: Yes. The 7100 is our number. Not their number.

Regent Burch: I think it is a given that the money has been accepted and our commitments with Confucius say that we are going to build this building. Is there any reason we could not approve the acceptance of the gift and the fact that we are going to build it but buy time to identify how it is going to be used and even to talk about the naming of it? I really struggle with the Chinese Teacher Training Institute that is not connected to our academics. They are not in the teacher training business. It doesn't prevent you from starting planning, but at least it addresses the question of being used.

President Ransdell: We can't go forward without Board approval. We need Board approval to do any of that. Don't get hung up on that name 'institute.' I asked Wei-Ping to put some talking points together when we got back from China, and that's what he did, so we aren't that far along in what lettering is going to go on the building or anything. Again, the money was just deposited over the holidays. There will be plenty of time to arrive at what it's called and exactly the programming in it. Like a lot of gifts you close, you pursue a dream and you close a gift, but I can't do anything without Board approval to move forward.

Regent Burch: But you could approve it with some friendly agreements as to how we are going to determine the naming and the use in relation to other availability.

President Ransdell: Sure.

Regent Burch: I am assuming the library, for example, will get some of their space back and none of this has been discussed.

President Ransdell: The Chinese Learning Center will stay in the library. You all know the Chinese Learning Center when you come into the Helm Library? That will stay because that is a large space and that is more of a museum than anything and our students get a kick out of that walking through that to get into the library. But the offices for the Confucius Institute are there. They will now free up for the library. There will be some multi-purpose space that the library can reclaim in that regard as well. Connie and I were just talking about that.

Regent Burch: So, help me understand. If we design it, I thought that use dictated design. How do we make sure that that does happen?

President Ransdell: You see the general design here, the floor plan. Now, I don't see that changing much. You have two classrooms, two kind of flex spaces, four offices, a copy center, five offices, excuse me, one on the first floor and four on the second floor, and a modest little kitchen, where I assume our Chinese teachers will most likely cook stuff. I mean, it is a pretty modest project. I don't see the design changing much. What we call it and is it possible that other things than the Chinese teachers use it? Of course, there will be other things that will take place in here. I don't know what the CI programming will entail that will involve this, but it could be lots of things, but the primary focus will be a home for these Chinese teachers. But yeah, we can get into whatever details you would like as it begins to take shape.

Regent Burch: Again, I just think that it is so important to convey to the campus that there is a communicable need and use for this and a home for Chinese teachers is a little hard to understand when most of them are living out in the communities. It is a symbolic building, and I understand that, but I wish it could be more than that.

President Ransdell: Those teachers are here a good bit. They're back and forth on a pretty regular basis because there are a lot of things that they need to do as a group. But I can't give you their precise schedule.

Regent Johnson: Barbara, is your concern what the name of the facility is and that it denotes that it is tied to the university?

Regent Burch: I am concerned with the fact that we are going to approve design of it based on use that has been determined, I guess, principally, with the work Dr. Pan has done. I am saying that if this is truly something of importance to WKU's international program, and I think it is, that I would love to see it somehow be understood as to why we need it. I think there is a perception on campus sometimes, that we have been blessed with being able to build a lot of buildings, and even though this is going to be private money, it will be seen as another building. I just think it is very important that you understand why we need

it and how it is going to be used. I think that is kind of evasive. If we just needed space for teachers and space for the program, in declining enrollment, we have a lot space. I would agree with Gary. Symbolically, having specific space dedicated can be hugely valuable. But, I am just struggling with what it is that is uniquely needed that makes it valuable.

President Ransdell: A lot of gifts we pursue, donor interests, don't always match up with our priorities. Is this our highest campus priority? Of course not. If I had \$1.5 million dollars unrestricted, would I use it for this? Of course not. But that's not how fundraising works. 99% of the gifts you receive are restricted by the donor to do a specific thing. That's just the way philanthropy works. You pursue a gift, you close the gift, and you do it. Our Guthrie Bell Tower was completely a private gift. Hardly a university priority, but it has certainly been a nice campus landmark that we would never do this with our own money. I would put this in the same category. We would never do this with our own money. But the Chinese government is willing to invest in us, and we are better for it.

Regent Burch: And I understand that, but I sort of thought that our application was so that we could be a part of creating a model CI. And so to do that, you have to define what that is. But anyway.

President Ransdell: That's Han Ban's language.

Regent Johnson: It seems like a communication issue.

President Ransdell: It is. I am not asking you to approve the design; we will let our architectural students run with that. But I can't move forward with anything would Board approval to proceed.

Regent Johnson: Well, often a lot of programs are set up, but they are kind of a dynamic. Ever evolving addition, just like every building's use, every program migrates from what it is today sometimes grows. In a way, it is like dedicating an academic building for a particular program that might develop, to continue, to migrate in another way.

President Ransdell: I will communicate to the campus next week after this action with specificity as to what the project is which I planned to do anyway, but again, I can't get out on front on that without this action.

Chair Porter: We got a motion and a second on the floor. Any other questions or discussion?

Regent Taylor: I do have a question from the student perspective because I do know you spoke a lot about wanting to keep the academics and what we are doing here in Chinese studies separate, and I do understand that to an extent, but just the physical space of the building itself whenever it is not, as Dr. Burch made a point, a lot of times teachers are in and out, especially, some of this flex space, may go unoccupied. Is it not in the intent of the building for our Chinese major, Chinese minor, Chinese flagship to use that? I am kind of getting the sense that we might be building this building that would have the perfect opportunity for these students to interact with people from China, so is that not going to be a priority of the building to hold those classes?

President Ransdell: We have a Chinese New Year celebration for our Chinese faculty, staff, and students coming up In February. This would be the place that we will do it in 2017.

Regent Taylor: But what about just general classes whenever it is free?

President Ransdell: Yes, yes, yes. The flex space, the classrooms will be wide-open for campus use, absolutely.

Regent Taylor: I think that would be an obvious sort of use with tying it in to the general campus.

President Ransdell: And I would want students coming in. I would want our domestic students, not just our Chinese students coming in out of a facility called a Confucius Institute as well. As they do with the Chinese Learning Center now. I absolutely agree.

Chair Porter: Any other discussion? I'll call a question.

Regent Burch: I am not opposed to the concept of doing it; I am opposed to not having some contingency on further clarification on use. So, I have to vote no.

Regent Ridley: And I abstain.

Man: We have one abstention, one no, do we have the majority vote for approval?

Ms. McDonald: Yes, we have a majority vote for approval. Motion passed.

Chair Porter: So, I think this has been good discussion. I guess there will be reports on everything that will be developing in the next several weeks and couple of years.

President Ransdell: We will. Thanks.

VOTE / ACTION TAKEN

☒ **Approved with majority of votes**

Regent John Ridley – abstained

Regent Barbara Burch - NO

☐ **Not Approved** ☐ **Other** _____

EXECUTIVE / CLOSED SESSION – Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)

Chair Porter called for an Executive / Closed Session at approximately 12:00 p.m. (CST) for the purpose of discussion of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the University.

Chair Porter called the meeting back to open session at approximately 12:30 p.m. (CST).

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING DATES


- March 27 ~ 9:00 am – Committee Meetings (*MMTH – Regents Room*)
- April 24 ~ 9:00 am – Second Quarterly Board Meeting (*MMTH – Regents Room*)
- May 15 ~ 5:00 pm – Graduate Commencement (*Diddle Arena*)
- May 16 ~ 9:30 am / 2:00 pm / 6:00 pm – Undergraduate Commencement (*Diddle Arena*)
- May 29 – Finance and Budget Committee Meeting (*MMTH – Regents Room*)

ADJOURNMENT


With no further business, Chair Porter adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:45 p.m. (CST).

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in the first quarterly meeting held January 23, 2015, in the *Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room* in the Mass Media and Technology Hall on the Western campus, and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Session, General Assembly).



Mr. J. David Porter, Chair
WKU Board of Regents
Approved on 4-24-15



Dr. Melissa B. Dennison, Secretary
WKU Board of Regents
Approved on 4-24-15