

Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate

Resolution Regarding Legislative Mandates Affecting Transferability and Course Requirements For General Education and Degree Programs

Whereas

the purpose of a university is to produce well-educated citizens who have been exposed to a broad arts and sciences education that is essential for success in the 21st century;

Whereas

the WKU faculty share the legislature's desire to facilitate higher education for all Kentuckians through a transparent and efficient student transfer process and the legislature's commitment to academic excellence;

Whereas

there is strong evidence gathered by the CPE that the vast majority of students are able to transfer to post-secondary institutions such as WKU without difficulty;

Whereas:

WKU has a strong record of supporting transfer students from KCTCS and other Kentucky institutions and has worked actively to address transfer concerns;

Whereas

In the previous year (2009), WKU admitted 2197 of 2197 transfer students who applied for admission to WKU and accepted for credit 43,979 courses they had taken at previous accredited institutions and of this total, 895 students and 19,285 courses came from KCTCS institutions;

Whereas

faculty at universities such as WKU, supported by accrediting bodies, have the greatest degree of expertise in their respective fields of study and therefore are best qualified to determine the core knowledge needed by students in their programs of study;

Whereas

WKU, like other post-secondary institutions, has unique strengths that allow it to be responsive to the particular needs of its service area and constituents;

Whereas

standardizing programs and requirements statewide would seriously jeopardize the flexibility and responsiveness of all post-secondary institutions including WKU;

Whereas

unprecedented changes in program requirements currently being considered by the legislature would incur significant costs and would consume essential human and monetary resources in a time of fiscal crisis;

Therefore, be it resolved

that the elected representatives of the WKU faculty strongly oppose any mandate that standardizes programs of studies and degrees across all post-secondary institutions.

February 4, 2010