

COSFL Representative Report to Faculty Senate
November 7, 2005
Submitted by Mixon Ware

The Council on Senate and Faculty Leadership met on Saturday, February 3, 2007 at the W.T Young Library, University of Kentucky, with ITV links to Murray State University and Western Kentucky University. Campuses represented included: EKU (Mixon Ware); KCTCS (Paul Callan); KSU (Tucker Landy; Tom McPartland); Murray State (Peggy Pittman-Munke, chair of the meeting in the absence of Chair, Terry Irons); Fred Bates, Mark Wattier; NKU (Carol Bredemeyer); UK (Jeff Dembo); UofL (Beth Boehm, Melissa Lanning); WKU (Michelle Hollis). Next meeting: April 21.

- A resolution of sympathy for Terry Irons on the death of his father passed unanimously. It was agreed to have the secretary draft an appropriate letter to send to Prof. Irons.
- The WKU Resolution on KTRS **was** discussed, with other campuses reporting similar resolutions having been passed or under consideration. Faculty senates at KCTCS and KSU have already passed such resolutions. Faculty senates at EKU and Murray are preparing to pass similar resolutions.
- Report on status of HB 158 – The bill, cited as an “academic bill of rights,” has failed in all 14 states in which it was tried. Information from liaisons at WKU and UofL is that it does not have much support in the state legislature. The consensus is that we should not draw unnecessary attention to it. We should watch it and act only if it begins to get significant support. The link to the bill is: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/07RS/HB158/bill.doc>
- CPE Presidential Search – Faculty Representative Wattier provided the following update on the search: University presidents have been contacted for support; their input is crucial. The search committee meets again in April; the expectation is that 8 - 10 names will have been identified from the review of applications in March for consideration by the committee. Of these, five or six may be flown in for preliminary interviews. The list will then be narrowed to three for more extensive interviews with all stake-holders, perhaps in early May. Rep. Wattier acknowledged that this will be a busy time for faculty.
- Campuses should consider having their presidents submit the transcript on the collegial governance workshop, conducted by Carol Bredemeyer, Rick Feldhoff, and Mark Wattier at the last CPE trusteeship conference, to their boards.
- Campus reports: MUSU: faculty senate will soon be looking at supporting the KTRS resolution; Jim Morgan, a Murray faculty member, is serving on the KTRS board. WKU's board recently passed a new EdD program. UK is looking at domestic partner benefits and other related issues. EKU's new provost, Dr. Rodney Piercey is on board; the faculty senate will work on KTRS resolution; there is a financial aid initiative, acronym BRIDGES, to address accessibility; and a childcare feasibility study. KSU has a new long-term interim provost, Dr. James P. Chapman, formerly of EKU; the T&P task force work is progressing, hopefully lifting the T&P moratorium; faculty pay is going to be changed to a two-weeks-in-arears-type-deal. UofL is looking at fairly large tuition increases, because of limited funding from the state; accessibility is being addressed; a joint child-care facility with an NGO is being studied; UofL now has a new VP for Research, a new law school dean, and a new student VP, all minority appointments. KCTCS elected Mike Quindlen and Paul Callan as faculty regents; they are developing another scholarship program to address accessibility. NKU is anticipating its new software system; buildings are going up; a search is under way for college of business dean.

COSFL Report – Page 2

The program featured an update on the Developmental Education and STEM Disciplines CPE initiatives by Sherri Noxel, CPE Director of Academic Assessment, and Allyson Handley, CPE Senior Advisor for Economic Initiatives. A summary is as follows:

a. Developmental education (Sherri Noxel)

CPE planning recognizes three areas to be addressed: college readiness, teacher quality, and developmental education. In 2004, about 53% of freshmen came to post-secondary education under-prepared in one or more subjects, about 26,000. Geographically, the largest concentration is in eastern Kentucky, but many other counties across the state show similar rates. 63% of first-time freshmen were recent high school graduates. 92% of GED recipients, 77% of African Americans, and 86% of part-time students were under-prepared. One-year GPA's of prepared and under-prepared students are being tracked, and they show, not surprisingly, that prepared students do significantly better. Students who need and receive developmental courses do better than those in need who do not receive developmental courses. Faculty have been involved in the development of the recommendations and will continue to be involved in future developments. Sue Cain at EKU gave a presentation to the CPE. About 36 recommendations were developed by the task force and then consolidated into 6 strong recommendations: (1) Update college admissions regulations, ensuring that under-prepared students get developmental help from the start; there is thinking now that ACT scores of 18 are probably too low, especially in math; (2) Create integrated accountability systems tied to performance funding; (3) Fund infrastructure improvements, shadowing the regional stewardship initiative; (4) Align college readiness standards and tie to educator professional development; (5) Link educator preparation to college readiness; (6) Develop early student interventions, especially at the high school level, administering the ACT early. Faculty will have opportunities to participate in several ways: accountability plan development, identification of infrastructure needs, student recruitment and advising, teacher preparation, and test development. Feedback from faculty would be helpful in preparation for the upcoming faculty development workshop.

b. STEM education (Allyson Handley)

Statistics show a remarkable increase in STEM associate degrees and certificates from 1997/98 to 2004/05, but a relatively small increase in the number of BA's, MA's, PhD's, etc. Ms. Handley believes this is a crisis, both in Kentucky and nationally. Today's high school students are learning science and math at levels near what is regarded as junior high level in India. In February 2006, President Bush signed into law two new student grant programs that are aimed at encouraging students to take more challenging college preparatory classes, especially in the STEM disciplines. (The best predictor of success in college is four years of a foreign language; next is four years of math.) The word needs to get out about the availability of these funds to students. The STEM task force has good representation from all the appropriate sectors, including business leaders. The task force is interested in collaboration between high schools, academia, government, and business. One of the challenges is that many people who major in math and science are not going into education. Pay for STEM teachers certainly needs to be looked at. The task force is looking for themes that will inspire interest in STEM disciplines, much as Sputnik inspired interest in science in the 1950's. Encouraging students to take AP classes is also being looked at. The task force learned that AP students often forego taking the AP exam because it costs \$83. Legislation will soon be introduced to deal with this. There was some discussion of the problem of trailing spouses, teaching "hot" foreign languages (e.g., Chinese, Arab languages), and students not receiving credit for high school work.