

Report for the ECU Faculty Senate Meeting on Sept. 20, 2010
COSFL MEETING
Monday, September 13, 2010

The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership met Sept. 13, 2010 from 10:55 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship, which was held at the Cincinnati Airport Marriott in Hebron, Ky.

Attendees:

John W. Taylor, ECU (Faculty Senate Chair)
Ron Morrison, Morehead State (Faculty Regent)
Ed Conner, KSU (Faculty Regent)
Bob Staat, U of L (Faculty Senate Chair, Board of Trustees)
Luanne Goldsby, JCTC (Associate Professor)
Carol Bredemeyer, NKU (VP Faculty Senate)
Debra Anderson, UK (Vice Chair Senate)
Peg Munke, Murray State (President of the Faculty Senate)
Patricia Minter, WKU (Faculty Regent)
Nancy McKenney, ECU (Faculty Representative to the CPE)

Report from Faculty Representative to the CPE

Nancy McKenney, the Faculty Representative to the Council on Postsecondary Education, summarized actions of the Council since January of this year. During 2010 the CPE will have a total of 6 regular meetings and a retreat. (The difference between a regular meeting and a retreat is that news media are not invited to a retreat.) For 2011 the CPE has decided to hold only 4 regular meetings and a retreat as this will save money and staff time. The final meeting of this year will be held on the campus of ECU on Nov. 4-5, 2010.

Recent actions of the CPE include:

1) The Adoption of Core Academic Standards

On Feb. 10, 2010, Kentucky became the first state to adopt statewide Core Academic Standards for English/language arts and mathematics. A resolution was signed by the Kentucky Boards of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, and the CPE at the KCTCS offices in Versailles. (Thus we now have our own "Treaty of Versailles"!)

2) Budget Proposal for Higher Education for FY11-FY12

CPE President Robert King did an outstanding job of building consensus among the university presidents and working with legislators to develop a very reasonable budget proposal for higher education for the coming biennium. He deserves credit for these efforts and for the amount of cooperation that he achieved even though ultimately the Kentucky General Assembly failed to provide the level of funding that the CPE had requested. For FY11 the public universities and KCTCS are faced with a 1.4% reduction in funding, and for FY12 there is an additional reduction of 1%. Kentucky's general fund base for higher education in FY12 will be \$105 million dollars less than it was in FY08; this represents a total funding reduction of 9.7% over a four year period.

3) CPE President's Annual Evaluation

Dr. King earned high marks from Council members and also from key constituent groups such as legislators, university presidents, and CPE staff members. As a result of this strongly positive evaluation, Dr. King's contract has been extended through June 30, 2015. Both the Council and President King agreed that a salary increase would not be appropriate or possible, given the current budgetary situation.

4) Strategic Plan for the CPE

By statute, every 5 years the CPE must develop a new strategic plan. Work on the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan began earlier this year and has been conducted by the Strategic Agenda Work Group, chaired by Council member Lisa Osborne. Most Council members, including Nancy McKenney, are on this work group. Council members also serve on one of four sub-work groups which were formed to recommend objectives, strategies, and metrics in these areas:

1. College readiness
2. Student success
3. Efficiency and innovation
4. Research and economic development

These four areas are intended to replace "The Five Questions" in the previous plan. Dr. King's "Plan of Work" approved by the Council at this meeting will focus on these four priorities.

5) 2011-2015 Statewide Diversity Policy and Framework for Institution Diversity Plan

The CPE passed this policy at this month's meeting. It is an umbrella policy under which each state university and KCTCS will develop their own individually tailored diversity policies. Nothing in the CPE policy requires that institutions attain or maintain specific percentages of minority group enrollment. The campus diversity plans must address, at a minimum, these four areas: (1) student body diversity reflecting that of the Commonwealth or the institution's service area, (2) achievement gaps, (3) workforce diversity, and (4) campus climate. Institutions must submit their individual plans to the CPE no later than March 15, 2011.

Discussion by COSFL Members:

COSFL President Peg Pittman Munke asked if COSFL had had any input into the CPE President's evaluation. The Faculty Representative to the CPE was the only faculty member to do an evaluation of Dr. King. Members present felt that when the next evaluation is done, there should be participation by COSFL members. One of our goals for the coming year will be to make sure that this happens.

Questions were asked about the CPE's new strategic plan, and both the COSFL President and Faculty Rep. consider the plan to be essentially a re-framing of the same ideas implicit in the "Five Questions" that come from the current strategic plan. Several people emphasized that COSFL has enjoyed a much closer and more collaborative relationship with the CPE during the tenures of Dr. Robert King, Peggy Pittman Munke, and Nancy McKenney. The influence of COSFL could be seen in changes that were made in the Transfer Bill (HB160), and there was public acknowledgment by the CPE of COSFL's contributions. It is also beneficial to COSFL that Peggy is doing an internship at the CPE and has frequent opportunities to give input on behalf of COSFL. She has been invited to meet with the provosts from the public institutions when they have their next meeting at the CPE. There is a plan to share via the list-serv "What Provosts Want Faculty to Know." Peggy also wants to provide the provosts with a similar communication, "What Faculty Want Provosts to Know."

Election of COSFL Officers for 2010-2011

Last year's COSFL officers were re-elected for the coming academic year:

Peggy Pittman Munke (Murray), President
Mixon Ware (EKU), Vice President
Nancy McKenney (EKU), Secretary
Molly Kerby (WKU), Treasurer

Next Meeting:

Members agreed that some meetings might be held on Friday afternoons and others on Saturday mornings in order to give the maximum number of faculty an opportunity to attend at least some meetings. It was also felt that holding meetings at the CPE Offices in Frankfort would be beneficial in promoting collaboration between COSFL and the CPE. The next meeting will be in October in Frankfort on a Friday afternoon, date and time TBA.

Minutes submitted by,

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