The Board heard informational reports from the Finance and Planning Committee and the Executive and Academic Affairs Committee. We learned that the Council on Postsecondary Education approved a resident undergraduate tuition rate ceiling of 3% for community colleges, comprehensives and research institutions. Barry Poynter informed us that EKU is doing okay financially. The Budget Reallocation Task Force reported that the voluntary buyout program concludes May 20 and that recommendations by the Task Force are in draft form at this time. The Task Force has identified approximately $17 m in reallocations and will work with the incoming President to make adjustments. Dr. Wachtel reported the university is looking at “flat” enrollment for the fall semester. This is reported to be something positive as it means EKU has retained its current students. There are positive signs for the incoming class of 2013; currently, the same number of students have been admitted as this time last year (housing deposits are up). According to Brett Morris, Noel-Levitz found that ACT scores are not good predictors of college graduation rates; high school GPAs is a better predictor; therefore, EKU is proposing a change in admission standards (see below). VP for Administration, James Street, reported that the new residence hall will most likely not be completed until the last week in August or the beginning of September. Roughly 50 students will be impacted by this delay; arrangements are being made with housing to find other arrangements for these students.

The Board approved the following actions items from the Finance and Planning Committee: increases to undergraduate tuition: a $108 (2.95%) tuition increase for resident full time students and a $9 increase for students taking less than 12 hours, exclusive of online courses, per semester; the increase for targeted (continuing nonresident) students is $564 (9.51% increase) and $47 increase for students taking less than 12 hours, exclusive of online courses, per semester; the tuition increase for nonresident (new and continuing) is $72 (.87%) for full time students and a $6 increase for students taking less than 12 hours, exclusive of online courses, per semester. An increase of $15 (3.95%) per credit hour for all residency types for online courses was approved. All credit hour online programs will be assessed at $395, exclusive of residency types. The Board also approved the following increases to graduate tuition rates (CPE does not set standards for graduate tuition rates): residents - $15 increase (3.41%) per credit hour to $455, exclusive of online courses; nonresident - $10 increase (1.30%) per credit hour to $780, exclusive of online courses. Online courses will increase by $15 (3.33%) for all residency types while online program increases will vary by program. A Doctorate of Education will increase by $25 per credit hour while a Doctorate of Nursing and Doctorates of Occupational Therapy credit hours will be assessed at $610 per credit hour.

The Board also approved a 3% increase in meal plan rates. A 3% increase is consistent with the South Region Consumer Price Index that projects prices to increase by 3-4% overall. A 5% resident hall rate increase was also approved. Proposed miscellaneous salary rates (faculty compensation for summer school, adjunct faculty rates, work study wages, etc.) for 2013-2014 were also approved (there will be no changes from the 2012-2013 rates).
The Guidelines utilized in the development of the 2013-2014 Operating Budget was approved. Included in these guidelines are the proposed tuition rate increases; the continuation of revenue sharing of any net profit associated with online programs; a Model Lab tuition increase of $500 per year (as a long-term plan for Model to become more fully supported by its tuition, fees, and Madison County appropriations); an increase in recharges by $147,000; a fund of $500,000 by University Housing will not be provided in 2013-14; fixed costs will increase by $141,500; the institutional financial aid expense will increase by $154,000; and expenses associated with annual promotional changes within the faculty ranks are expected to be approximately $80,000.

The Executive and Academic Affairs Committee presented the following action items to the Board (all were approved): personnel actions; an amendment to the voluntary buy-out program (this amendment amends the Definitions to include the term “additional eligible employee” meaning a VP or Strategic Board Reallocation Task Force member – a SBRTF member who holds faculty rank would not qualify); recommendations for promotion and tenure; faculty emeritus nominations; Policy Revisions 4.2.3 Determining the Amount and Level of Academic Credit; Policy 4.6.5 Evaluation of Non-Tenured Tenure Track faculty; CAA Program Revisions, Program Suspensions, and New Programs; New Admission Standards*; and candidates for May 2013 commencement.

The Institutional Advancement and Honors Committee presented the following action item to the Board: to award honorary degrees to Ms. Michelle Obama, Mr. Silas House, and Dr. Charles Wethington Jr. (approved). Dr. Malcom Frisbie was honored by the Board with a Resolution of Appreciation for serving with distinction as a member of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents. The Board approved the naming the SSB to the “Charles Douglas Whitlock Building.” The Board also approved to confer President Emeritus status for Dr. Charles Douglas Whitlock.

The Student Life, Discipline and Athletics Committee presented the Registered Student Organization Banking Policy Revisions to the Board for approval. The revisions include eliminating the requirement for RSOs to be registered for three years with the Office of Student Life before opening off-campus banking accounts. The Policy was approved.

The last item of business was a vote by the Board to give Mr. Craig Turner, Chair of the Board of Regents, the authority to develop the personnel contract for incoming president, Dr. Michael Benson. This action was approved.

*New Admission Standards
Students who meet the following criteria will be granted full admission to the University:

Have graduated from an accredited high school earning a minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or have submitted a minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT combined verbal/critical reading score of 950 or higher AND Meet the KY Pre-College
Curriculum AND have submitted an official six-semester high school transcript, or a General Equivalency Diploma, or documentation indicating completion of an EKU approved home-school or distance learning high school program.

**Directed Admission**
Students who meet the criteria for full admission and have ACT (or equivalent SAT) subject scores below 18 in English or 20 in reading, or are missing Pre-College Curriculum requirements, will be granted admission to the University in this category.

**Success First Admission**
Students who do not meet the specified criteria for full or directed admission and have a high school GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale may be granted admission to the University through the Success First Initiative. Students will be admitted to associate-level programs initially until they demonstrate academic success.

The next quarterly meeting of the Board will be in June (date TBD).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Best wishes for a good summer!

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