

Report to Faculty Senate on 12/3/01

Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) met on Saturday, December 1, 2001 in Lexington.

Merl Hackbart, from the Consensus Forecasting Group, distributed the Economic/Budget Update handout from the power point presentation given on November 26, 2001 at ECU. He discussed the drop in consumer confidence and noted that it had been decreasing from a very high level before September 11. Although it has continued to decrease sharply, consumer confidence was still higher on October 30, 2001 than in the early 1990's. Merl explained that the present negative growth in industrial production is important, because Kentucky is more oriented toward manufacturing than service relative to other states. Also of importance is the very large drop in personal income and thus the tax base.

The different types of forecasting were explained. The August 15th forecast (a five year forecast) is for post secondary education. The October 15 forecast provides preliminary planning guidance for the next biennium for all of state government. The final forecast will be on December 15. After reviewing the figures, Merl ended by saying that for FY 02, a reduction of 7.4% is forecasted.

There was a discussion of the impact of this reduction. Because education is between two-thirds and three-fourths of the state's budget and a balanced budget is statutory, the likelihood of no cuts for education appear slim.

Richard Freed repeated his offer to visit campuses to meet with faculty leadership and administrators. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality and information received at the campuses that have invited him to visit. Richard distributed and discussed the Revised 1 1/8/01 KY CPE Budget. Richard commented that the trust funds give the CPE much more power and have grown from 6, to 8, to 10 trust funds.

The process of selection of Regents and Trustees to university governing boards and the ways in which COSFL might have a role in the process was discussed. Richard Freed was asked to request a meeting for COSFL with Bill Beam who is the liaison between the Nominating Committee and the Governor. The purpose of the meeting is to learn about the process and offer assistance from COSFL.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Janssen Treasurer and Secretary of COSFL

Attachment:

GOVERNOR'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION NOMINATING COMMITTEE

KRS 164.005

Comp Expenses

Membership 7 members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the House of Representative and the Senate. Requirements: In selecting members, the Governor shall solicit recommendations from each of the following Advisory Conference of Presidents; Council on Postsecondary Education Student Advisory Committee; Associations rep. faculty from universities, technical institutions and community colleges alumni; Assns. rep. university, technical institutions & community colleges alumni; postsecondary education advocacy groups; KY Board of Education; Assns. rep. Business and civic interests; and Assns. representing independent, nonprofit colleges & universities. Members shall have no conflict of interest pursuant to KRS 45A.340, no relative employed by a public institution of higher education of the Council on Higher Education, and no 2 persons holding an undergraduate degree from the same institution of higher education. Governor shall make appointments so as to reflect, inasmuch as possible, equal representation of the 2 sexes and no less than proportional representation of the 2 leading political parties and to assure that appointments reflect the minority racial composition of the Commonwealth.