

**8 September 2003**  
**COSFL REPORT**  
**To The ECU Faculty Senate**

COSFL is the Coalition of Senate Faculty Leadership for Higher Education. It is a statewide forum of senate and faculty leadership representing the eight public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). COSFL was formed in 1979 as a collective advocacy body of public higher education faculties. Representatives meet monthly to discuss matters of shared interest about higher education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In addition, COSFL provides advice to various public higher education agencies in the Commonwealth and is a clearing house for the exchange of information about member universities. The organization was instrumental in supporting passage of an amendment to the 1997 Kentucky Higher Education Reform Bill to allow for faculty representation on the CPE. COSFL has worked with CPE staff on such issues as the Strategic Agenda, Strategic Implementation Plan, and program review.

EKU is represented on COSFL by the President of the Faculty Senate, Faculty Regent, and elected members from the Faculty Senate for 2003-2004:

COSFL Representatives: Senators Carolyn Siegel and Gil Smith

COSFL Alternatives: Senators John Flanagan and Nancy McKenney

EKU hosts the COSFL Web site at <http://www.cosfl.eku.edu/>.

COSFL met 14 July 2003 at the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) in Frankfort with CPE President Tom Layzell and his staff. Issues discussed included:

The joint AAUP/COSFL mini-conference that will take place on Saturday, 18 October 2003 from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM at the CPE in Frankfort. The conference is free and open to all interested faculty, administrators, students and the public. Scheduled speakers are Dr. Jane Buck, National AAUP President, speaking on the *Implications of Increasing Reliance on Non-tenure Track Appointments* and Dr. Tom Layzell, CPW President, speaking on *Higher Education Policy Issues in Kentucky*. Roundtable discussions will be held from 1:00 until 2:00 pm with representatives of various faculty senates on the role of faculty (shared governance) in forming policy at our state colleges and universities, particularly in response to the issues and challenges raised by our conference speakers. A box lunch will be available (pre-paid at \$5.00). Our goal is a minimum of 10 participants from each institution.

Tom Layzell noted the grim budgetary situation in the state and stated that CPE is beginning work on its 2004-2006 budget submission. His staff are reviewing the entire budget process and in November will bring a budget recommendation to the CPE. The

next biennium will be very tough unless the economy turns positive rapidly. Not much different is expected from the last session where the competition for resources was fierce. Neither gubernatorial candidate has indicated any interest in new revenue initiatives.

T. Layzell remarked that CPE is studying how to match funding to the reform agenda given the limitations of the present fiscal environment. Legislators are bound to express increased interest in measures of accountability. Transferrability is another issue that ties back to the notion of a seamless system that was part of HB1. This refers to the ease of transfer between community colleges and the comprehensive universities particularly in a times of fiscal stress.

CPE will be taking the offensive to push the education reform agenda. Tom Layzell believes that people in places of influence really don't want to see Kentucky slide backward. It is imperative that in this period of budget shortfalls that we not lose sight of the need to advance the reform agenda in the state and with legislators.

Tom Layzell will meet with the gubernatorial candidates in the fall, as will the trustees at their fall conference, and the presidents. He suggested that COSFL may also do so at the fall trustees conference.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of COSFL will be later this month. If there are issues that the ECU Faculty Senate wishes COSFL to address, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Siegel  
EQU COSFL Representative