

6 October 2003
COSFL REPORT
To The EKU Faculty Senate

COSFL met on 13 September 2003 at the W.T. Young Library of the University of Kentucky in Lexington. EKU faculty attending were Richard Freed, CPE Faculty Representative; Carolyn Siegel, EKU COSFL Rep and COSFL Treasurer; and Nancy McKenney, EKU Faculty Senate Alternate.

Following an introduction of new and continuing members, officers for 2003-2004 were elected:

- President - Rick Feldhoff (UofL)
- VP - Carol Bredemeyer (NKU)
- Treasurer - Carolyn Siegel (EKU)
- Secretary - Tucker Landy (KSU)

The AAUP/COSFL conference that will be held 18 October 2003 was discussed and panel participants identified.

Richard Freed, faculty representative on the CPE, made a comprehensive presentation regarding CPE activities. He distributed a list of the members of SCOPE, the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education, which is the oversight committee for postsecondary reform in Kentucky. While the initial "fireworks" stage of educational reform appears to be over, many initiatives are underway. After HB 1 was passed, the CPE received money and power to initiate change; the focus now is on keeping the momentum of reform going. Issues being addressed by CPE include

- The **seamless transfer system**, which is steadily being developed although quite a few problems need to be overcome. Legislators are keenly interested in making transfers easier, since they are getting complaints from their constituents about the difficulties students are having in transferring between KCTCS and the comprehensives. Paul Callan, the faculty regent in the KCTCS system, confirmed that students graduating from the community college system are experiencing serious difficulties. A KSU representative mentioned that, with low enrollments at KSU, administrators there have a strong interest in getting these problems resolved. It was reported that the faculty senate at NKU voted recently not to accept "D" grades for transfer credit. The issue of transfers is very tricky since it affects university autonomy; however, it is a feature of HB1.
- The Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence is again focusing on the **criteria for selecting regents**. The Committee recognizes that because of the politicized nature of regent selection, achieving any change is an uphill struggle. COSFL might be proposed as the faculty consulting body for the process. KRS 164.005 refers to a special screening committee that reports directly to the governor in the matter of regent/trustee selection.

- The Governor's Forecasting group is meeting 10 October and the FY04 **budget shortfall** looks like a repeat of the crisis of FY03 with a projected \$274.4 million revenue shortfall and a growing structural imbalance in revenue collection. The state was bailed out in '03 by one-time monies, including a tax amnesty. Merle Hackbart will be asked to attend a COSFL meeting this fall to update the budget situation.
- The **P-16 Committee**, which is devoted to developing a "seamless system of education from early childhood through postsecondary," met on September 9th. This is a first effort to have the CPE and Department of Education work together for common goals. Kentucky is a leader in the P-16 council movement. The Committee noted that local P-16 councils are a very effective influence on the state legislature.
- **CPE Key Indicators of Progress** shows that the state has made some progress but overall, it is mixed. The five questions measured are
 1. Are more Kentuckians ready for Postsecondary Education? – some progress
 2. Are more students enrolling? – good progress
 3. Are more students advancing through the system? – some progress
 4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work? – measure under development
 5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting? – good progress

COSFL members expressed interest in having CPE develop reports on freshman profiles across the state universities. They are also alert to a possible move in the legislature to cap university tuition increases.

Representatives from each university gave short reports on what is happening on their campuses:

- WKU: Salaries increased, not sure how much (the figure was reported in the newspapers). Enrollments are up, which will mitigate the impact of budget cuts. Benefits were increased, though contingent on tuition hikes.
- Murray: 2.7% salary increase; some adjuncts not hired, no faculty cuts. Enrollments were up 2% last year and in 2003. Health care costs went up last year, probably this year also. A contemplated tuition freeze would have serious consequences for Murray programs.
- NKU: 3% salary increase; free health insurance is in jeopardy. Faculty law school lost two faculty members to Cincinnati. Enrollments are up. Provost search is going on.
- Morehead: 7% salary increase to try to bring faculty salaries in line with norms. Record enrollment last year and probably the same this year. Tuition was also raised this year. Not many cuts this year. A flexible spending plan (Consumer Driven Health Plan) is being contemplated; faculty are quite concerned about it (high deductibles, high out-of-pocket expenses). Not many faculty losses, but some 14 open positions were absorbed and 4 support people fired.
- KCTCS: Faculty salary increases are dependent on three different personnel systems: one group saw a 2.7% increase; others saw a 3% increase with increased benefits. But the benefit plans are not in great shape. No information on faculty cuts.

- KSU: Zero percent (0%) salary increases, though some possibility of increases in January. Operating budgets have been hurt in the last two years. Benefits plans have changed, but not dramatically. KSU is in the middle of presidential search. A president should be named by December. Faculty involvement in the search is limited.
- ECU: 3% salary increase. Enrollments are up 5.6% among freshmen, but enrollments are probably up everywhere. Benefits are being maintained, but faculty co-pays are up. A contingency budget is being developed with welcome faculty input. Faculty are up-beat, as is the president.
- UK: Faculty salaries are up 3%. Enrollments are about the same as last year. Tuition went up 15%. Athletics, it was learned, actually makes money for the university; so it is hard to complain about the high salaries in athletics. Some 80 staff positions are gone. The medical center has lost a lot of faculty, due to low morale. The salary of the president is being discussed. There is a statute requiring the CPE president to be paid no less than any public university president.
- UofL: Faculty salaries are up 3%. The administration accepted every one of the faculty's recommendations on handling salary increases and tuition. Enrollment is stable. A high quality incoming freshman class. A Consumer Driven system was rejected on the ground that it is counterproductive. Decreased the number of part-time faculty contracts significantly. Some faculty members have left for Cincinnati (which seems to have a lot of money these days).

A November meeting with CPE President Tom Layzell is being planned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm. If there are issues that the ECU Faculty Senate wishes COSFL to address, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Siegel
EKU COSFL Representative