

**3 November 2003**  
**COSFL REPORT**  
**To The ECU Faculty Senate**

COSFL met on 18 October 2003 for the mini-conference co-sponsored with the Kentucky Chapter of AAUP. The conference was held at the CPE in Frankfort. ECU COSFL members present: were Richard Freed, Nancy McKenney, Mixon Ware and Carolyn Siegel; ECU Senator Reed also participated.

Dr. Jane Buck, President of AAUP and conference keynote speaker addressed the subject of "The Use and Abuse of Contingent Faculty." She emphasized that Universities need academic freedom, tenure, and cooperation between administration and faculty, and believes there are two main threats to faculty - the rise of the corporate model and the abuse of parttime faculty. Contingent or part-time faculty are now the largest portion of the faculty. Dr. Buck views their increasing numbers as an indirect attack on tenure. In 1970 part-timers were 22 percent of all faculty; by 1999 that number had risen to 49 percent. In 1998, 54 percent of all new full-time hires were off the tenure track. She emphasized that all threats to tenure, whether direct or indirect, undermine academic freedom and shared governance. Dr. Buck used anecdotal evidence to report that junior faculty are being strongly pressured to concentrate solely on research and abandon service and close interactions with students.

The second speaker, Tom Layzell, CPE President, addressed "The Next Stage of Kentucky's "Postsecondary Education Reform." Dr. Layzell noted the significance of the changes resulting from HB1 (1997). He stressed the importance of maintaining the focus on the goal of raising the educational attainment levels of Kentuckians, despite three major transitions in play

- Political transition - The incumbent governor made education reform his cause. New governors tend to shun their predecessor's priorities. However, in this case, the legislature has become more involved in the budget process than they have been in the past and there is reason to be optimistic that reform will not be abandoned
- Financial transition - We are beginning to experience cuts, but less than what other states are facing. Kentucky is about \$260 million short of last year's budget and there is at least a \$400 million structural deficit, possibly higher. A new governor is unlikely to take chances cutting education spending. Revenue increases are very likely.
- Operational transition - Political and financial changes are forcing universities to consider what can and cannot be compromised on, and how they must adapt to changing conditions.

President Layzell recommends that we

- maintain our focus on the public agenda, which is clear and worthy
- make the case for political and financial support, tell our stories, show our accomplishments,

- demonstrate accountability, both fiscally and programmatically
- show we are concerned about the issues public leaders are concerned about
- explain what it will take to achieve the goals of HB1
- stick together and stop trying to out-unique each other, showing who is most underfunded
- create a system-wide alumni network of higher education advocates
- review and clarify the role of "comprehensive universities," EKU, NKU, WKU, Murray, Morehead, KSU. NKU president Vortruba characterized them as "stewards of place"
- review distance learning (much is going on, but it needs to be coordinated)
- review CPE itself and its functions
- link affordability to accessibility and quality
- review workforce development.

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion on "Collegial Governance 2003: Advisory Role of Faculty in the Development of Policies and Procedures." Carolyn Siegel (COSFL Rep), replacing Richard Freed on the panel, suggested that it is very important to break down walls between faculty and administrators. The EKU example was cited where the chair of the faculty senate sits in on the university budget committee and participates in decisions in major budget decisions. The provost and VP of finance are members of the faculty senate budget committee. It was also noted that the President of EKU constantly talks about shared governance and then follows up with real actions. Responding to Jane Buck, the point was made that it is important not to exaggerate the differences between business and academia. Business and academia can learn from one other and faculty have an obligation to educate boards, many of whom come from business, about the benefits of faculty senates and other features of collegial governance.

Many thanks to Tucker Landy of KSU for his excellent meeting minutes, which were used to construct this report. Dr. Buck's presentation is available in PDF format and an audio transcript of President Layzell's remarks are available online at <http://www.louisville.edu/org/aaup>.

COSFL will meet November 15th with CPE President Tom Layzell at Young Library, UK.

The conference adjourned at 3:10 pm. If there are issues that the EKU Faculty Senate wishes COSFL to address, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Carolyn Siegel  
 EKU COSFL Representative