

**COSFL Report to Faculty Senate
February 6, 2006**

Submitted by Mixon Ware

- Joint conference with AAUP on April 22. Roger Bowen of the AAUP and Commissioner Deborah Clayton of the Ky. Dept. of Commercialization and Innovation are the planned speakers, with an open forum following their presentations. The event is scheduled at the CPE headquarters in Frankfort. Lunch and reservations are \$7.50.
- The big item on the agenda at the December 7 CPE was the tuition policy. Originally, the Council had set tuition for the public universities. Sometime around 2000, CPE gave authority to set tuition to the institutions. But recent hikes have been high and gotten a lot of publicity. KRS 164.020 (8) clearly gives the authority to set tuition to the CPE: "The Council shall determine tuition." The hope is that by the next few meetings, CPE Council will have a tuition policy for universities to follow.
- CPE met again January 12 (again at NKU January 29-30 to approve); report from the meeting has not yet been received. **The four A's will guide the formation of the policy: access, adequacy, aid, and alignment (adequacy refers to state appropriations per institution; alignment refers to coordination of resources and policies to maximize student participation in education; the others are self-explanatory.)** The concept of access received a lot of attention: it should refer to the question of whether, not where, a student gets higher education. The methodology is to tie tuition policy to median family incomes; tuitions at the public universities will be tiered, and attention will be given to regional differences. More studies of affordability are forthcoming. There is general agreement that education in KY is affordable, but there is concern that we might not stay that way if the Council does not exercise vigilance. Rep. Wattier believes that the CPE Council probably does not have the legal authority to oversee student fees, but the Council does oversee the overall budgets and will be interested in "hidden tuition costs." Faculty should pay attention to issues pertaining to trust funding and performance funding (things like Bucks for Brains); they will be coming up soon. Educational attainment is a big issue: there are enrollment increase goals now being discussed, including a 60% increase for UK and a 90% increase for the regionals by 2020.
- Campus reports: KSU – the president has confirmed that she is going ahead with a major salary adjustment to bring faculty and staff salaries in line with market values; a provost search is underway. UofL – more dean searches are underway; there has been a lot of discussion about part time faculty and their compensations; there is concern about the commercialization of intellectual property and community service; a task force is to be appointed to

make sure that faculty are given credit for some of this new service. MoSU – new master of science in IT and in Public Administration; the master’s in space science is underway; Master’s in English is now entirely on line; a pilot program has been developed for seniors to do college work during their “off year”; we are working with KCTCS to develop this; construction of a space science center is under way; we have gone from self-insurance to commercial insurance with CHA, with short-term benefits but long-term concerns; the intellectual property policy is being revised; the recent enrollment decline is of some concern. EKV – the senate is looking at revising the academic integrity policy; merit pay and faculty recognition awards are also being discussed; questions about campus liabilities have arisen as a result of two well publicized campus deaths; KCTCS – recently had a board meeting: the president has been working hard to bring in donations and other dollars; some colleges in the system are dealing with SACS accreditation issues (SACS is concerned about the system’s veto power over local faculty authority to determine curriculum); enrollment is now about 85,000; expansion and new building are under way; a program is being developed to bring seniors into KCTCS during senior year; faculty are concerned about a proposed change in the composition of the board, but consideration of this issue has been put off in order to deal with the biennial budget; a study of salaries has been done, and there is movement to bring people from the minimum up to the market; MuSU – President King Alexander is leaving, and the former president, Kern Alexander, is returning as an interim; the board committee has named itself the search committee; a faculty “salary equity” committee has been formed to look at gender and college inequities; new buildings: science building and dorm; a drop in the cost of health benefits; a new dental plan; a review of general studies program. NKU – two dean searches and a search for VP of Advancement are underway; new building is underway: an IT center and a student center, which would unfortunately involve the removal of a highly valued parking lot for the university’s numerous commuting students; the senate will be voting on language dealing with civic engagement in the faculty handbook; admissions standards are in place for the first time, with relatively few bad effects; stricter admission standards will be in place next year; the board will be voting on plus or minus grades.

- Other business: There was some discussion about whether COSFL should pass a resolution supporting the CPE’s recommendation to the legislature. Also, regional universities are now under increasing pressure to enroll Kentucky African Americans. Also, the question arose as to whether there is a faculty advocacy group with a voice in Frankfort.
- No report on retirement deductions for those not in KTRS. Will continue to be discussed as information is available.