

To: Faculty Senate  
From: Pam Schlomann  
Date: September 22, 2005  
Re: Regent's Report

Board Members attended the 2005 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship in Louisville September 18-19. The Theme was "Getting to Yes...Answering the Five Questions". Because of my class schedule, I was only able to attend the Sunday sessions. This included some relatively informative reports to the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education (SCOPE). Brad Cowgill, state Budget Director, reported on the status and projections for the state budget. While revenue has increased and is projected to continue that way, he indicated that, without modifications, expenditures from Medicaid will be greater than any revenue increases. At present, Medicaid is approximately 10% of the total budget. Projections are that without changes that will increase to 20% by 2010. With that scenario, limited, if any, monies will be available for increases to higher education.

There was also a report ( report can be accessed from the minutes of the CPE meeting that day--<http://cpe.ky.gov/about/cpe/meetings/20050918.htm>) on affordability of higher education to SCOPE. Minnesota's Design for Shared Responsibility was presented as a model for a rational approach to affordability. It establishes guidelines for how much the state, student and family share in the cost of education. By placing caps on the student and family burden, the state is motivated to keep control on tuition increases in order to prevent its burden from becoming too large. The report also included data on the distribution of burden among different student subpopulations. Affordability issues had the greatest negative impact on independent, low income adult students. African American students are at greater financial risk than other ethnic/racial groups.

The day concluded with a dinner meeting during which Charlie Sweet received the Acorn Award. EKU faculty have included three of the eleven recipients of this prestigious teaching award. Charlie deserves our congratulations! The dinner speaker, Dr. Calvin Mackie, gave an inspirational speech on helping our young, especially those who appear to be at risk, to dream dreams and to actualize them.

The Board of Regents will be meeting October 5. In preparation for this meeting several of its committees are meeting: Student Life, Discipline and Athletics on September 21, Internal Affairs on September 28, Finance on October 4, and the Executive and Academic Affairs early on October 5. I chair the Student Life Committee, sit on the Internal Affairs and Executive Committees and attend the Finance Committee. The Student Life Committee heard reports on the NCAA recertification process, the transition to non-smoking residence halls, and the scholarship and financial aid plan. It also made a recommendation to support amending the campus resident requirement (additional option of four semesters meeting the residency requirement). Information about the other committee meetings and the Board meeting will come at the next Senate meeting.

Please feel free to contact me for further information about any of these items or to discuss topics of concern to you!

Respectfully submitted,

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