

To: Faculty Senate
From: Malcolm P. Frisbie
Date: 28 September 2007
Re: Regent's Report

The Board has not met since my last report, which included comments about the 8 September quarterly Board meeting.

The Council on Postsecondary Education hosted the 2007 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship on 16 and 17 September in Louisville. Trustees or regents and administrators from all of Kentucky's public higher education institutions and a number from private institutions participated. In addition a number of legislators and people from the executive branch were at the meeting. The conference concluded with addresses by Steve Beshear and Governor Ernie Fletcher. Eastern was well represented, with six regents, the president, provost and a number of other administrators taking part in the panels and discussions.

The theme of the conference was "Doubling the Numbers by 2020: Meeting the Challenges of Postsecondary Reform". We heard a lot about the 1997 Postsecondary Education Improvement Act, which reorganized the administration of higher education in the state and set forth the goal of doubling the number of college graduates in Kentucky by 2020. A couple of themes were evident within that overarching emphasis on doubling the numbers. One was the correlation between the percentage of a state's population and the median income in that state. That was part of the impetus for setting the graduation goal in the original bill. Ten years later, that correlation seems to be manifesting itself in several ways in emphases coming from the CPE. One phrase that kept cropping up was "regional stewardship". CPE and legislators seem to be very interested in how actions by universities will translate into economic and quality of life enhancements in their service region. A second theme that appeared in several venues was the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) related subjects in driving economic development in institutions' service regions. ECU will need to keep these ideas in mind, with an eye toward demonstrating how our present actions already further regional stewardship goals and as we develop new initiatives within our service region.

The Board will next meet on 22 October to review proposals submitted by executive search firms. The next quarterly meeting of the Board will occur in January 2008.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm P. Frisbie
622-1507
Malcolm.frisbie@ecu.edu