

COSFL Report for the ECU Faculty Senate April 6, 2009

COSFL Meeting
at Eastern Kentucky University
Student Services Building (Room 549)
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
March 7, 2009

On-Site Attendees:

Paul Callan, BCTCS/KCTCS (Faculty Regent)
Malcolm Frisbie, ECU (Faculty Regent)
Nancy McKenney, ECU (COSFL Secretary)
Carol Bredemeyer, NKU (COSFL Rep.)
David Hogan, NKU (Faculty Senate President)
Sheila D. Pressley, ECU (COSFL Alternate)
Mike Unuakhalu, KSU (Faculty Senator)
David Randall, UK (Faculty Senate Chair)
Peggy Pittman-Munke, Murray (COSFL President)
Mixon Ware, ECU (Faculty Senate Chair & COSFL V.P.)
Karen N. Janssen, ECU (AAUP Rep. & COSFL Treasurer)
Rick Mott, ECU (COSFL Alternate)
Mark J. Wattier, Murray (CPE Faculty Rep.)
Ed Conner, KSU (Faculty Senate President)
Tucker Landy, KSU (Faculty Regent)
Tom McPartland, KSU (former Faculty Senate President)
Michael Kennedy, UK (AAUP Alternate)

Off-Site Attendees:

Bob Staat, U of L
Melissa Laning, U of L
Joe Steffen, U of L
Julie Shadown, WKU
Mollie Perkins, WKU
Kate Hudepohl, WKU

KCTCS Board of Regents Resolution on Tenure--Update and Discussion

Paul Callan, COSFL Rep. and Faculty Regent of KCTCS, reported that the KCTCS Board would be meeting Mar. 12-13, 2009 and would be voting on a resolution to end tenure for new faculty hires at KCTCS. Faculty have received support from the American Federation of Teachers, The Technical Faculty Alliance, and the Community College Faculty Alliance. The regional universities have also offered support.

House Bill 187 (aimed at stopping the KCTCS board from ending tenure for new faculty) was passed from the House Committee. If this bill fails, they may introduce another bill next year.

Paul has talked to two KCTCS regents socially, but he couldn't get an answer regarding this matter. He noted that they need 6 votes to prevent this measure from being passed by the KCTCS Board. The Board and also the KCTCS President have been unapproachable. Paul expects that over 100 people will be sitting in the Regents meeting on Friday, Mar. 13th indicating their support for tenure for faculty.

COSFL President Peggy Pittman-Munke indicated that COSFL has sent individual letters to all KCTCS Board members. She encouraged the state universities to try to get resolutions by e-mail from their faculty senates. She noted that “this could be a cancer that might spread throughout higher education. This could hurt the quality of students that we get.”

Faculty Rep. to the CPE Mark Wattier suggested that senate executive committees send resolutions if there isn't time for senates to meet.

Paul noted that he and Mark had talked to the Governor recently at a dinner. Other COSFL members suggested that it might be helpful to approach former Gov. Paul Patton (who is on Gov. Beshear's Higher Education Work Group).

Textbook Bill--Update and Discussion

Tucker Landy reported that the clause regarding penalties for faculty was removed from the Legislature's textbook bill. Another phrase regarding ethics (of publishers, etc.) was inserted instead. We have at least changed Rep. Rollins' mind so that he now realizes faculty are not the problem with regard to inflated textbook costs.

Peggy noted that universities mark up textbooks, and that it is a revenue stream for them. She doesn't think that legislators and the public are aware of this.

Karen Janssen pointed out that students with financial aid need to have vouchers so they can purchase books in other bookstores besides their campus bookstore (in order to get the best prices).

CPE Faculty Rep. Report

Mark Wattier reported that his term as Faculty representative to the CPE will end in June. COSFL will need to send at least 3 names to the Governor so that a new faculty representative can be selected. There is often a time lag in this process; it would be good if the new representative could be at the July meeting of the CPE.

Peggy appointed Tucker Landy to chair the nomination committee for a new Faculty Rep. to the CPE. He will ask the faculty regents of all the state schools to serve on this committee.

Mark noted that tuition caps were passed by the CPE and that the university presidents signed off on these some time ago. He mentioned that ECU is reducing its costs by 4% instead of the mandatory 2%.

He emphasized the need to cater to adults returning to school due to job loss. Also, the new G.I Bill should lead to a wave of veterans coming to school. It will be important to look at giving credit for experiential learning and do it well.

Mark talked to the CPE about the tenure issue at KCTCS. He took it back to the time of Galileo and also mentioned AAUP's 1940 statement on tenure! He emphasized the importance of a call to the KCTCS Board Chair.

In response to a question from Paul about changing "double the numbers" to include KCTCS numbers, Mark stated that House Bill 1 is our leverage with the Legislature. It was amended once to break KCTCS away from the University of Kentucky. There is considerable hesitancy to amend it further. He suggested the idea of using the "pipeline" (i.e. how many 9th graders go on to college in Ky.) for statistics. He hopes that HB 1 will be "re-upped" in 2018.

Subcommittee of COSFL established

The COSFL President and members felt that a small group was needed to draft recommendations for the Governor's Higher Education Work Group. Peggy Pittman-Munke will chair this subcommittee. She appointed the following COSFL members to serve on the subcommittee:

Paul Callan (KCTCS)
Bob Staat (U of L)
Nancy McKenney (EKU)
Mark Wattier (CPE)
Malcolm Frisbie (EKU)
Dave Randall (UK)
Michael Kennedy (UK)
Peggy Pittman-Munke (Murray)

Suggested issues for the subcommittee to address included: financial matters, remedial (or developmental) education, transfer, and technology. Another possible issue to examine (now or in the future) is the loss of minority doctoral candidates from Kentucky.

A goal of April 3rd was suggested for an initial draft of recommendations.

Campus Reports:

EKU

There was considerable discussion of the article in this week's EKU student newspaper (the Eastern Progress) concerning the growth in administrative positions versus the decline in faculty positions. The graph accompanying the article was quite impressive, and COSFL members noted the fact that using graphs could be very powerful in making our case on various issues.

It was noted that obtaining such data can be very difficult. Also there are complications such as librarians not being treated consistently (as faculty, as staff, etc.) on many campuses. In addition, it was pointed out that when faculty become administrators, their faculty lines are sometimes lost. Tucker Landy stated that IPEDS can generate a number for the ratio of administrators to faculty and compare it to benchmarks.

Mixon Ware reported that EKU's president acknowledges that we need to work on this area and she will be meeting with him in the near future.

KSU

Tom McPartland raised the issue of the sophomore-level CAAP math exams being required in universities. He noted that the value of this exam is highly questionable and asked if other institutions were using it.

Peggy asked him to investigate and bring additional information to the next COSFL meeting.

UK

Dave Randall reported that teams are working on general education requirements at UK which include ten 3-hour courses. The Senate is supposed give final approval in May with implementation projected to be 2010/2011.

Bob Staat asked if the State Legislature was mandating that gen. ed. be the same everywhere. Mark Wattier stated that this is the transfer issue being discussed in the Legislature. The transfer rate is about 90% now, so it's not really the problem that the Legislature imagines it to be. The CPE will be charged with addressing this issue.

Minutes of the Previous COSFL meeting

The minutes of the Feb. 13, 2009, COSFL meeting were approved as distributed, with the correction that Tucker Landy was not actually present at that meeting.

Next Meeting of COSFL:

A meeting date of Friday, April 10, 2009 was suggested. Paul Callan offered to see if the group might meet in Versailles.

Minutes submitted by,
Nancy McKenney, COSFL Secretary & ECU COSFL Rep