COSFL Report for Faculty Senate
March 1, 2010

President Robert King of the CPE has begun a practice of calling each CPE council member once a month to update us and also to give us an opportunity to raise any issues of concern. I had my first call from Dr. King this past Friday afternoon. He reported that he had had a long meeting with the Speaker of the House and the university presidents and that he thought higher education was going to be treated pretty well—this in spite of the Speaker’s anger towards KCTCS Pres. McCall for the recent lively demonstration at the capital (students in yellow t-shirts, lots of money obviously spent on lobbying, etc.)

Pres. King is talking with CPE staffer John Hayek about simplifying the CPE’s annual accountability report so that it will be easier for legislators and others to understand data for higher education. He noted that currently the data don’t cover the graduation rates of students who transfer from one school to another, that is, those who start at one school but graduate from another. Obviously this omission makes our statewide graduation rates look worse than they actually are, and this data needs to be collected.

I mentioned that some faculty in COSFL are concerned about the increase in administrative positions versus the number of faculty positions at their institutions. President King said that while the CPE does not plan to micro-manage in an area such as this, the CPE is going to look at staffing across the state and will try to come up with ratios and guidelines based on student enrollment. Work on this will start right away.

With regard to the Transfer bill, Pres. King stated that he believes the Senate bill will include the changes that COSFL had wanted.

I also asked about the high school graduation bill, which would mandate that students could not drop out until age 18. President King fears that the political dynamic may keep that one from passing.

Nancy McKenney, COSFL Representative and Faculty Representative to the CPE