MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
March 20, 2000

The Council on Postsecondary Education met March 20, 2000, at 8:30 a.m. at the Council offices in Frankfort. Chair Whitehead presided.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Norma Adams, Walter Baker, Peggy Bertelsman, Ron Greenberg, Merl Hackbart, Philip Huddleston, Hilda Legg, Kevin Listerman, Shirley Menendez, Kevin Noland, Charlie Owen, Joan Taylor, Lee Todd, Lois Weinberg, and Charles Whitehead. Steve Barger did not attend.

CALLAN PRESENTATION

Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, spoke to the Council about the work of the National Center. The Center, headquartered in San Jose, California, was created two years ago to focus on the broad public interest in higher education and what society and the individual states need from institutions of postsecondary education for the country to be successful.

Mr. Callan discussed three levels of policy activity – society, institution, and market – that are present in every state. He urged the Council to pay particular attention to social needs and market factors. Strong institutions are essential, Mr. Callan said, but are not ends in themselves. He warned against investing in things that raise the costs of higher education, such as facilities and salaries; states should know what they will get in return for these investments. Mr. Callan reminded the Council that it is very difficult to have a program of financial support for higher education that works in hard times as well as in good times.

Mr. Davies thanked Mr. Callan for speaking about the National Center. Mr. Davies said that Mr. Callan has discussed with the Council members the National Center's Report Card project, a national effort to grade state systems (not individual institutions) on the adequacy of their postsecondary education services. Mr. Davies has volunteered Kentucky as a model state system for this project.

The Council recessed to hold Academic Affairs and Finance Committee meetings and then reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 24 meeting were approved as distributed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A written report from the Council president was included in the agenda book. Mr. Davies said that the major activity during the past few months has centered on the session of the General Assembly. He said that both the House and the Senate appear strongly committed to supporting at least the Council budget recommendation, which was part of the budget proposed by Governor Patton.

Mr. Davies reported that U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley has acknowledged the partnership agreement between his department's Office for Civil Rights and Kentucky. Site visits to Western Kentucky University and Murray State University are planned in April.

Mary Beth Susman, CEO of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University, reported that the Distance Learning Advisory Committee met in February. Items of discussion included creation of a business subcommittee to develop a business plan for making KCVU self-sustaining, new policies for high school students registering for college courses through KCVU, and a request from Maine that Maine residents enrolled in KCVU courses pay in-state tuition. Maine would reciprocate for Kentucky students. The committee also discussed a list of services to be provided by KCVU, such as on-line assessment, on-line remediation, credit for prior learning, career counseling, job placement, and on-line tutorials. Dr. Susman reported that Miko Pattie, director of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library, has been invited by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to serve on the review team to evaluate Harcourt Higher Education's virtual library resources and delivery system.

Mr. Davies said that the Literacy and Mathematics Curriculum Alignment Teams had their first meetings. These teams were formed by the P-16 Council to align the curricula between the two systems to allow greater continuity as students proceed through their educational careers.

The degree program productivity review is under way. The staff has sent each institution a list of its programs under review. Beginning with universities, reviews will take place every other year for the universities and the KCTCS.

At its meeting March 3, the Paducah Regional Advisory Committee favorably reviewed a proposal from the University of Kentucky and Murray State University to offer a master's degree in health administration in Paducah beginning in fall 2000.

Mr. Davies mentioned three upcoming conferences: 1) April 13-14, summit of virtual university chief executive officers, to be held in Lexington; 2) May 21-23, Faculty Development Conference in northern Kentucky to discuss the effective use of distance learning and the use of digital technology on campus to improve student learning; and 3) June 1-2, conference on remediation at Somerset Community College, sponsored by the Council, the KCTCS, and the Prichard Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Davies gave an update on recent legislative action. More than 1,400 bills have been submitted, but to date only about ten percent have made it through the legislature. Three bills are particularly important to the Council: 1) SB 1 assigns the Council responsibility for planning and coordinating adult education while the Department of Adult Education manages the actual services; 2) HB 437, regarding teacher quality, creates a

separate Education Professional Standards Board independent of the Department of Education with a majority of its members teachers and requires middle school teachers to demonstrate competence in their teaching areas; and 3) HB 572, the knowledge-based economy bill, requires the Council to administer three funds – the Research & Development Voucher Fund to support R&D partnerships between small and medium-size companies and Kentucky universities; the Rural Innovation Fund to support small, rural firms in partnerships with Kentucky colleges and universities; and the Kentucky Commercialization Fund to provide seed funding to promising R&D work at the universities.

Ms. Adams presented the report of the Academic Affairs Committee.

NEW PROGRAM PROPOSALS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the Master of Arts program in Education Instructional Leadership proposed by Northern Kentucky University be approved provisionally and registered in CIP 13.0405 (Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education Administration).

- That the Associate of Applied Technology program in Medical Office Technology proposed by Laurel Technical College be provisionally approved and registered in CIP 52.0404 (Medical Administrative Assistant/Secretary).

- That the Associate of Applied Technology program in Industrial Maintenance Technology proposed by Somerset Technical College be provisionally approved and registered in CIP 47.0303 (Industrial Machinery Maintenance and Repairer).

MOTION: Ms. Adams moved that the recommendations be approved. Ms. Bertelsman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

KCTCS REVIEW PROCESS FOR SUB-ASSOCIATE LEVEL PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the process for KCTCS review of sub-associate level certificate and diploma programs at the research and comprehensive universities.

MOTION: Ms. Adams moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Greenberg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the draft administrative regulation that establishes guidelines for admission to postsecondary institutions.

MOTION: Ms. Adams moved that the recommendation be approved. Ms. Weinberg seconded the motion.

Ms. Menendez said that this administrative regulation is of great concern to the superintendents of elementary and secondary education since it is unclear whether there is a sufficient number of adequately prepared teachers of foreign language to implement the requirement that high school students have at least two years in a foreign language.

Ms. Adams said foreign language teachers have stated that the supply of teachers is adequate and added that if there are areas of the state where foreign language teachers are not available, the requirement could be accomplished through courses offered by the Kentucky Virtual High School.

VOTE: The motion passed.

BUDGET STATUS REPORT

Mr. Baker reported that the Finance Committee heard a briefing on the status of the budget in the General Assembly. (At the time of this meeting, the budget had passed the House and was pending in the Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee.) Mr. Baker suggested that Council members contact members of the Senate, especially members of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, to urge support for the postsecondary education budget recommendation submitted by the Council and included by the Governor in his budget.

WKU PROGRAM OF DISTINCTION

Representatives from Western Kentucky University gave a presentation on the status of the program of distinction in Applied Research and Technology. The report is the fourth in the series of institutional presentations on programs of distinction.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council allocate an additional $400,000 for fiscal year 1999-2000 from the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund to Western Kentucky University's program of distinction in Applied Research and Technology to support increased activity within the program's existing centers and the creation of a new center in astronomy. The funds are reserved for WKU's use. WKU has indicated that the funds will be used for nonrecurring expenditures. These funds will not become part of the recurring base for the program of distinction in Applied Research and Technology.

MOTION: Ms. Weinberg moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Todd seconded the motion.

Ms. Weinberg said that this is what a really dynamic program of distinction looks like. She commended the university for its accomplishments and wished it future success for the program.

Mr. Huddleston said that when the WKU program was first presented to the Council it seemed to be quite difficult to define, and some Council members may have had reservations about approving the program. He said that the program that has developed is an excellent example of the whole mission of postsecondary education – coming together to coordinate, to exchange ideas and challenges, and to make things work by using the resources of multiple disciplines.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering and Management, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering proposed by Western Kentucky University not be approved at this time.

- That the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, and Council staff, in consultation with the other comprehensive universities and the KCTCS, design an alternative proposal to expand engineering education in Kentucky for consideration by the Council on Postsecondary Education at the earliest possible time, but no later than November 2000.

Sue Hodges Moore, the Council's vice president for academic affairs, said that Kentucky needs more engineers. Several analyses, including that of Western Kentucky University, show that Kentucky does not educate enough engineers and engineering technologists to meet the needs of employers or the demands of the 21st century economy as envisioned in the new economy legislation being discussed by the Kentucky General Assembly. Dr. Moore said that the question is how Kentucky can best meet this challenge. She said that WKU's response is to establish stand-alone engineering programs that can meet the engineering needs of southcentral Kentucky. But the need for more engineers is not a southcentral Kentucky problem. It is a statewide problem and it is one that requires a solution that uses all the resources of Kentucky postsecondary education.

The Council staff did not recommend that Western be authorized to begin engineering programs in fall 2000. But even if WKU could lay to rest every objection about its proposals, the staff would recommend a statewide strategy. The Council should thoroughly explore statewide approaches to complex problems. Creating stand-alone programs at several institutions is an outdated response to the demands of new economy.

MOTION: Mr. Huddleston moved that the Council approve the application of Western Kentucky University and authorize the establishment of the proposed engineering baccalaureate programs with the direction that WKU in good faith expend every reasonable effort to coordinate both the establishment and the operation of its programs with the University of

Kentucky and the University of Louisville. Mr. Greenberg seconded the motion.

WKU President Gary Ransdell discussed the state's need for engineers, the limited number of engineering programs and graduates in the state, and the fact that local industries often recruit engineers from out of state. President Ransdell said that *2020 Vision* calls for change in Kentucky that will bring about economic development, additional high-paying jobs, recruitment of business and industry to the Commonwealth, and more students to the campuses. It also calls for institutional change – to identify programs of distinction, set priorities that are best for Kentucky, reallocate internal resources to support those priorities, and generate additional outside resources to support those priorities.

President Ransdell said that WKU determined that the single most important thing the institution could do to respond to *2020 Vision* was to create practice-based baccalaureate engineering programs to serve all of Kentucky but to principally serve the area of Kentucky from Owensboro to Bowling Green to Glasgow. Dr. Ransdell said that WKU has not asked and will not ask for new state appropriations to fund these programs but will reallocate money from other services within the university and will raise outside funding to support the programs.

Dr. John Russell, WKU Director of Engineering and Technology, responded to the concerns of the Council staff that WKU does not have the faculty, space, equipment, and students to establish the proposed engineering program in fall 2000 and distributed information to support Western's proposal.

Dr. Barbara Burch, WKU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, reviewed the process WKU used to submit the proposal to the Council and addressed the university's concerns about how Council staff handled the proposal.

Mr. Todd said that this should not be a discussion about turf or staff but about engineering. He said the Council should discuss what is important to this state – to provide educated engineers for businesses and to provide an education for our students. Mr. Todd said that while WKU has the commitment and the desire to reallocate funds for an engineering program, another institution in the state wanting to offer engineering programs may not have that same drive and may ask for legislative help to establish engineering programs at that institution.

Mr. Todd said that he opposes Mr. Huddleston's motion because he wants to look at the need for engineers throughout the entire state. Mr. Todd said that he and Mr. Davies had discussions with Presidents Shumaker and Wethington and both presidents agreed a statewide strategy is needed to produce more engineers for the state. They pledged to cooperate in developing such a strategy.

VOTE: The motion failed by a vote of 1-12.

MOTION: Mr. Todd moved that the staff recommendation as presented in the agenda book be approved. Ms. Bertelsman seconded the motion.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Ms. Bertelsman amended the second bullet of the motion to state that "the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, and Council staff, *along* with the other comprehensive universities and the KCTCS, design an alternative proposal . . ." instead of "*in consultation*." Ms. Weinberg seconded the amendment. Mr. Todd accepted the changes to the original motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

MOTION: Mr. Todd moved that, in recognition that Western Kentucky University has brought to the Council's attention the need for more engineers in Kentucky, and has already begun targeting its resources to meet this need through internal reallocation, and has raised a significant amount of private dollars, Western Kentucky University work with the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to develop a prototype for a statewide strategy to meet Kentucky's need for more engineers. The other comprehensive universities and the KCTCS should be involved in developing this strategy to ensure that it applies statewide. And other institutions should follow Western's lead in being responsive to needs and undertaking resource allocation. The Council staff and the institutions should report to the Council as soon as possible, no later than this summer. Ms. Weinberg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Whitehead appointed an ad hoc committee to conduct the annual performance review of Mr. Davies consisting of Ms. Adams, Mr. Baker, Mr. Barger, and Ms. Weinberg. He asked Ms. Weinberg to serve as chair. The evaluation will be presented to the Council at the July meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Whitehead asked Mr. Baker, Mr. Barger, and Ms. Weinberg to serve with him on the Council's nominating committee to select a chair and vice chair. He asked Mr. Barger to serve as chair. Recommendations of the nominating committee will be presented to the Council for action at the July 2000 meeting.

BOARD OF STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

Mr. Listerman said that the Board of Student Body Presidents recently passed two resolutions: the first, to fully support the Council budget as proposed to the Governor; the second, to encourage the Council to fully fund as expeditiously as possible the renovations to dormitory sprinkler systems at the public universities. The board has also asked the Council staff to provide a place to archive its history and documents because its membership changes each year. Mr. Davies said that the Council staff will

work with the Board of Student Body Presidents to provide staff assistance and continuity.

Mr. Davies said that since Mr. Listerman cannot attend the May meeting, this may be his last meeting as a Council member. He thanked Mr. Listerman for his many contributions to the Council's work and for his constructive approach to issues that come before the body. The Council joined in wishing Mr. Listerman well in his future endeavors.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is May 22.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Gordon K. Davies
President

Phyllis L. Bailey
Secretary