

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE, SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

The University Senate met in regular session at 3:00 p.m., Monday, September 11, 1995 in Room 115 of the Nursing Health Sciences Building.

Professor Gretchen LaGodna, Chairperson of the Senate Council, presided.

Members absent were: Benny Ray Bailey, Michael Bardo*, Thomas Blues*, Douglas Boyd, Bill Brassine, Carolyn Brock*, Dean Brothers, Mary Burke*, Laretta Byars, Joan Callahan, Ben Carr, Edward Carter, Shea Chaney, Louis Chow, Eric Christianson*, Scott Coovert, Frederick DeBeer, Richard Edwards, David Elliott*, Robert Farquhar, Richard Furst, Beatrice Gaunder, Lynne Hall*, James Holsinger, Edward Jennings*, Craig Koontz, Thomas Lester, C. Oran Little, Jeff Lowe, Douglas Michael, Karen Mingst, David Mohny, Maurice Morrison, Wolfgang Natter*, Anthony Newberry, Clayton Paul, Tom Pratt, Shirley Raines, Karl Raitz, Amy Rasor, Thomas Robinson, Scott Safford, Horst Schach, Janice Schach, David Shipley, Todd Shock, Sheldon Steiner, William Stober*, David Stockham, Michael Uyhelji, Craig Wallace, Jesse Weil*, Chad Willett, Eugene Williams, Paul Willis, Emery Wilson*, Mary Witt*, Linda Worley, Susan Zaringer.

Chairperson Gretchen LaGodna called the Senate meeting to order. As Chair of the Senate Council she welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 1995-96 academic year. She stated it was wonderful to see the continuing senators back and also the newly elected senators who will be working with the Senate and possibly attending for the first time. She introduced Dr. Fitzgerald Bramwell, the new Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies. Dr. Bramwell was given a round of applause.

Chairperson LaGodna then commented on the renovation of the room and stated President Wethington needed to be thanked, since the money came from the President's special funds. The renovation is greatly appreciated.

Chairperson LaGodna stated it is traditional that at the first Senate meeting the President share his thoughts and expectations for the University for the coming year. It was her pleasure to present Dr. Charles T. Wethington.

Dr. Wethington was given a round of applause. The President's remarks are available on View.

The Chair stated President Wethington would now take questions from the Senate.

Professor Tom Garrity (Medicine) asked if there was still a moratorium by the Council of Higher Education in reviewing new programs being setup by the University of Kentucky and if there is, what is the outlook for it?

President Wethington: I do not know if moratorium is the right term, but there is still in place the criteria that have found five of the eight public four year institutions in Kentucky to be not in line with the affirmative action goals set for the those Institutions by the Council on Higher Education. The plan for meeting affirmative action goals is to be considered during 1995-96. I anticipate there will be considerable discussion of those plans and quite likely the plans will be revised in some fashion. We cannot continue to not seek approval for new programs at this Institution. I believe 1995-96 is the year when some change must take place, either by the seeking of an exception to the existing plan or the revision of the plan to reflect a more realistic expectation on the part of colleges and universities. The regulations are still in place. They will be considered for change in 1995-96 and I anticipate there will be some

opportunity to have programs reviewed during the coming year.

Professor Loys Mather (Agriculture) said that in an earlier announcement about the Robinson Scholars Program the President noted that the students would be identified at the end of the eighth grade and be in a mentoring program during their high school years. What would be the shape of the mentoring program and who would be involved?

President Wethington: The program has not yet been put into place so I could only at best give a general idea. The idea is to identify students at the eighth grade level with potential and promise and hold out to them the promise that if they achieve a certain level of success during their high school career that a scholarship at the University of Kentucky in Lexington or one of its community colleges will be there for them to show those students that college education can be a reality. A plan of this kind will involve the entire University, and clearly the community colleges in the east Kentucky region will have a considerable role. Chancellor Zinser has expressed interest and we have had some discussions on the way the Lexington campus can be involved in the effort. Since it is envisioned that some of these students may eventually come through a baccalaureate degree and go into possibly medical or other health education fields, clearly the Medical Center should be involved in the effort. In whatever ways we get it done, we must have a careful mentoring program housed in east Kentucky that works with the students, their high schools, their counselors, their administrators, and helps them come through the high school experience and on into our colleges. You are on target with the importance and necessity for that. Obviously some of the funds identified for the program will be used to finance that part of the plan and during 1995-96 \$50,000 was set aside with the idea that it be a fund to help get it started, help identify people, and help put the framework of the plan in place.

Professor Bradley Canon (Arts and Sciences) stated it was reasonably certain the University is going to lose some research funds in the not too distant future. Is the University making any plans to cushion this or to generate any funds on its own? In particular the uses for which overhead are put, such as graduate fellowships.

President Wethington: I will ask you to talk with Jerry Bramwell more after the meeting. That issue is being addressed and talked about regularly. We are not about to give up yet in terms of accepting the fact that the research funds are going to be less next year than the previous year. We do know that clearly in some of the research areas we are going to see significant cutbacks. We also believe there will be some potential for enhancing our research efforts in some other fields that may bring some additional funding. We are not looking at this from a perspective of assuming the defensive posture; we are going on an aggressive direction of trying in whatever ways we can to seek new and expanded sources of federal funding to try to keep that pipeline flowing. Your point will not be ignored and I will be happy to continue to keep my discussions open with Jerry Bramwell and others, as we all must, to determine in what ways we might be able to assist with or to bridge some short term concerns we might have. We have had some cutbacks in recent years and have addressed those through some bridge funding that has worked for us. We will charge Jerry Bramwell and company to insure that be a part of the look during 1995-96. We want to continue pushing in whatever ways we can to try to keep the damage from being done at the federal level and, as we get more competitive and more aggressive possibly, we will hopefully find new ways of bringing dollars to this Institution.

Professor Jim Applegate (Communications and Information Studies) said he

knew President Wethington was serving on Jerry Richard's committee, looking at the status of higher education. Headlines, actually fairly good ones in one respect, in that they publicize the fact Kentucky does trail other states in the SREB region in support for higher education making a case that something needs to be done. What is the role of that committee and will it play a positive role as far as making a case with the state legislature?

President Wethington: I think Speaker Richards intended when he set up the task force to achieve a greater level of support for funding of colleges and universities in 1996. I believe we have the potential of raising the visibility of higher education and focusing on some areas of lack of support, and I believe those efforts will be successful. The last meeting was a particularly good one. At that time the Southern Region Education Board (it is always good to bring in some objective outside group that is a respected outside group) came in at the legislatures' request, not the University Presidents' request, to make a report to the task force about Kentucky's effort during the last ten years and what has been happening in this state. SREB data makes a very compelling case for the fact that we have led the Southeast in enrollment growth during this time, our state appropriation effort is down near the bottom in the Southeast, and that during that same period of time our tuition has gone up. Everyone thinks it has gone up at some breathtaking pace, but it is way down the list in terms of the Southeast in percentage and dollar increase in tuition over that time period. It is a very compelling story for the fact that we in Kentucky have grown in enrollment, been at the bottom in terms of state appropriation effort, and that data can be interpreted very well to say that Kentucky's colleges and universities have done a good job over the last few years with what they have had to work with. It would be very hard to escape that conclusion. We plan to use that, in whatever ways or whatever groups. For instance, we would like to see that used again with the decision maker's conference in Lexington. This state is too good to be hidden and we are going to keep using it in the next few months. The advocates for higher education are being more aggressive this year, that lay group that is out there in support of our colleges and universities. They are being more aggressive in helping us than they have been in the past. You have been asked as a university senate to take a position on a position paper. The University Board of Trustees has taken a position. Chambers of Commerce are taking a position. A position paper, which if funded, would bring higher education to the level of support of the states that surround us now, not full formula funding, just get us up to the level at which states around us are funded. I think we have a shot at something like that, since this states' revenue is moving along at a pretty good pace and since we have an all time record of contingency going into the 1996 session. It is always easier to seek support when there is some money on the table and it appears that there will be some money that will be able to be divided up among the states' priorities in 1996. The task force has a lot of issues on the table, any one of which could cause us to be fighting among ourselves again and we need to avoid that in whatever ways we possibly can and keep focusing on this case for additional support in 1996.

President Wethington was given a round of applause.

The Chair stated that, as reflected in the President's remarks, it is pretty clear to all that there are a lot of challenges facing the University this year. If just a few are listed, we are talking about: continuing funding issues; undergraduate and graduate enrollment management; maintaining student financial support; coping with federal cuts in research support; increasing diversity in race and gender across student, faculty, and staff groups; improving our retention and graduation rates; continuing to improve our quality of instruction, and we could probably add a number of

things to that list. She feels that all of these issues, as well as some of the other ones that the President mentioned, will undoubtedly surface and resurface all year. They will ultimately shape the direction in which this Institution is headed. They are the same forces that seem to be changing the face of higher education across the country. It is the hope of the Senate Council that the Senate as a total body will give careful thought and deliberation to all of these issues. We are going to make a very big effort to provide forums for healthy debate in the Senate: for the presentation of alternate positions and arguments and to avoid embracing simplistic solutions. We all know that good decisions require diverse voices and that includes student voices as well. We hope to increase the participation of faculty in governance this year and define ways to identify and encourage faculty leadership at an early point in people's careers. Aside from the usual academic issues and priorities, the Senate Council has identified several areas that we would like to give special focus or attention in this 1995-96 year. These include, in brief, entry and exist issues for faculty and specifically what is meant by that is on the one hand pursuing recommendations of the ad hoc committee on retirement that was chaired by Chet Holmquist last year. We will be working with the Administration on some issues in that area. On the other end, the review and evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of the current faculty title series.

The second area of focus has to do with the improvement of diversity and campus climate issues for students. As the President pointed out, this is a particular challenge in today's environment and there is room for a lot of study of issues that affect campus climate for students.

The third area is that of maximizing the effectiveness of outreach programs and distance learning methods. As you all know, in practically every college we are doing a great deal more in very rapid fashion. It has a lot of impact on a number of things that have to do with faculty and the quality of teaching. We want to spend some time addressing that.

Everyone in this room today, and people who are not in this room today, will be part of how successfully we move toward these goals this year. Our work will be accomplished through our standing and ad hoc committees of the Senate, and through your elected Senate Council and I hope most importantly the work will move forward through some very active debate and discussion in this body as a whole.

Chairperson LaGodna then made the following introductions: Cindy Todd, who has guided the Senate Council for 23 years; Professor Emeritus Gifford Blyton who generously has served as parliamentarian of the Senate for at least 25 years and is absolutely essential to the work of this group; Susan Caldwell, the recording secretary of the Senate; and a newcomer, Betty Huff, who is our new Registrar and serves as the secretary of the Senate. In the back of the room as usual are the two sergeants at arms; Michelle Sohner and Jacquie Hager.

The Senate Council members are: Jackie Noonan, Enid Waldhart, Don Frazier, Tom Garrity, Karen Mingst, Jim Applegate, Brad Canon, Mike Nietzel, and Jan Schach, Chair-elect. There are two student members yet to be appointed. Shea Chaney of Student Government is an ex officio member. Loys Mather and Debbie Powell are the Board of Trustees representatives and are also ex officio Senate Council Members, as is Ray Cox, the past chair.

The Committee Chairs are: Roy Moore, Rules and Elections, Ted Tauchert, Admissions and Academic Standards, Carla Craycraft, Academic Planning and Priorities, Deborah Slaton, Academic Programs, William Griffith, Academic Organization and Structure, Jan McCullough, Research Committee, Horst

Schach, Academic Facilities, Doug Poe, Institutional Finances and Resource Allocation, Allison Carll-White, Admissions Advisory Committee, and Lou Swift, University Studies. The two ad hoc committees; The Ad Hoc Committee on Women chaired by Carolyn Bratt and the Ad Hoc Committee on Minorities chaired by Lionell Williamson.

Chairperson LaGodna stated the minutes from the March 20, 1995 and April 10, 1995 had been circulated and needed to be approved. There were no corrections to the minutes and they were approved as circulated.

The Chair then recognized Professor Donald Mullineaux to present a memorial resolution in honor of John J. Bernardo.

Memorial Resolution

John J. Bernardo
1943-1995

John Joseph "Jack" Bernardo, a professor in the area of Decision Science and Information Systems, School of Management, College of Business and Economics, died July 12, 1995, of a heart attack. He is survived by his wife Joanne Horsmon Bernardo, two sons, John Bernardo and Jeffrey Bernardo, his parents, James and Christine Ross Bernardo, and a sister Joyce Taylor.

Jack was born August 12, 1943 in Du Bois, Pennsylvania. He attended Pennsylvania State University and received a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering in 1965. He then worked for Western Electric as a department chief. He received a Master in Business Administration in Marketing from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1969. He then attended Purdue University where he received a Master of Science in Econometrics in 1969 and a Doctor of Philosophy in Management Science and Economics in 1972. Following his graduate studies, Jack became a faculty member at University of Notre Dame from 1972 to 1976. In July 1976, he joined the College of Business and Economics here at the University of Kentucky.

As a teacher, Dr. Bernardo was highly regarded by the many students and colleagues he had during his 23 years of teaching. He blended theory and practice very well in his classrooms. He had chaired a total of nine dissertation committees in the Management Science and Production Operations Management areas. He had also been an active member on 29 other dissertation committees including areas in Marketing, Management, Economics, Finance and Accounting. He was known to students as "Dr. B." who always provided intelligent advice and patient guidance.

As a researcher, Dr. Bernardo's scholarly contributions included a wide range of interests, with a remarkable reputation in the areas of multi-criteria decision making and production planning and scheduling. His research had resulted in several monographs, many invited presentations, and numerous published articles. His journal articles had appeared in Decision Sciences, European Journal of Operational Research, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, Journal of Consumer Research, Journal of Operations Management, Computers and Operations Research, and the International Journal of Production Research, among others. Three times, Dr. Bernardo had garnered Best Paper Awards from the national Decision Science Institute. He had received 13 grants and contracts totaling over \$366,000 in support of research activities.

Dr. Bernardo had served academic associations in numerous capacities including track chairman, session chairman, doctoral consortium faculty, doctoral awards committee member, international programs committee member of

national Decision Science Institute. At the University of Kentucky, Dr. Bernardo had been Director of the MBA program, Director of Graduate Studies, Director of International Business and Management Center, and served on numerous university-wide committees.

Dr. Bernardo also had substantial international experiences. In 1989, he served as an advisor to the Government of Indonesia and the Asian Development Bank in evaluating the Business Management Programs of Indonesian universities. From 1992 to 1994, he helped the University of Zagreb and the Economic Institute of Zagreb in Zagreb, Croatia to evaluate their MBA program. He advised deans, selected faculty members and university administrators of several Kazakhstan universities and the Academy of Management, Almaty, Kazakhstan on academic program development, faculty development, research direction, and firm development activities that the universities could employ to aid the transition to a market driven economy. In 1993, Dr. Bernardo advised and lectured in the Program Magister Manajemen of the University of Padjadjaran, Bandung, Indonesia. In 1994, he served as Academic Dean of Education for the American Twinning Program in Malaysia.

From the perspective of Dr. Bernardo's impressive career as a teacher, scholar, and administrator, it may seem trivial to mention such things as his avid interest in sports. He coached a KICKER soccer select team which won several state and regional tournament titles.

Jack Bernardo was a valued colleague and delightful friend, a dedicated teacher and researcher, and a devoted husband and father. His untimely death has shocked and saddened the entire College community. He will be forever missed by his colleagues and friends.

Professor Mullineaux asked that the resolution be included in the minutes of the meeting and that a copy be sent to Professor's Bernardo's family.

Chairperson LaGodna asked that the Senate stand for a moment of silence in recognition of Professor Bernardo.

The Chair recognized Professor Enid Waldhart for a special resolution.

Professor Waldhart said this was a much happier resolution that had been prepared by Professor Jan Schach, who is the chair-elect of the Senate Council and Professor of Landscape Architecture.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

1994-1995 SENATE COUNCIL CHAIR

SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

Traditionally, at the first meeting of the University Senate in the fall of each academic year, we recognize the leadership and work of our retiring Senate Council Chair and presiding officer of the University Senate. This resolution is offered to thank and commend Professor Raymond H. Cox for his effective and capable leadership during the 1994-95 academic year.

Professor Cox's term in office occurred during a time of transition for the University with several searches being conducted for key administrative positions. Throughout this time, Ray served as a strong liaison with the university administration, especially President Wethington. Ray's leadership was particularly effective during the search for the Chancellor of the Lexington campus. Not only did Ray serve as a member of the Chancellor search committee, but he endeavored to ensure faculty representation in the search process. He pushed strenuously for the inclusion of the Senate Council and a cadre of research faculty in the

Chancellor interview process.

Ray again demonstrated astute leadership during one of the more sensitive discussions of the year, the proposed staff senate. Ray did an admirable job of representing the interests of the faculty, support staff, and administration during the ensuing deliberations. When the contentious issue of open records emerged, Ray encouraged the development of written guidelines for access.

Ray worked energetically and thoughtfully with the various committees of the Senate to meet the needs of the faculty, particularly in shepherding the Holmquist ad hoc Retirement Committee work. He also guided the selection and placement of the memorial bench honoring Bill Lyons and arranged the dedication ceremony.

Ray's concern for the welfare of students was always foremost. He was instrumental in bringing the debate over the plus/minus grading system, which originated in the College of Arts and Science, to a university-wide discussion. In addition, he facilitated the electronic availability to students of course evaluations of faculty.

Despite the immeasurable volume of requests and paperwork associated with his Council Chair's duties, Ray never overlooked his commitment to students. He was always available to his students no matter who was in the Council office or what was going on.

We thank you, Professor Cox, for your eloquent and congenial style and for always being respectful of the faculty's time as attested by your presiding over the shortest Senate meeting on record! Please accept the sincere thanks and recognition of the Senate Council and the University Senate for your continued dedication to the University community, your laudable leadership, and your interminable spirit of cooperation.

Dr. Cox was given a round of applause.

The Chair recognized Professor Enid Waldhart for the first action item. Professor Waldhart stated this was the item to which President Wethington had referred. It is a position paper that has been developed by the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, the statewide citizen's group whose sole purpose is to promote and advocate higher education in the Commonwealth.

The position paper is designed to assist in their efforts to inform and work with the gubernatorial candidates and members of the General Assembly.

We have been asked to formally endorse this position paper, as have faculty Senates at all other State supported institutions and other interested groups.

The Senate Council has unanimously approved this paper and recommends it for your approval as well.

Chairperson LaGodna said that before the discussion began, she would ask that comments be either in support of the position paper or not in support of it, rather than editorial issues that we have no control over. The floor was opened for discussion.

Professor Elaine Reed (Medicine) stated she was in support of the position paper as it is, but would like verification about what role this statement would play when the total educational pie in Kentucky is looked at.

Professor Loys Mather (Agriculture) said his understanding was this was the

first time the advocates have asked for Senate approval, they have these statements in the past, but they feel the stakes are rather high. They felt they would be in somewhat of a stronger position when they went to Frankfort, it they could say not only is this a statement for the advocates but in addition we have the Senates from all the State Universities also endorsing it. It was simply for added support for their position.

The Chair said she did not know whether anyone has the full answer to how that will affect other aspects of funding.

There was no more discussion. The motion to endorse the paper was unanimously passed and the paper is attached to the minutes.

Chairperson LaGodna made the following announcements:

On July 10, 1995 the Senate Council acted for the Senate on reinstating a Plan B option for the Masters of Science in Biological Sciences to accommodate two students who were eligible for that program.

The United Way Fund Drive has now begun and there are many activities planned. She urged everyone to participate. One of the most fitting ones for faculty will be on Tuesday, September 26, at the faculty club there will be held a complimentary continental breakfast.

At the April 10, 1995 meeting, the Senate voted to approve three proposals for changes in application deadlines. At that time it was brought up that there are remaining educational units with application deadlines, they agreed to changes and those were recommended by the Admissions Advisory Committee and circulated to the Senate for approval by mail. This was a little unusual, but it fell outside the time of the Senate meeting. The Senate Council then approved pending objections and the changes will be implemented for Fall 1996 for all educational units with application deadlines.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Betty J. Huff
Secretary, University Senate

TO: Members, University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: AGENDA ITEM: University Senate Meeting, Monday, September 11, 1995. Consideration of and Action on Position Paper, Kentucky for Higher Education.

Advocates

Background:

Attached is a position paper developed by the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education, the statewide citizens group whose sole purpose is to promote and advocate for higher education in the Commonwealth.

The position paper is designed to assist in their efforts to inform and work with the gubernatorial candidates and members of the General Assembly.

We have been asked to formally endorse this position paper, as have the faculty Senates at all other State supported institutions and other

interested groups.

The Senate Council has unanimously approved and recommends approval.

The Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education is a volunteer citizens' group composed of business and civic leaders working to assure that our post-secondary schools are adequately supported in order to provide meaningful employment for all Kentuckians.

KENTUCKY ADVOCATES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
1995 POSITION PAPER

The balance of this century promises to be a pivotal era for American higher education. After more than a decade of being in the shadow of other priorities, recognition of higher education's value to society appears to be reemerging. This certainly appears to be the case in the South, where the Southern Region Education Board (SREB), of which Kentucky is a member, has recently released a report entitled, "Changing States: Higher Education and the Public Good."

This report includes the following conclusions:

Higher education is a major asset but its value in an uncertain world is not sufficiently understood;

The declining priority of higher education in state budgets poses real problems for our future;

Higher education must change in important, fundamental ways;

There needs to be a new and better balance in higher education, especially between teaching and research;

Colleges and universities need to rethink what they teach and the ways in which they deliver instruction;

Constantly rising and high tuition is a serious threat to access and imperils both the individual student and all of us;

Better connections must exist among our schools, colleges, and businesses;

There are important ways for higher education institutions to share within each state and across state lines.

The Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education subscribe to these conclusions and have been pleased to witness progress related to many of them in Kentucky.

The restructuring efforts implemented by the faculty, administration, and governing boards have done much to reform the way in which our universities provide their services. The legislature has mandated further accountability processes for the institutions. The work of the Higher Education Review Commission resulted in revised, focused mission statements for each institution and in a commitment to performance funding. As KERA has continued to be implemented, the involvement and commitment of resources by our universities have grown. That commitment will continue.

Of paramount concern, however, is the current status of higher education funding in Kentucky. Consider the following:

Over the past decade, largely as a result of taking disproportionate

reductions in state budget cuts, higher education's share of state appropriations has slipped from 17 to 14 percent. As a result, the portion of the universities' budgets provided by the state has declined from 47 to 39 percent. Tuition and fees, meanwhile, have increased from 12 to 17 percent of those budgets.

During the same time that the state's support of higher education has declined, total institutional enrollments have increased by 40 percent and community college enrollments have doubled.

Higher education is inextricably linked to economic development. It is now estimated that more than 60 percent of new jobs require post-secondary education. Kentucky ranks 48th among states in percentage of its adult population with college degrees.

Kentucky continues to spend less on higher education than the average of our neighboring states. Despite similar fiscal situations, those states have somehow managed to find the money to support their systems at a higher level than Kentucky.

If Kentucky fails to respond to the SREB call for a higher priority for higher education, and our neighboring states do, then our relative position will be further eroded.

Accordingly, the Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education propose the following commitment for action from 1995 Gubernatorial candidates:

During the first biennium of the administration, we propose that higher education receive an increase in funding that would bring higher education to 100 percent of the average, actual funding level of colleges and universities in our neighboring states. Adjusted for inflation, this would require a 7 percent increase each year of the biennium, or approximately \$52 million in the first year of the biennium and approximately \$54 in the second year.

During the second biennium of the administration, we propose the funding move beyond the average, actual funding level of colleges and universities in neighboring states with which we compare ourselves. In the long term, the state should commit to a Kentucky Higher Education Performance Funding Model which would make Kentucky competitive with the rest of the nation.

Increases in funding would be used to offset inflation and fixed costs, improve faculty/staff salaries, enhance quality, recognize performance, and address equity within the system. Institutions would be expected to use the increased resources for enhancement of quality consistent with their missions, the strategic plan, and the advancement of the commonwealth's economy. Performance will be evaluated through the established accountability processes. Equity should be addressed so that each component of the system, universities and community colleges, is funded appropriately when compared to peer institutions in neighboring states.

In the funding request can be achieved, the Council on Higher Education should maintain its present tuition policy which is designed to set tuition based on Kentuckians' ability to pay and the comparable level of tuition in neighboring states.

State-funded student financial assistance programs should be increased at the same percentage level as tuition increases in order to help ensure access to higher education.

The Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education continue to promote the cause of higher education because we remain convinced that our ability as a state to provide meaningful employment opportunities for our people largely depends upon our system of higher education. We feel strongly that the current trend of diminishing state support is a short-sighted strategy that erodes the quality of our institutions and undermines the ability of higher education to contribute to Kentucky's economic progress. We ask you to join us to ensure that higher education receives the resources it needs to build a better future for our state.