

Item "A"

Action Item for December 11

At the request of Chancellor Holsinger, President Wethington has asked the Senate to consider recommending a change in the Governing Regulations to provide for the faculty trustees to be chosen one from the Lexington Campus and one from the Medical Center.

Governing Regulation II (A)(2) would read substantially as follows:

The Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky consists of sixteen members appointed by the Governor, two members of the faculty, one a member of and elected by the Lexington Campus faculty, and one a member of and elected by the Medical Center faculty, one member of the University System non-teaching personnel, etc. . . .

(This amendment will be effective July 1, 2001)

The Senate Council considered this issue on October 30 and voted to send it to the Senate with a negative recommendation. The Council's rationale for recommending rejection is that the University of Kentucky is one university, not two separate entities called Medical Center and Lexington Campus. In the preface to Governing Regulation VII, appears this statement, which we believe pertinent to the issue:

The educational-administrative organization of the University shall be such as to minimize duplication of effort and to enable the University to operate as a single, closely integrated institution, not as a loose association of colleges and departments. Barriers between educational and administrative units shall not be allowed to interfere with the academic purposes of the institution.

At times both faculty trustees have been from one sector; at other times, the trustees have been from different sectors. We believe that the faculty trustees have in the past, do presently, and will in the future speak and act for what they believe is in the best interest of the entire University. Electing trustees from sectors might cause those elected to feel responsible only to the interests of those that elected them. This would be divisive and not in the spirit of the Governing Regulation quoted above.

Furthermore, we believe that dividing the trusteeships by sector is artificial. Where do we draw the line? In addition to the Medical Center, LCC is distinctive, Agriculture is distinctive, as well as others. Trying to divide the trusteeships by commonality of interest is a fruitless -- and we think counterproductive -- task.