

COSFL MEETING

Sept. 11, 2009

The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) met in conjunction with the Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship, which was held at Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky on Friday, Sept. 11, 2009.

COSFL met from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time and the following COSFL members and Council on Postsecondary Education staff were present:

Nancy McKenney, EKU (Faculty member, COSFL Secretary)
Kate Hudepohl, WKU (Faculty member)
Ron Morrison, Morehead State (Faculty Regent)
Molly Kerby, WKU (Faculty member)
Andrew McMichael, WKU (Faculty member)
Paul Markhan, WKU (Faculty member)
Karen N. Janssen, EKU (AAUP Rep., COSFL Treasurer)
Melissa Laning, U of L (Faculty member)
Peggy Pittman-Munke, Murray State (Faculty rep./vice, COSFL President)
David Randall, UK (Senate Council Chair)
Mixon Ware, EKU (Senate Chair, COSFL Vice President)
Patti Minter, WKU (Faculty Regent)

Karen Carey, CPE staff
Adina O'Hara, CPE staff
Lee Nimocks, CPE Chief of Staff

Election of Officers:

Election of COSFL officers for 2009/2010 was held and the following nominees were elected by acclamation:

Peggy Pittman-Munke, Murray State, President
Mixon Ware, EKU, Vice President
Nancy McKenney, EKU, Secretary
Molly Kerby, WKU, Treasurer

Discussion with CPE Staff

COSFL Pres. Peggy Pittman-Munke explained that she had asked CPE staff members to meet with us because it is critical that we contribute to the Governor's Higher Education Work

Group. Financial sustainability, one of the work group's original goals, is off the table because of the economy. Transferability and student financial aid are now the two principal areas of focus, and faculty can contribute to both of these, though unfortunately we have not been included in previous discussions. She expressed concern that no faculty were invited to participate in the higher education work group until she talked to Mike Seelig at CPE and he brought COSFL in.

It was explained that the original Higher Education Work Group was envisioned as a business and community leaders' group. The work group came to a standstill for the past 6 months and has only recently been reactivated. A student representative and a college president representative have now been put on the work group, and the COSFL president is going to sit in on meetings of the work group in order to represent faculty.

Status Report on Transfer

CPE Staff member Adina O'Hara shared a handout and information from CPE Pres. Robert King's report on Transfer, which he made to the Higher Education Work Group on Aug. 18th. A 2004 survey of KCTCS students revealed four primary barriers to transfer (that is the ability to transfer course credits from 2 year to 4 year institutions in Kentucky):

- 1) Financial aid problems, including limited aid for part-time students.
- 2) Times of course offerings—Campuses are addressing this with the Adult Learner Initiative
- 3) Lack of transfer information from advisors
- 4) Lack of understanding of the transfer process

In the discussion which followed, COSFL members shared ideas and concerns, noting that lack of child care and lack of night and weekend classes make it difficult for students to complete degrees. Also, online classes take a great deal of faculty time, and there is a lack of flexibility in expectations of faculty teaching these courses; for example, some are expected to be in their offices regular hours, Monday through Friday, even though they are working all hours of the day and night with online courses.

One faculty member noted that faculty don't all agree on the issue of transfer. It was suggested by the COSFL President that we could put together a survey on transfer for COSFL reps to take to their constituents.

It was noted in subsequent discussion that there is a statewide transfer committee, formed about 13 years ago, which consists of representatives from the provost level and also registrars and admissions people. A COSFL member asked why there is no representation of someone actually in the classroom, namely faculty! Ms. O'Hara explained that this group was formed by CAOs (chief academic officers) and not by the CPE. It is part of her responsibility to work with this statewide transfer committee.

Student Financial Aid

On Sept. 22nd Higher Education Work Group will continue its work on student financial aid. They are looking at Senate Bill 1 for guidance. They are also examining some best practices in the area of cost savings. Their report is due November 1st.

In the ensuing discussion it was noted that, though there are statewide transfer scholarships, they are very small amounts and are given by individual institutions; they constitute only about 10% of all scholarships awarded.

Other concerns raised in this discussion included the idea of focusing on common learning outcomes across institutions (which would help with transferability of courses), the need to make sure that online courses are not from diploma mills, the use of an electronic transcript exchange (which all Kentucky community colleges currently do), the lack of internet access in some regions of the state, the proliferation of technical AAS degrees which do not necessarily transfer, and the lack of advising for transfer students.

Faculty Representative for the CPE

The question was raised as to why no faculty representative to the CPE has yet been named. There are 3 nominees for this position: Peggy Pittman-Munke, Rick Feldhof, and Nancy McKenney. Apparently the matter is in the Governor's hands, and some inquiries have already been made. The reason for the delay is not known.

Future Meetings and Agenda Items for COSFL

President Peggy Pittman-Munke indicated that COSFL members will work mostly by e-mail and then have a face-to-face meeting in October. Friday, October 2nd in the afternoon was agreed upon as a good date and time of day. Both EKV and WKU have offered to serve as a meeting site, so the location is TBA at this point.

President Pittman-Munke stated that COSFL needs to have at least one meeting per year with the CPE. She suggested a February meeting, but CPE staff asked if January would be acceptable as the Legislative session is in full swing by February, making that a difficult time for them to meet with us. It was decided that January would be a satisfactory time. David Randall suggested using Kati Haycock's presentation from this morning ("Access and Success in Higher Education") as a starting point for our January meeting with the CPE.

Karen Janssen recommended that when future Governor's conferences on trusteeship are held, that the concept of "shared governance" be highlighted. It would be good for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) statement on shared governance to be provided to trustees. Also, we would like to see the COSFL meeting included as part of the official agenda in the booklet handed out at these conferences.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p. m. Central Time.