

STAFF CONGRESS

Special Meeting - February 19, 1982

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Floor Discussion - House Bill No. 136
- III. Address by Dr. Gene Scholes
- IV. Adjournment

STAFF CONGRESS MINUTES

February 19, 1982

A special meeting of the Staff Congress was held on Friday, February 19, 1982 for discussion of House Bill No. 136, which provides for an elected staff regent to serve on the Board of Regents. This meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. Role was taken and a quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Andrews, Mike Baker, Tom Barlow, Bob Barnes, Dan Bayes, Gail Cato, Cindy Dunaway, Gary Eith, Shirley Gallicchio, Don Gammon, Dorinda Giles, Jerry Groeschel, Carol Guthrie, Barb Herald, Dan Hoskins, Patti Jeffries, Mary Kelm, Bonnie King, Bill Lamb, Joyce Maegly, Greg Muench, Steve Priestle, Ken Ramey, Pamm Taylor, Dolores Thelen, and Nancy Utz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat Coleman, Nancy Perry, and Linda Sanders.

Dorinda Giles opened the meeting by explaining that the meeting had been called for the specific purpose of discussing House Bill No. 136, a copy of which was given to all members present. She said that realizing the President's Office does have some strong feelings on the subject, she felt it would only be fair to let the President present why or why not the administration favors this. Therefore, Dr. Scholes was invited to address the Staff Congress to give their opinion.

Dorinda briefly went over the bill to familiarize us with it. The bill passed the House by a vote of 75 to 9 on January 25, 1982. It is now in the Senate, but we are not sure what committee it is in. The bill basically adds a Board of Regents member for the staff. The portions underlined in the bill are the changes in the makeup of the Board with regard to staff. Page 3 defines the staff regent. The regent is elected by ballot to serve a term of three years, with another election to be held to fill vacancies in the case of an unexpired term. This is a voting membership in all matters except staff compensation.

Mike Baker asked why it is stipulated that the staff regent cannot vote on matters of compensation, and not stipulated in the same manner for the faculty. Dolores Thelen answered that in matters of faculty compensation, the faculty regent always abstains from voting. Dolores also pointed out that the faculty regent becomes an ex-officio member of the Faculty Senate, and that while the Staff Congress terms are for two years, the staff regent's term is for three years.

Gary Eith said the copy of the bill that we have is as it stands on the book. The changes in the bill are those underlined on pages 1, 3, and 4. Anything not underlined is already law. Dorinda Giles said there was one amendment made when the bill was voted in; that the staff regent would begin to serve effective July 1, 1983.

Dorinda also said that the purpose of the meeting was to decide if we want to support the bill or not. If so, Gary Eith has a number of ideas on what we can do to take a more active role. If not, Student Government has already made an issue of this and we need to officially let them know our position.

Dorinda Giles acknowledged the arrival of Dr. Scholes and gave the floor to him.

Dr. Scholes: "First of all, I think you need to understand the University's administration is committed to the advancement of the support staff of this University. The existence of this organization and hopefully your impression of the leadership of this University is such that it enforces this. We are grateful to Bill Lamb and the committee that worked hard to see this come to reality.

The question of whether a staff person should sit on the Board of Regents is not an easy question to respond to. I think one might initially say yes, why not? The staff are an important part of the success of the University. We are the ones who are here twelve months a year. We are the ones who carry this place on our backs. We are the ones who seem sometimes to exhibit more dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the University through our sacrifices than those who are already represented. You can look at it in that light, and most of us tend to do that and become a little emotionally involved on that score. Dr. Albright met with the officers of Staff Congress and this was discussed, and I think he expressed at that time on a less emotional or perhaps a more rational basis his questioning whether a staff should be on the Board of Regents. Paraphrasing some of that conversation, Dr. Albright's feeling is that a university has a lot of constituents, certainly the administrative group, the staff of the university, the students, the community, the alumni; and each of these groups could be broken down into more constituencies. Legislation could be suggested for almost all of these groups having a representative on the Board of Regents or the main policy board of an organization. I think you will agree with me that his comment was that he would not favor a representative on the Board of Regents mostly from that standpoint; that there would be others in the constituency of the University that would want that voice, and the Board of Regents might cease to operate as effectively as it does now.

For my own part, I agree and I know it is not the most popular decision to make in your presence, to say we are against the staff being on the Board of Regents, because it is like saying you are against motherhood and apple pie. If you think about it, we are and have been supportive of the staff and I think it will continue to grow and manifest itself in a lot of ways. The question of regential membership is the issue here, and regardless of what you decide, and Dr. Albright or myself would not try to unduly influence you, we think you need to know where we are and what our position would be. Whatever you would decide and whatever course you decide to take, it is certainly your prerogative and we will not try to influence you in either direction.

For my own part and thinking, the faculty regent and student regent are directly involved in the instructional process on campus; the faculty in terms of a delivery of instruction and the students in terms as consumers of instruction, if you will. If you remember when the battle was fought for faculty and staff representation on the Board, there were a number of people for this and a lot of people opposed to this. I know Dr. Albright and myself were for this because they are directly involved in delivery and directly involved in consumerism.

We represent the administration of the University and the staff of the University represent the support of those activities. The administration, of course, through the President has some voice on the Board and the staff through the President has some voice on the Board. I guess that it is in this context more so than any other that it is not necessary for the staff to have representation on the Board of Regents. We will move into a group of eleven people, and it is my guess that the next group wanting representation will be the alumni, and then we will be at twelve. At some point we have

to draw a realistic line on the members on the Board of Regents. I think the present composition of that Board is a good composition, and is realistic. So, before you draw your bows and arrows and get your guns, I'm heading out the door."

Dorinda Giles asked if anyone had questions for Dr. Scholes before he left.

Dolores Thelen asked if the administration could conceivably see a Staff Congress member being invited to participate in the Board of Regents meetings such as the alumni representative does now.

Dr. Scholes said he thought that would be entirely appropriate, to have the President or someone else chosen from among the members of Staff Congress attend the Board meetings to watch and see what goes on, and to bring back information and to communicate the wishes of the staff. The administration encourages the Staff Congress to do so.

Dorinda Giles mentioned that Dr. Albright has already invited us to send a representative to attend the meetings, and if we have anything to say we can do so, provided we let him know ahead of time.

Dr. Scholes also said that the style of the administration is an open style where more information is better than less, and they encourage the Staff Congress to participate in this. He said that this is the posture of the administration of the University, and if we chose to take a posture that is very much in favor of a staff member on the Board, they will have no problem in understanding why we took this posture, and have no problem with it. The administration encourages the Congress to do what it feels it needs to do, and what is right for it. Dr. Scholes then left the meeting.

Barb Herald said that Dr. Scholes in essence is saying that we are represented by the President and that is why there is no need for our own representative.

Dorinda Giles said that she thinks the main opposition from the administration is that we are one more special interest group, and that this will continue to grow.

Bill Lamb asked how the bill was initiated. Dorinda Giles, by following Mary Kelm's suggestion to refer to the back of the Legislative Record, checked and found that it was introduced by Freed Curd, who is a Democrat from Murray, Kentucky.

Lengthy discussion among the members of Staff Congress followed. Dorinda Giles summarized the options that had come out of this discussion. These were:

1. Rather than rush into this, we should appoint a committee to investigate and study the bill and its ramifications.
2. Go ahead with the information we now have, and act on it.

Mary Kelm moved that the Staff Congress takes time to step back and study this further before acting. Shirley Gallicchio seconded the motion.

Don Gammon suggested an amendment to the motion should be made to set a time limit of one week to get more information, and that we meet in one week's time to decide if we will support this bill or not. Mary Kelm accepted his amendment.

The vote was taken on this motion and it was approved.

Mike Baker suggested that the Executive Council issue a statement to the interested parties of the University that the Staff Congress will study this bill further, and that any information they have that might be of assistance to us would be appreciated.

Dorinda Giles made the following appointments to the committee to study this bill:

Mary Kelm - Chairperson

Gary Eith

Bard Herald

Steve Priestle

Cindy Dunaway

Ken Ramey moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Motion was seconded by Mike Baker, and was unanimously approved.

Please note: THE NEXT MEETING OF THE STAFF CONGRESS WILL BE HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1982 IN THE FACULTY DINING ROOM AT 10:00 a.m.

C. Dr. Albright

IN HOUSE

REGULAR SESSION 1982

HOUSE BILL NO. 136

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1982

Representative Freed Curd prefiled the following bill for introduction on the first day of the 1982 regular session.

AN ACT relating to higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth
of Kentucky:

1 Section 1. KRS 164.320 is amended to read as fol-
2 lows:

3 (1) The board of regents for Eastern Kentucky Uni-
4 versity, Morehead State University, Murray State Univer-
5 sity, Western Kentucky University, Kentucky State Univer-
6 sity and Northern Kentucky University shall each consist
7 of eight (8) members appointed by the governor, one (1)
8 member of the teaching faculty, [and] one (1) member of
9 the student body, and one (1) member of the staff of the
10 respective university or college. The members of the
11 board shall select a chairman annually.

12 (2) The initial terms of appointed members shall be
13 for four (4) years, and until their successors are
14 appointed and qualified. Whenever a term expires after
15 July 15, 1980, the member appointed by the governor to
16 fill the vacancy shall be appointed for a six (6) year
17 term. Such appointments shall be made by the governor
18 within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the term
19 of each member. If the governor should fail to make any
20 such appointment within thirty (30) days after the
21 expiration of the term of any member, the remaining mem-

1 bers of the board of regents of the particular university
2 or college whose terms shall not have expired, shall make
3 such appointment within sixty (60) days after the expira-
4 tion of such term.

5 (3) Not more than two (2) appointed members of any
6 board shall be residents of one (1) county; nor more than
7 four (4) of the appointed members of any board shall
8 belong to the same political party. Membership on the
9 board shall not be incompatible with any other state
10 office.

11 (4) Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made in
12 the same manner and within the same time after the occur-
13 rence of the vacancy as regular appointments. The person
14 appointed shall hold the position for the unexpired term
15 only.

16 (5) Each appointed member of the board shall, at
17 the first meeting following his appointment, take an oath
18 to faithfully discharge his duties.

19 (6) Each member of the board shall serve for the
20 term for which he is appointed and until his successor is
21 appointed and qualified.

22 (7) The faculty member shall be a teaching or
23 research member of the faculty of his respective univer-
24 sity or college of the rank of assistant professor or
25 above. He shall be elected by secret ballot by all fac-
26 ulty members of his university or college of the rank of

1 assistant professor or above. The faculty member shall
2 serve for a term of three (3) years and until his succes-
3 sor is elected and qualified. The faculty member shall be
4 eligible for reelection, but he shall not be eligible to
5 continue to serve as a member of such board if he ceases
6 being a member of the teaching staff of the university or
7 college. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the
8 unexpired term in the same manner as provided for orig-
9 inal election.

10 (8) The student member shall be the president of
11 the student body of the university or college on whose
12 board of regents he is to serve. If the president of the
13 student body is not a full-time student who maintains
14 permanent residency in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, a
15 special election shall be held to select a full-time
16 student who does maintain permanent residency in this
17 Commonwealth as the student member.

18 (9) The staff member shall be a non-teaching
19 employee of the university who has permanent employee
20 status. He shall be elected by secret ballot by all
21 non-teaching staff members of his respective university.
22 The staff member shall serve for a term of three (3)
23 years and until his successor is elected and qualified.
24 The staff member shall not be eligible to continue to
25 serve as a member of the board if he becomes a member of
26 the teaching staff or ceases to be employed by the uni-

1 versity. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the
2 unexpired term in the same manner as provided for orig-
3 inal elections. The staff member shall have the right to
4 vote on all matters except that of staff compensation.