

Minutes
Academic Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees
March 7, 2006

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees met in Room A, 18th Floor Patterson Office Tower at 9:00 a.m. on March 7, 2006. Myra Tobin, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, called the meeting to order. The following members of the Committee were in attendance: Ann Haney, Roy Moore, and Penny Brown.

Ms. Tobin distributed the minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting and asked for any corrections or additions. There being no changes, a motion was made by Roy Moore to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.

AACR 1: Establishment of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History - Resolution requesting approval to establish the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History in the University of Kentucky Libraries. A motion was made by Roy Moore to approve the recommendation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Scott Smith, Interim Provost, gave a brief update on the College of Agriculture name change. Subsequent to the decision by the Academic Affairs Committee in December to table the recommendation, Dr. Smith consulted further with several stakeholders. After further consideration, the college requested the recommendation be withdrawn.

Barbara Jones, University General Counsel, reviewed the issues related to diversity and academic affairs and gave an update on what the University has done to date. After the Michigan decisions she stated our legal duty included: 1) Determine whether diversity is an institutional goal. Clearly define what is meant by diversity and insure that the commitment to diversity is published in the appropriate university governing documents and publications. 2) Conduct an Institutional Self Assessment – perform an inventory of programs and policies with particular emphasis on admissions, financial aid and scholarships and other programs that are limited or restricted to minorities. 3) Implement a consistent policy for the admission of students that focuses on diversity, does not exclude anyone from consideration for programs that provide a benefit whether it be financial or programmatic and that the process is narrowly tailored to comply with constitutionally sound principles. Bottom line: race may be a factor, but it can not be the factor.

The Admissions and Financial Aid Review Committee was appointed and charged with the following tasks: 1) Reaffirm the University's commitment to diversity as a valuable and necessary institutional goal; 2) Recommend to the Faculty Senate any changes in admissions procedures that will ensure continued diversity and consistency with court directives; 3) Recommend procedures for the evaluation and award of financial aid at the University, college, and unit levels that will ensure consideration of diversity, reward academic excellence in the case of merit scholarships, and maintain consistency with court directives; and 4) Recommend the

types of communication necessary, to both internal and external constituencies, to ensure that our policies are well-understood and justified with strong rationale.

The Governing Regulations have been revised to state:

The University is committed to diversity as a vital characteristic of an optimal education and workplace. The University maintains a firm conviction that it must strengthen the diversity of its communities, support free expression, reasoned discourse and diversity of ideas; and take into account a wide range of considerations, including but not limited to, ethnicity, race, disability, and sex, when making personnel and policy decisions. The University is committed to periodically evaluating progress made toward diversity and to communicating the results of such evaluations. Based upon these assessments, the University will give diversity factors consideration to ensure achievement of its mission of instruction, research and service and gain the broadest benefits for the University community.

In addition, Ms. Jones reminded everyone that there are continued legal and compliance issues that are being addressed.

Don Witt, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management, reviewed for the committee the team approach to admissions that his office is coordinating. The application has been redesigned to get a comprehensive view of each student applying for admission. Each application is carefully read and we are moving beyond the process of just using test scores. Race can be a factor in admissions, but not the factor.

Terry Allen, Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity, briefly discussed the Kentucky EEO Plan that originated in the early 1980's. Today there are eight objectives in the Equal Opportunity Plan. We currently comply with six of the eight objects.

Bill Turner, Associate Provost for Multicultural Affairs, said the University is looking at issues more strategically.

Dr. Smith thanked all who helped with the update and said staff have been facing complex issues and have done a remarkable job that will position UK for success in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Tobin, Chair
Academic Affairs Committee