

University Relations Committee  
February 21, 2012  
Room H, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor Patterson Office Tower

Committee Members Present: Jo Hern Curris, Chair; Sheila Brothers, Micah Fielden, Pamela T. May, Terry Mobley

Other Board Members Present: John Wilson, Sandy Patterson, Keith Gannon, Britt Brockman, C.B. Akins, Erwin Roberts

Jo Curris, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

Roll Call

John Wilson, newly elected faculty representative to the Board of Trustees, was introduced and welcomed by Jo Curris.

Minutes from the previous University Relations Committee meeting were approved.

Jo Curris opened the agenda with a welcome to the 2012 committee members. She thanked Tom Harris, Steve Byars, and Dr. Jim Tracy for joining in the meeting to present on the areas of Federal Relations and Government Relations at the university.

Tom Harris opened by stating that the University has been featured in several national media outlets over the past and in the coming weeks. The university has been featured in the Chronicle on Higher Education, New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal. American Public Radio will be on campus next week; USA Today will interview President Capilouto, and the Dylan Ratigan Show (MSNBC) will be on campus Wednesday, February 22.

Dr. Jim Tracy, Vice President for Research, presented to the committee regarding the university role in Federal Relations.

The Federal Relations Office of the university reports to the VP for Research Office, which in turn reports to the President's Office. Federal Relations monitors grants and policies, has a registered lobbyist in Washington, DC who is paid through the research foundation—not with state dollars.

The Federal Relations Office areas of focus include:

1. Making sure the University speaks with one voice to Congressional leaders on behalf of the university
2. Focused efforts lobbying legislation in relation to higher education in general, and UK specifically

3. Keeping the University in front of Congress—lobbying and monitoring legislation effecting Pell grants, and student loans
4. Getting earmark funding for the University
5. Working with other Universities for higher education legislation
6. Coordinate visits—campus leaders and researchers to Washington, DC—and visits of Congressional leaders to the University
7. Report quarterly all lobbying activities of the university. Must report the specific issue lobbied, time spent, total money spent on specific area of interest
8. Other Federal activities: Member of: Council on Government Relations, an organization that concerns itself with the impact of federal regulations, policies, and practices on the performance of research conducted at member institutions. Federal Demonstration Partnership, an association of federal agencies, academic research institutions, and research policy organizations that work to streamline the administration of federally-sponsored research—identifying, testing, and implementing federal research grants.

Noted by Dr. Jim Tracy, all federal funding is acquired through the Vice President of Research Office—through Federal Relations, this includes healthcare. UK Healthcare does not pursue federal funding separately.

Steve Byars, Assistant Vice President for Government Relations, presented to the committee regarding State Government Relations.

UK Government Relations works with the Executive Branch, and the Legislative Branch of State Government. Other areas that GR works closely with are the Governor's Office and the Economic Development Cabinet, and the Cabinet for Health Services.

The legislative session runs in a 60-day session during budget year; and a 30- day session during a non-budget year. 2012 is a 60-day session and we are currently in the middle of the session at day 31.

When the Legislature is not in session, the office of Government Relations works to establish relationships with legislators. Mr. Byars noted that establishing these relationships outside of the session is critical to the university. One key to establishing a relationship with a legislator is to find an area of connection—some of the more common areas of connection include: Athletics, Agriculture, Center for Applied Energy Research, College of Education, and the hospital. The UK hospital sees patients in all 120 counties—which includes every legislator's constituency. An example of connecting with the legislators occurred 2 years ago when Government Relations joined with the College of Medicine to engage legislators in a "mini-med school" experience. Legislators spent an uninterrupted day in the College of Medicine touring and learning about the college.

When the Legislature is not in session, the office of Government Relations works to communicate the University's successes. Communicating success occurs in targeted, periodic

communication, personal visits to legislators, testimony before interim committees, and coordinating visits to campus, and joining legislators in discussion with subject matter experts.

Government Relations coordinates The University of Kentucky Advocacy Network (UKAN). UKAN is a group of 300 alumni and friends of the University who have key relationships with their legislators. UKAN meets in the fall of each year on campus. Last year the group met for a half-day session which included a tour of the UK Hospital. UKAN also joins in a legislative luncheon held in Frankfort in January at the beginning of the Legislative session. Throughout the session UKAN members may be called upon to contact their legislator on a specific and directed "Call to Action" by the Government Relations Office.

The Government Relations Office attends the Legislative Session and monitors all aspects of the session related to the University.

Areas of focus include:

Bill Review - Bill Tracking— up to 1500 bills per session are logged. The university reviews each bill for impact to the university. University related bills are sent out to campus areas to determine their impact – and political capital. The President has final say on the impact to the University

Some Key Issues for 2012 Legislative Session include:

- Advance Practice Doctorates –
- Pharmacy Step Therapy –
- Pharmacy Purchasing - - a bill that would limit ability to save money – UK developing a Pharmacy Coalition with UL, Transy, Teacher's Retirement Systems, to buy in bulk and save money
- Ambulatory Surgical Centers – a bill requiring all centers to go through the certification process as other providers do
- Patient Protection for Managed Care Organizations
- State Debt Cap

State Appropriations – Huge impact. Appropriations were \$303 million in 2001-02; this year at \$284 million for 2012-13.

Key Budget Issues for 2012:

- Operating Base – a 6.4% reduction (=19.4 million)
- \$200 Million Agency Bond Pool – UK must service debt – pool gives flexibility but it is difficult knowing what to ask for 2 ½ years in advance. Pool is very helpful.
- \$175 Million approval for student housing
- Approval for any capital project over \$600,00

### The Legislative Budget Process:

- Governor gave his proposed budget on January 17, 2012
- President Capilouto testified before the House Budget Review Subcommittee on February 2, 2012
- Government Relations will issue a UKAN call to action before House markup
- House Budget – set for early March
- UKAN call to action in the week before the Senate markup
- Senate Budget delivered late March
- Free Conference Committee
- Governor reviews and signs – line-item veto

Steve Byars concluded his presentation on the area of Government Relations.

General discussion followed.

Comments within the discussion included: Many of the Trustees have good relationships with legislators and the Governor but the general history of engaging in conversation has been, “the University needs to speak with one voice—do not speak to Legislators.” It was noted that the “one voice” history with legislators was never intentional—just developed during a former administration several decades ago. It was suggested that Jo meet with President Capilouto to determine whether there might be a productive manner for harnessing and utilizing the political clout of Board members when needed to support specific initiatives; that the Board members be provided with talking points for legislators and that the Board of Trustees be given key points, position statements, or at the very least, the emails that are sent out to the UKAN group.

Recommendation: It was recommended by the University Relations committee that Jo Curris, chair, meet with President Capilouto to discuss specific requests of the University Relations committee.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.