

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF REGENTS
MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY
February 17, 2012**

The Board of Regents of Morehead State University met in special session at 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2012, for the purpose of approving a Resolution. Chair John C. Merchant presided.

Chair Merchant called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following members were present: James H. Booth, Julie A. Butcher, Paul C. Goodpaster, Debbie H. Long, Glenn L. Means, John C. Merchant, Ronald D. Morrison, Patrick E. Price, and Terry E. White. David V. Hawpe and Cheryl U. Lewis were unable to attend.

GUESTS

Dr. Andrews recognized the following guests who were in attendance: Morehead Mayor David Perkins, Rowan County Judge-Executive Jim Nickell, Faculty Senate Chair Kim Sharp, Faculty Senate Chair-elect Doug Chatham, and Staff Congress Chair Rebecca McGinnis.

RESOLUTION

Chair Merchant stated that the purpose of today's special meeting is to consider a Resolution. As you will recall, the Board had a thorough discussion at our retreat last week about the University's strategic agenda that included House Bill 260 and the possibility of adding a ninth university to the Commonwealth's system of higher education. As Board members, we expressed opinions that it makes no sense to have duplicative programs and services that Morehead State University has provided for more than five generations to the citizens of Eastern and Southern Kentucky. Board members also expressed concerns about the potential of adding a ninth public university at a time when the state can't afford to support the eight universities currently in the system. Since 2007-08, the higher education general fund appropriation has been cut by \$100 million, and the Governor's proposed budget would reduce it by an additional \$64 million. A 6.4 percent reduction in state appropriations as proposed in the Governor's budget would bring the total reductions that MSU has incurred since 2007-08 to \$7.2 million. These budget reductions do not include fixed and unavoidable cost increases for insurances, utilities, retirement contributions, and statutorily mandated tuition and fee waivers in excess of \$7 million, plus \$2.9 million in unfunded maintenance and operating expenses. The cumulative impact is \$17 million.

Chair Merchant said that based on Board members' comments and suggestions at the Board retreat, he asked the Board's Vice Chair, Paul Goodpaster, to read the proposed Resolution for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Goodpaster read and offered the motion that the following Resolution be adopted by the Board of Regents:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of Morehead State University recognizes and respects the constitutional and statutory duties and responsibilities of the Kentucky General Assembly in developing public policy for the Commonwealth and in funding state government, including public postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents acknowledges that its statutory authority is delegated by the General Assembly and that the citizen members of the Board are appointed by the governor of the Commonwealth and are responsible for the governance of the institution; and

WHEREAS, the relationship between institutional governing boards and state government is a delicate balance between public policy considerations and academic self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the institutional autonomy of Kentucky's public universities is an important factor in gaining and maintaining accreditation and in winning broad public support and achieving national prestige in teaching, public service and research; and

WHEREAS, the ability of the Board of Regents of Morehead State University to effectively govern the institution has been imperiled by repeated reductions in the level of state financial support of public postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, this erosion of effort has been further exacerbated by the proposed creation of a ninth public university at a time when the Commonwealth cannot adequately support its eight existing universities and the Kentucky Community and Technical College system; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of an additional public university has not been an outcome of the strategic planning processes of the Council on Postsecondary Education thereby damaging the credibility of the reform movement which the General Assembly enacted as public policy in 1997;

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Regents of Morehead State University that the members of the Kentucky General Assembly are respectfully and urgently requested to reject House Bill 260 in the 2012 regular session, as well as budget bill language with similar intent, as a means of protecting the dwindling state resources available to public postsecondary education.

Adopted this seventeenth day of February 2012.

Dr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Resolution was signed by all nine members present – Chair John C. Merchant, Vice Chair Paul C. Goodpaster, James H. Booth, Julie A. Butcher, Debbie H. Long, Glenn L. Means, Ronald D. Morrison, Patrick E. Price, and Terry E. White.

Ms. Butcher said that this has been a well thought out resolution. “We have all searched our souls and looked at what the resources are and what the impact is upon this institution for which we have a fiduciary duty, as well as the people of the Commonwealth and the education of the Commonwealth, and this is so ill advised by the General Assembly to pursue this course at this time. I think the net effect would be the diminution of the education for the Commonwealth and Eastern Kentucky.”

Mr. Means said that the Student Government Association this past week also passed a resolution. The students understand that adding another institution to the Commonwealth is a duplication of services, and they are in full support of this resolution as well.

Dr. Morrison said that the Faculty Senate met yesterday and passed a similar resolution. He said that his sense was that the group as a whole is strongly in favor of the resolution and strongly opposed to the idea of adding a ninth university.

Judge Nickell said that the Fiscal Court also has passed a resolution and sent it to the Governor as well as several house members. He said that this is kind of a two-edged sword for Rowan County since it not only hurts Morehead State University, but Rowan County as well. Down the road, we are going to lose jobs and tax revenues. It is going to affect us in a very grave way. In addition, although we are not a coal producing county, we have shared in those revenues by building an industrial park with Menifee and Morgan counties who are coal producing counties. We have received several million dollars to help that grow and produce about 900 jobs. If this proposal is successful, those dollars will no longer be available to counties to build these types of projects. He said that he had talked with his counterparts across Eastern Kentucky, and many of these counties will be adopting similar resolutions.

Mayor Perkins said that the City Council also adopted a similar resolution. He said that we are concerned about the local economy and all counties that surround us who have people working here at Morehead State University.

Mr. White said that the Staff Congress also passed a resolution at a special called meeting on Thursday.

Dr. Andrews expressed his deep appreciation to the Board members for their careful and thoughtful review of HB 260. He said that this issue is not just about Morehead

State University. It's about how we serve children and families in the region. "I know that you, as well as I, are deeply committed to that historic mission. For five generations, we have served these counties. We will continue to do that because our goal is to provide access at an affordable rate for every child capable of going on to college."

Dr. Andrews reported that Morehead State University graduate **Kenneth Faried** was named winner of the Herald-Leader's 2011 Kentucky Sportsman of the Year award. Kenneth ended his stellar MSU career being named OVC Defensive Player of the Year for the third straight time, OVC Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, and OVC Male Athlete of the Year, and was selected by the Denver Nuggets in the first round of the 2011 NBA Draft.

The competition included **John Calipari**, head coach of the Kentucky Wildcats basketball program; **Scott Davenport**, head coach of the Bellarmine men's basketball program; **Josh Harrellson**, UK player who was selected in the second round of the 2011 NBA Draft by the New York Knicks; **Bob Beatty**, head coach of the Trinity High School Shamrocks football team, who was named National Coach of the Year by *USA Today*; **Victoria Dunlap**, 2010 UK women's basketball star, who was selected in the first round of the WNBA Draft by the Washington Mystics; **Kelly Wells**, head coach of the Pikeville men's basketball program, who as coach of the Mason County High School basketball team won a state championship and led Pikeville to the NAIA Division I national crown last year; **Shelvin Mack**, former Lexington Bryan Station star, who played on the Butler team in two NCAA Tournament finals and was selected in the second round of the NBA Draft by the Washington Wizards; **Randall Cobb**, former UK football star who was selected in the second round of the 2011 NFL Draft by Green Bay; **Danny Trevathan**, 2011 UK football standout who led the SEC in tackles and the nation's linebackers in fumbles forced and was second nationally among linebackers in interceptions. He was named All-American by *Sports Illustrated*.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Goodpaster moved that the meeting adjourn at 9:22 a.m. Ms. Butcher seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Johnson, Secretary
Board of Regents