



**Board of Regents – Special Called Meeting**

**Monday, April 1, 2013 ~ 11:30 a.m. (CDT)**  
*Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room (MMTH)*

***AGENDA***

- Call to Order (*Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair*)
  - Roll Call
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**1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (*Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair*)

**Action Item:**

1.1 Approval of Recommendation Related to University Athletic Conference Affiliation **[p 1]**

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- Second Quarterly Meeting ~ Friday, April 26, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. (CDT)  
Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room ~ Mass Media and Technology Hall
- Adjourn

**MINUTES  
OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY**

**April 1, 2013 (revised)**

• **CALL TO ORDER**

Required statutory notice having been given, a special called meeting of the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University was held in the *Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room* of the Mass Media and Technology Hall on the Western Kentucky University campus. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair J. David Porter at approximately 11:30 a.m. (CDT).

• **ROLL CALL**

The following Regents were present (votes were recorded):

Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair	Mr. Jim Johnson
Mr. Cory Dodds, Student Regent	Dr. Patricia H. Minter, Faculty Regent
Mr. James Kennedy, Staff Regent	Mr. John W. Ridley

Regents available for discussion via IVS and audio conferencing (votes not recorded):

Mr. Frederick A. Higdon, Chair  
Dr. Melissa B. Dennison, Secretary

Regents not in attendance:

Ms. Cynthia Harris  
Mr. Laurence J. Zielke

Others in attendance included the following:

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, President  
Mr. Howard Bailey, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Gordon C. Baylis, Vice President for Research  
Dr. Randy Capps, Parliamentarian  
Ms. Kathryn R. Costello, Vice President for Development & Alumni Relations  
Dr. A. Gordon Emslie, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Julia McDonald, Senior Administrative Assistant

Ms. K. Ann Mead, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Richard C. Miller, Vice Provost and Chief Diversity Officer  
Mr. John Osborne, Vice President for Campus Services and Facilities  
Dr. Robert Owen, Vice President for Information Technology  
Mr. Todd Stewart, Director of Athletics  
Ms. Robbin M. Taylor, Vice President for Public Affairs  
Ms. Deborah T. Wilkins, Chief of Staff / General Counsel

In keeping with the policy of the Board, the agenda for the meeting and information and materials pertinent to items thereon had been mailed in advance of the meeting to members of the Board.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE – ACTION ITEM (*Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair*)

### 1.1 Approval of Recommendation Related to University Athletic Conference Affiliation

#### **REQUEST:**

The President requests approval and authorization for the University to join Conference USA.

#### **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial variables related to withdrawal from the Sun Belt Conference. The Athletics Department will fund any expenditures required by or related to membership in Conference USA.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval and authorization for the President to take such actions necessary for the University to join Conference USA.

#### **MOTION:**

**Regent James Kennedy made a motion that the Board approve and authorize the President to take such actions necessary for the University to join Conference USA. Motion was seconded by Regent Jim Johnson.**

#### **DISCUSSION**

President Gary Ransdell:

I seek the Board's authorization of this request. I have forwarded information to you prior to today's meeting that gives you specific information about the value and opportunity before us to become a member on July 1, 2014, of Conference USA and we are anxious for this opportunity to take place to secure the future of our intercollegiate athletic programs.

Regent Minter:

I have a question for President Ransdell and Mr. Stewart. You have provided a lot of

information for us which certainly makes a compelling case for joining Conference USA. There are some upfront expenditures but there does seem to be massive potential for return. By the time that full membership takes place on July 1, 2014 (which is also the beginning of a new fiscal year), this has potential to bring in a lot more money into athletics and it seems to me that it is an excellent opportunity to move toward a self-supporting model as opposed to a student-fee driven model, which is currently about one-third of the athletic budget. Would you be willing to commit today that going forward on July 1, 2014, to stop the use of the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) to escalate the amount of the student athletic fee with a view of phasing that out as Conference USA television revenue comes in and enhances the athletic budget? That really serves two purposes. If you stop using HEPI and phase out the student fee, that moves the athletic department to a self-supporting model but it also moves that money into a category that could be available for tuition, for example. It gives us the opportunity to shift that money into the budget where it paid for employees, pays to keep the lights on, and moves the athletic department away from a student-subsidized model and frees up money for other things. Would you be willing to commit today to ending the use of HEPI on July 1, 2014?

President Ransdell:

The answer is no, we cannot commit to that today because we do not know what all the financial dynamics will be at this time. There will probably be a three-year phase in to get full revenue sharing equal to other long standing members of Conference USA – that has yet to be fully determined. I can be relatively confident in suggesting that the revenue sharing from Conference USA will not be equal to that which is generated from the student fee. So at this point, that would mean a reduction in revenues to the athletic department and that would serve no one because it would require a greater University subsidy which is not something we want to do either. Now, the HEPI factor could be a point of discussion. But to move toward a model where we phase out the fees is not a practical solution because the whole reason for making this move is to have a revenue enhancement to allow us to continue to be competitive with our intercollegiate athletic programs and to make a move to simply offset revenues would not add value to the University. It could free up money to use for other things, granted. But then we would be creating one problem while solving another. I think it is very premature to have that discussion now and no, we cannot make that commitment today.

Regent Minter:

I put it out there today for us to consider now and for future Boards members to consider as we think about how to make college more affordable and how to deal with the strains on our own budget where we are not able to do a compensation increase for faculty and staff. I think this makes good financial sense as long as it doesn't end up being a huge increaser for the athletics budget as opposed to doing something which allows us to free up money for other aspects of the University. That scenario is a win-win.

President Ransdell:

I understand. We'll make sure those that are accountable for balancing budgets have the means to do so.

Regent Minter:  
Thank you.

**ACTION TAKEN:**  **Approved unanimously**    **Not Approved**    **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

President Ransdell introduced Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky for comments. Commissioner Banowsky welcomed WKU to Conference USA and expressed his thanks for the Boards' approval to move forward.

President Ransdell invited Regents to attend the Press Conference / Media Announcement at Noon in the Harbaugh Club.

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## **2. OTHER BUSINESS (*Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair*)**

Upcoming dates:

- Second Quarterly Meeting – **April 26 at 9:00 a.m. (CDT)** – (*Augenstein Alumni Center*)
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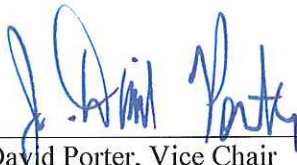
## **3. ADJOURNMENT (*Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair*)**

With no further business, Vice Chair Porter adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 a.m. (CDT).

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**CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY**

I hereby certify that the minutes herein above set forth an accurate record of votes and actions taken by the Board of Regents of Western Kentucky University in the special called meeting held April 1, 2013, in the Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room in the Mass Media and Technology Hall on the Western campus, and further certify that the meeting was held in compliance with KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.825 (enacted as Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of House Bill 100, 1974 Regular Session, General Assembly).



Mr. J. David Porter, Vice Chair  
WKU Board of Regents

Approved on July 26, 2013



Dr. Melissa B. Dennison, Secretary  
WKU Board of Regents

Approved on 7/26/13