Minutes of the Tuition Task Force Meeting
Murray State University
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
Reading Room, Pogue Library
6 p.m.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Judge Jeff Taylor, Chair of the Tuition Task Force, called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and the roll was called with the following present: Keith Cartwright, Mike Freels, Dave Hornback, Kara Mantooth, Doug Watkins, Becki Wells, Brett Welter, Steve White, Ashley Wild, Tom Denton (Ex-officio) and Lori Mitchum (Ex-officio). Absent: Peg Hays. Others present included Alan Stout, Chair of the Murray State University (MSU) Board of Regents; Randy J. Dunn, MSU President; Jill Hunt Lovett, Coordinator for Board Relations, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Regents; and a member of the news media.

Minutes of the Special Tuition Task Force Meeting January 14, 2009, approved

Mr. Hornback moved that the Tuition Task Force approve the minutes of the special Tuition Task Force meeting on January 14, 2009, with one suggested amendment from Mr. Freels. Dr. White seconded and the motion carried.

Presentation by Ron Crouch - Kentucky State Data Center

Judge Taylor introduced Mr. Ron Crouch, Director, Kentucky State Data Center, which is located on the University of Louisville campus. Mr. Crouch distributed an article entitled "Crunching the Numbers," which outlines a warning about issues affecting Kentucky on topics such as the aging population, the declining birth rate and the possibility of a future shortage of qualified workers, the ramifications of the rising number of out-of-wedlock births and the under education of Kentucky's work force in a new, high-tech economy.

A second article, "Middle Class Muddle," was also distributed which explores the belief that the middle class is dissolving and although "middle class" is difficult to define, a basic measure in today's economy is income and it generally takes two incomes to make ends meet. In a study conducted one year ago by the Congressional Budget Office, it was reported there was a large disparity in the growth of after-tax household income between 1979 and 2005. The study found that the poorest 20 percent of American households had an annual income increase of $900 during that period; the second-poorest 20 percent ($4,800); the middle class 20 percent ($8,700); the upper-middle class 20 percent ($16,000); and the richest one-fifth ($76,500). Among the wealthiest one percent of households, average annual after-tax income rose by $745,100 from $326,400 to $1,071,500. This illustrates the rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer and the middle class has been shrinking steadily since the late 1970s.

Mr. Crouch distributed another article, "The New Future of the World," which contains data about world population growth and trends. According to the article and to information from the International Population Center, a world population of around 8 million was estimated in 8000 B.C., growing to 300 million by A.D. 1 and doubling in size every 1,530 years. Prior to 8000 B.C., the world population grew slowly due to the limitations of a hunter-gatherer society. The year 8000 B.C. is associated with the beginning of the Agricultural Revolution, which allowed nomadic populations to settle due to a more stable food source. In 1750 A.D., the start of the Industrial Revolution, the world population had increased to 800 million and was doubling every 1,240 years. Between 1750 and 1950 the world population tripled to 2.5 billion, doubling every 122 years, and increased to 5 billion between 1950 and 1985. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau's International Database estimated a world population of 6.07 billion, indicating the world population growth rate is beginning to slow. Mr. Crouch agrees with the information contained in this article up to this point but does not agree that population growth in the next 42 years will come from fertility but will instead be due to longevity of life.

Mr. Crouch reported that 100 years ago Kentucky had a total population of 2 million – 809,000 children under the age of 15 – and 100 years later the total state population has grown to 4

million. There are 15,000 more kids in the state than 100 years ago and there are 1,985,000 more adults, primarily 45 years of age and older and this illustrates the aging of the world. Only a few countries in central Africa and the Middle East have increased fertility rates and fifteen countries in the European Union are below population replacement levels. Kentucky is one of the least likely states in the nation to have children which is illustrated by a 1.99 fertility rate. Every state east of the Mississippi River (except Georgia) has a fertility rate below replacement level. One of the challenges facing universities in increasing enrollment will be attracting not only traditional students but also nontraditional students through extended campus sites and satellite campus locations. The northeastern part of the United States has a major problem, as does the Midwest section of the country, but the southeast region (which includes Kentucky) is faring better than most other regions.

Mr. Crouch distributed another article, "The Multi-Generational and Multi-Cultural Workforce, New Demographic Realities, Income Trends and Federal Government Finances," which included the following highlights:

1) The United States is experiencing a major demographic revolution.
2) Diversity by race and age are critical issues.
3) "Middle-aging," not the aging of the population, is now taking place and aging of the population is a decade or more away.
4) Major changes are taking place in households and families – two-thirds of households contain only two people and only one-third contain children.
5) There are major regional differences taking place across the United States.
6) The economy is changing and citizens are not prepared for the new knowledge economy.
7) Bubba is in trouble whether he is Bubba White, Joe Black or Jose Brown because 60 percent of college students nationwide are female – indicating young men are being left behind.
8) Births to unmarried mothers and children at risk are major challenges.
9) The costs of an aging society are "unsustainable" and the concept of "old" must be reexamined.
10) The U.S. has a "sick care" system instead of a "health care" system. Kentucky has an inverted population because individuals are retiring at 45 years of age and they are living for another 45 years in the retirement system. Health care is a major issue that must be addressed.

Mr. Crouch reported the following additional information:

- Kentucky has been identified as one of the least likely states to lose its youth population. Census data for 2000 shows Kentucky ranked 11th best in the nation in keeping young people in the state and 15th best in retaining college graduates. The major issue in Kentucky is not losing college graduates but simply having enough college graduates.
- Less than one percent of the federal budget is spent on welfare and the majority of the funding is applied toward the care of senior citizens, including Medicaid, Medicare, nursing homes, social security and SSI. Children must be educated so they are able to care for a growing population of aging citizens.

Mr. Crouch provided additional data specific to the state of Kentucky, including:

- Among all counties in Kentucky, in 2005 Fulton County had the highest percentage of births to unmarried mothers (63.6 percent) and the figures for other counties in MSU's service region were as follows: McCracken (41.8 percent), Hickman (40 percent), Henderson (39.2 percent), Ballard (38.8 percent) and Trigg (38.7 percent). Only 13 percent of unmarried births in the state of Kentucky are to teenage girls under 18. If a woman is a high school dropout, the chance of giving birth out-of-wedlock is 55 percent and accounts for 40 percent of all unmarried births in the state. If a woman is a college graduate the unmarried birth rate is less than 4.5 percent.
- Another challenge for Kentucky universities is how students learn and the new generation is much more multi-task oriented. Computers are important and every student must know how to use one but they must also learn how to think on a computer and how to analyze data which is a challenge that represents a major change.
- The largest population growth in Kentucky in 2002 was among individuals aged 35 to 44 years of age and those individuals are now 45 to 54 years of age. Kentucky actually gained 6,000 young people and is not a state losing young people. Asian population growth is a result of immigration and Hispanic and black populations are growing throughout the nation and in Kentucky and these groups will be taking care of the white population in the future which underlines the importance of educating everyone regardless of skin color.
- The college graduation rate for whites in this country is 27 percent, for blacks 14 percent and for Hispanics 10 percent which represents a challenge for higher education. West Kentucky has a high percentage of Hispanic population, particularly in Graves and McCracken counties, and how to engage that group must be reviewed.
- A major concern with regard to education is remediation of students from the private schools, particularly religious schools. Public school students traditionally perform much better in math than do private school students and this is a challenge for state universities.

- In order to solve some of the issues mentioned previously, taxes must be raised in the United States. Eighty percent of all income gain has gone to the top one percent of the population and tax distribution in the state and the nation must be addressed. The country is not overtaxed but it is underpaid and workers do not receive adequate wages.
- The country is moving toward a sharecropper society and most companies are trying to drive down wages and benefits and are attributing that trend to globalization. In order to have a global economy there must be a cheaper workforce but there must also be lower CEO salaries and less corporate profits and the latter are not decreasing – illustrating that globalization being responsible for driving down wages and salaries is a ruse. In the 1940s CEO salaries were 14 times that of the average worker, in the 1970s salaries were 41 times that of the average worker and today CEO salaries are 350 to 400 times that of the average worker.
- Information found in the most recent U.S. budget indicates the economy is booming and has been for some time but the national debt is also booming and is now $10 trillion, with $5 trillion of that deficit coming in the last eight years of President Bush's administration. Some economists argue the national debt is closer to $15 trillion due to the recent bank bailout. President Bush cut taxes but did not cut expenditures and government must realize investment in education is the key to the future of the U.S.

Mr. Crouch outlined issues that will affect enrollment at Murray State University, including:

- Data presented from 2000 to 2007 illustrates populations in Marshall, Trigg and Graves counties are growing while populations in the far eastern part of the state are declining.
- Population density in Marshall, McCracken, Calloway, Christian and Hopkins counties is relatively high compared to surrounding counties to the west. The highest old population in the state can be found in western Kentucky counties but this area also has the slowest growing aging population. There is greater growth in the adult population in their 40s and 50s.
- The percent of Kentucky residents 25 and older completing high school is considerably higher in the western part of Kentucky which indicates these students are more likely to continue their education, leading to more students attending college. Significant improvement is needed in the eastern part of the state to increase the percentage of residents completing high school which illustrates a direct correlation between lack of education completion and the poverty rate.
- Based on estimations, there are a large percentage of men of workforce age who are not in the labor force, particularly in eastern Kentucky. Exceptions include Oldham County in northern Kentucky and Lyon County in western Kentucky because these areas have the highest percentage of men to women in the state but there are also penitentiaries located in those counties. When these individuals begin to turn 65 in about three years, they will not draw Medicare and Social Security but will draw Medicaid and SSI. The vast amount of Medicaid today is not spent on children but is spent on individuals in nursing homes and is a growing concern for many Kentucky counties.
- With regard to population growth and the percentage of educational attainment by age in the Pennyrile and Purchase Area Development Districts, the Purchase area is one of the best educated populations in the state. There is a lesser percentage of males completing high school than females and this is an issue which must be addressed.
- The birth rate in Kentucky from 1960 to 2005 decreased by 22.3 percent. In the Pennyrile area the rate has decreased by 9.3 percent and in the Purchase area the birth rate has decreased by 25.7 percent which will definitely impact college enrollment. There is a major decline in the youth population in the Kentucky River counties but not in the counties Murray State serves. The population of young people in this area is growing and there is growth in the population aged 85 and over. Population information was also provided by individual counties illustrating that Hickman and Fulton are losing youth populations while it is growing in Calloway, Ballard, Graves and Marshall counties – good news for Murray State in terms of the youth population.
- High school graduation rates (age 25 to 34) range from a high school dropout rate of 26.5 for Fulton County to 10.9 percent for Marshall County and 7.6 percent for Calloway County, illustrating the major difference in high school graduation rates among the counties in Murray State's service region. The high school dropout rate for males in Fulton County (age 25 to 34) is 34.3 percent and the percentage for females is significantly lower.

Mr. Crouch presented feedback models for Marshall County High School and Heritage Christian Academy in Hopkinsville and indicated models are available for every private and public high school in Kentucky and are provided on the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) website. Highlights for Marshall County High School include:

- Graduation rate of 89.2 percent (with 288 students graduating)
- In-state college going rate of 59.2 percent
- Mean cumulative high school gpa of 2.81 and mean Composite ACT score of 21.9
- 14 students took Advanced Placement Tests and 71.4 percent received a score of 3 or higher (the minimum necessary to receive college credit).

- 109 students enrolled in a four-year public university (82 percent), 18 enrolled in a public two-year community or technical college (13.5 percent) and 6 attended an independent college or university (4.5 percent) for a total of 133 students (97.7) percent who entered college as full-time students following graduation. Eighty-nine students attending a four-year public university chose Murray State University.
- The mean cumulative high school grade point average (gpa) for students attending a four-year public university was (3.23), two-year public community or technical college (2.84), participating independent college or university (3.70), proprietary college, university or school (1.59) for an overall mean gpa of 3.09 for students entering postsecondary institutions in Kentucky.
- Mean ACT scores were: four-year public university (23.4), two-year public community or technical college (19.8), independent college or university (27) and overall mean for students entering any public or participating independent college or university of 23. Very few of these students scored below an 18 on the ACT, the minimum required for college admission.
- Percentage of the high school class enrolling in college-level English during the first two years of college who earned a grade of "C" or above was 78.1 percent. Percentage of the high school class enrolling in college-level mathematics during the first two years of college who earned a grade of "C" or above was 73.9 percent.
- The mean college gpa of the Marshall County High School class at the end of the first year of college was 2.31. Students with developmental needs in one or more subjects had an overall gpa of 1.65 and students without developmental needs had an overall gpa of 2.49. The state average gpa is 2.68.
- The retention rate for all students was 92.9 percent – 82.1 percent for students with developmental needs and 95.8 percent for students without developmental needs. The first-to-second year postsecondary retention rate for all students was 85.7 percent, the median number of college credit hours earned during the first year in college was 15 hours and the percentage of KEES recipients who maintained an award for the second year was 60.3 percent.
- The graduation rate for students who graduated from Marshall County High School in 2000 and entered one of Kentucky's public four-year universities in fall 2000 and earned a bachelor's degree within six years was 56.4 percent – the state average is 48.2 percent.

Highlights from the Heritage Christian Academy feedback model included:

- Graduation rate of 81.3 percent (with 26 students graduating)
- Mean cumulative high school gpa of 3.18 and mean Composite ACT score of 19.7, illustrating that even though student grade point averages were higher their ACT scores were not which could represent grade inflation
- Mathematics ACT score of 17.9 with a state average of 19.9
- Seventy percent of students who enrolled in a public or participating institution in Kentucky were identified as having developmental needs in one or more subject areas. The average gpa for all students was 1.6 – students with developmental needs (1.16 gpa) and students without developmental needs (2.65 gpa).
- Three of the students attending a four-year public university chose to attend Murray State.
- The graduation rate for students who graduated from Heritage Christian Academy in 2000 and entered one of Kentucky's public four-year universities in fall 2000 and earned a bachelor's degree within six years was 50 percent – the state average is 48.2 percent.

Mr. Crouch reported the good news for Murray State is that there is a stable student population which performs much better than the population in eastern Kentucky. High school graduation rates are good and the feedback reports illustrate how area schools are performing and Marshall County is in excellent shape. MSU must determine how to attract nontraditional and minority students in order to increase enrollment. Mr. Freels asked what role the satellite campuses will play in increasing the number of college graduates in Kentucky and Mr. Crouch indicated issues the University must take into consideration with regard to satellite campuses include college affordability, the ability of individuals to drive to campus and the fact that many nontraditional students are single parents and do not want to drive over 30 miles to attend college unless tuition becomes much more affordable.

Mr. Crouch further indicated the typical college student takes an average of six years to graduate and this issue must be addressed. High schools should offer advanced courses for college credit and degree requirements (credit hours) needed to complete a bachelor's degree should be reduced. High school students should be encouraged to work one day a week in the workforce so they can experience "the real world" and most likely be encouraged to remain in school. Students need hands-on activities and that has been lost in the high schools. Currently students sit in one place and learn how to take a test and this could be part of the reason why young men are not pursuing higher education.

A statement was made earlier regarding the number of 18 to 24 year old students graduating from high school and the fact that the number is decreasing in the Purchase area and Judge Taylor asked whether this population shift means the total number of high school students are decreasing. Mr. Crouch responded that throughout Kentucky the number of high school students is decreasing but in western Kentucky the number remains relatively flat and this area is faring much better than other parts of the state.

Mr. Watkins asked if adoptions are included in the Asian population numbers and Mr. Crouch indicated the Asian population is well educated and well motivated but after the events of 9-11 adoption of Asians into this country came to a halt and immigration needs to be restored because the nation only grows with immigration and must have a stable population. Mr. Crouch further reported part of the problem is convincing a population aged 60 to 80 that investing in higher education and elementary education is necessary and in their best interest. That is a challenge for the state because there is an aging population that feels like they are being shortchanged. Currently 62 percent of long-term care is paid for by the government through Medicaid and the majority of funding is not going for children. In fact, Medicaid for senior citizens can be blamed for higher taxes and he believes entirely too much money in this country is spent on the last six months of life with no good end result. Nursing homes and hospitals are not worried about letting people die because they will be sued but instead are worried about losing massive amounts of money the government provides to care for such patients. Money should instead be spent on prevention and wellness and improving the quality of life.

Mr. Stout asked what role the regional universities should play in addressing the CPE "Double the Numbers" goals and the issue of "leakage" where individuals receive some education but do not follow through to degree completion. Mr. Crouch indicated universities must convince those individuals who are close to degree completion to re-enroll in college and finish their degree. There may also be merit in reviewing certificate or other programs below a four-year college degree. Universities could provide advanced career training but must also encourage individuals to develop and participate in a process of lifelong learning. There simply are not enough kids in the state to enable the universities to meet the CPE "Double the Numbers" enrollment goals and nontraditional students will be the group that makes up for the insufficient traditional student population. Mr. Stout clarified that students who have a two- year degree are included in the nontraditional student population and Mr. Crouch indicated that to be the case and those individuals must be encouraged to come back into the education process to complete a four-year degree. Also included must be individuals returning to the university to complete certificate programs or those earning additional credentials to advance their careers.

Mr. Stout indicated discussions have taken place regarding the economic downturn and the fact that there is a migration of students, particularly to the community colleges, and asked whether that will have an impact on the situation. Mr. Crouch believes universities cannot continue to raise tuition and expect students will continue to pay for those tuition increases. This country is losing its middle class and jobs must be generated for educated individuals to fill. Education pays but only if there are jobs available. College graduates earn much higher salaries than high school graduates and dropouts but this is not because college graduates are making more money. It is because high school graduates and dropouts are making much less money and their wages have fallen dramatically. The U.S. must also become less concerned with competing with other countries because eventually jobs that have shipped overseas will come back to the U.S. Countries such as India and China are facing issues of extremely high population numbers and are in recession which has led to higher suicide rates and other issues. Mr. Crouch believes the South is racing toward the bottom in terms of right to work and paying workers lower salaries and instead should be moving toward a more educated workforce to allow workers to increase their income levels.

Mr. Freels understands the reasons Mr. Crouch is against continuing to raise tuition but asked how the University can offset state appropriation decreases without corresponding increases in tuition. Mr. Crouch replied that due to financial issues within the state tuition increases may be necessary in the short term but the state of Kentucky must eventually restructure its tax system. Mr. Stout indicated when providing a comparison of the two high schools earlier, one had apparent grade inflation. When the University held public forums on campus last year to discuss tuition, MSU students indicated they did not want the administration to cut tuition increases if it would hurt program quality. Murray State has distinguished itself by maintaining relatively high academic credentials and national stature and quality and affordability issues must be balanced.

Mr. Crouch indicated the issue is elasticity and at what point enrollment begins to decrease because tuition has increased too much. Mr. Welter, Ms. Wild and Ms. Mantooth, the student members of the Task Force, all agreed that the overall student perspective is they are willing to pay more for tuition in order to maintain educational quality. Mr. Crouch reported a survey conducted several years ago determined 37 percent of Kentucky students attend college after high school and although this is not fantastic news, the state ranks 12th best in the nation.

Judge Taylor thanked Mr. Crouch for addressing the group and encouraged Task Force members to review the information provided. The Task Force adjourned for a break beginning at 8 p.m. and ending at 8:15 p.m.

Student Survey Update

Ms. Mantooth distributed a copy of the student tuition survey that has been developed and reported SGA senators distributed 2,000 surveys throughout their classes last week in an attempt to solicit information from as many students as possible. The majority of the surveys have been returned and a meeting will take place shortly with Dr. Tim Todd, Dean of Business and Public Affairs, to set up a program so the data collected can be entered into the system. Surveys were also sent to each extended campus and one question was altered to accommodate that population. Several surveys from the extended campus sites have been returned, with the exception of those sent to Madisonville due to the weather. Results should be available by the end of this week or early next week and will be distributed to the Task Force members and they will be provided with a full report at the February 26 meeting. Mr. Watkins requested the results of the survey be e-mailed to Task Force members prior to the next meeting.

Enrollment/Tuition Data Update

Judge Taylor indicated Task Force members received updated enrollment information as of February 1, 2009, and asked Mr. Denton to address that information. Mr. Denton reported a comparison for the fall semesters as of February 1 was provided and there are currently 2,333 total new freshmen and transfers, which is 511 more students than for the previous fall, representing an upward trend and a significant increase in new freshmen. There is an increase of 158 out-of-state students over prior year and undergraduate and new transfer numbers remained steady. Out-of-state new transfer students are down by 15 but there has been an increase of 40 students from Oldham and Jefferson counties. There is a total enrollment increase of 247 students for the service region, representing a 50 percent increase over the previous year. This is a very positive trend for the University for the future. Judge Taylor clarified the information provided is admission data and not enrollment data but it does illustrate the success of the efforts of the new recruitment team and is in line with Dr. Dunn's promotion of increasing campus enrollment to 12,000 students by 2012.

Additional Handouts and Communications

Judge Taylor indicated a handout on House Bill 159 had been provided and is an excerpt from a bill introduced on the first day of the legislative session in January of this year. The bill proposes freezing tuition and not permitting any type of tuition increases over the next two years in addition to tying future tuition increases to Consumer Price Index adjustments. The bill has been reported to the Education Committee and there is speculation it may not be advanced further. From the University's perspective the bill is not desirable because it would handcuff the universities and prohibit them from adjusting tuition as deemed necessary, especially considering budget cutbacks and state appropriation reductions that have occurred over the last three years and which the institutions will face again over the next two years.

Dr. Dunn reported one of the concerns with regard to the Tuition Task Force was whether it would be able to complete its work in time to have bearing on the setting of tuition and fees for the next academic year. To the extent the Task Force can keep pushing along in its work and reach a decision in a timely manner it will be well served. During a special tuition meeting on March 6 the CPE may set a ceiling or cap on tuition and fees and this directive will then come back to the universities and will serve as a basis for each institution to set tuition and fee rates. It is not known at this point whether what the institutions approve must go back before the CPE for approval. If the CPE sets a cap or ceiling on March 6, the University must be able to come back in short order with a special meeting of the MSU Board of Regents to approve fee and tuition

rates for next year. It takes time to prepare for such a meeting, including working with data based on the CPE tuition cap, compiling materials, holding student forums and identifying a date for a special BOR meeting which he anticipates will be held in mid to late March. In order for the Tuition Task Force to have a stake in that game it is encouraged to complete its work by late February or early March.

Dr. Dunn indicated the University does not need to wait until drastically late to complete this work because tuition and fees and the state appropriation comprise two of the three legs of the stool for the University's budget. The legislature will also complete its work with regard to the state budget around the same time and once all information is received and there is a better idea on how the Board will act regarding tuition and fees, then there will only be about one month to complete the University's budget and submit it to the Board for approval during their quarterly meeting on May 29, 2009. Dr. Dunn reported if the CPE recommends a tuition cap of 3.7 percent then he will present to the Board a proposal to increase tuition by 3.7 percent because the University needs that funding. He commended the Task Force to start pushing toward some conclusions and possible recommendations to provide to the Board of Regents if it intends to make an impact on setting tuition rates and fees for 2009-10.

Mr. Denton reported at the last meeting the Task Force asked him to review capping tuition at 12 hours and charging a rate of 25 percent, as opposed to 100 percent, for any credit hour above 12. He is not sure how this model would work if the CPE places a cap on tuition. If the CPE sets a limit on tuition increases, he anticipates a portion that would go toward calculating Murray State's maximum would involve calculating these additional revenues and comparing that to the base which would reduce the amount of any possible tuition increase.

Mr. Denton stated the model presented assumes 40 percent of scholarships and waivers that on average the University has for each of its gross tuition dollars which amounts to about $900,000 the University would earn in incremental revenues if it charged students for every hour above 12 hours – at 25 percent of the regular rate. A student would pay 100 percent of the University's tuition rate through hour 12 and above that would be charged at 25 percent of the tuition rate. The information provided was for one semester and with $84,415 in mandatory fees the two added together total approximately $960,000. If that figure is doubled for the year it amounts to approximately $1.9 million in revenue, assuming every student took the same number of hours. A question was asked whether 25 percent is low and Mr. Denton replied Northern Kentucky University will begin utilizing the 25 percent model and Morehead State University utilizes a 20 or 25 percent model. Ms. Mantooth asked how much more this amounts to for a student taking 15 hours and Mr. Denton indicated it represents about $200 for every three hours above 12 hours. If a student signs up for 18 hours and then drops a class they will still be subject to the refund schedule currently in place.

Mr. Welter stated the information provided will charge for any hours over 12. As a student he feels like the University is bullying students into paying extra money to take 15 hours which is the schedule they must follow in order to graduate within four years. He requested the Task Force consider not charging extra per credit hour until after the 15 hour mark. He believes students will feel like they are being trapped into paying more than what they were told tuition would be if they had to pay extra money to take 15 hours and graduate on time. Mrs. Mitchum reported that reducing the number of hours needed for certain majors to complete a degree is being reviewed. Ms. Wild asked for a comparison between the revenue received at the 12 hour mark versus the 15 hour mark and Mr. Denton indicated that change would amount to approximately $468,000 in incremental revenue. Mr. Welter suggested keeping the charge at 100 percent for anything over 15 hours which would amount to significantly more revenue dollars. Mr. Denton stated there are pros and cons to the various methods which the Task Force should take into consideration when making their recommendation. In response to a question, Mrs. Mitchum clarified that every major must also have a minor or area and those hours are included in the total number of degree hours.

February 26, 2009, Meeting

Judge Taylor reminded all the next meeting of the Tuition Task Force would be held on Thursday, February 26, 2009, in the Jesse Stuart Room in Pogue Library, beginning at 5:45 p.m. He asked Task Force members to review the information that has been presented to date and at the next meeting discussion will take place to determine the individual perspectives of Task

Force members and ultimately what recommendation, if any, will be made to the Board of Regents and within what parameters. He anticipates having one discussion meeting and then the Task Force will wait to see what action the CPE takes. He does not believe it would be feasible to hold another meeting before the CPE meeting on March 6 and does not anticipate the special Board of Regents meeting will be held before the end of March. The General Assembly has also pushed approval of the budget to the end of March. Once the CPE meets on March 6 and issues its directive, he anticipates scheduling a meeting to determine what recommendation(s) will be made to the Board of Regents. Mr. Denton indicated with regard to state appropriations – in this current regular session – the Legislature would act on the appropriation for the current year. Recommendations regarding the 2009-10 appropriation may come during a special session and if that is the case the University could be forced to act on tuition before it knows what the state appropriation will be for the new fiscal year. Judge Taylor indicated the Legislature will have a budget to address the shortfall and assuming that they do, the CPE cannot do anything until the budget amendment is passed and a 6.7 reduction percent is the worst case scenario the universities have been asked to plan for.

Judge Taylor reminded Task Force members to bring their calendars to the next meeting and to also let him know if they will need tickets to the Murray State basketball game against Morehead State University on March 26.

Adjournment

The Tuition Task Force meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes approved at the February 26, 2009, Tuition Task Force meeting.

Jeff S. Taylor, Chair
Tuition Task Force

Jill Hunt Lovett, Secretary
MSU Board of Regents

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