

Council on Postsecondary Education  
April 4, 2007

## Regional Stewardship Infrastructure Proposals

*Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, and Morehead State University are seeking Council approval of their respective regional stewardship infrastructure plans. With that approval, each university will qualify to receive \$200,000 in 2006-07 and \$200,000 in 2007-08 infrastructure funds to support the development and maintenance of organizational structures, personnel, information systems, and community relationships necessary to sustain a viable stewardship program.*

**ACTION:** The Quality and Accountability Policy Group recommends that the Council approve regional stewardship program infrastructure plans for Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, and Morehead State University.

On April 24, 2006, House Bill 380 was enacted by the 2006 General Assembly. The bill authorized funding of \$1.2 million in 2006-07 and \$3.6 million in 2007-08 for a Regional Stewardship Program. The Council approved guidelines governing the distribution and application of these funds at its May 2006 meeting. The guidelines stipulate that \$1.2 million each year of the biennium will be used to bolster infrastructure at Kentucky's comprehensive universities in preparation for performing stewardship work. These funds are to be allocated among the six comprehensive universities in equal amounts of \$200,000 per institution each year and will be used to develop and maintain organizational structures, personnel, information systems, advisory committees, and external partnerships necessary to sustain stewardship activities.

To qualify to receive infrastructure funds, each participating institution is required to submit a comprehensive plan to the Council for making regional stewardship a priority consistent with Council-approved guidelines and indicating how program funds will be used to support implementation of that plan. Council staff then provides detailed written feedback followed by meetings with the teams responsible for the plan at each campus. The university then provides a revised plan based on the written feedback and meeting discussion. All of this material is available on the Council Web site to support plan development at each university. Infrastructure plans for EKU (Attachment A), KSU (Attachment B), and MoSU (Attachment C) are presented for approval by the Council. A summary of each plan is provided below.

If approved, funds will be made available to each university to implement its regional stewardship plan according to the goals and timelines included in each. Funds will not be allocated to the institution on a recurring basis until the plan is fully implemented.

### EKU's Infrastructure Plan

On October 2, 2006, ECU submitted its regional stewardship plan to the Council. A final revised plan was submitted February 2007. The plan includes a request for \$200,000 in 2006-07 and \$200,000 in 2007-08 Regional Stewardship Program funds. If approved, these distributions will fully utilize the university's 2006-08 infrastructure pool allocation.

About 80 percent of the requested funds will pay the salary and benefits for a full-time director and for reassigned faculty time to participate on the Regional Stewardship Faculty Committee. The remaining 20 percent of requested funds will support operating expenses, including travel and meeting costs for the Office of Regional Stewardship associated with the activities of the Regional Advisory Committee, and travel and professional development costs for each of the colleges. These proposed uses of infrastructure funds comply with guideline requirements for the stewardship program.

Listed below are selected components of ECU's stewardship implementation plan.

- ECU will establish an Office for Regional Stewardship with a full-time director.
- ECU will form a Regional Stewardship Advisory Committee (RSAC). The RSAC will be comprised of approximately 20 individuals, some of whom have existing ties with ECU through both formal and informal university advisory bodies. It is anticipated that the university president will convene the first meeting and attend regularly thereafter, as will other key university personnel.
- RSAC members will provide input into searches for key administrative personnel.
- ECU will partner with the region through the RSAC.
- A Regional Stewardship Faculty Committee will be created. It will consist of 12 quarter-time faculty reassignments representing each college. Committee members will serve as liaisons between the Office of Regional Stewardship and each of the colleges, provide information on funding opportunities for professional development activities, and monitor performance of regional stewardship projects in their respective colleges.
- Promotion and tenure policies will recognize and reward regional stewardship activities.

- RSAC will provide input to strategically focus service learning courses.
- The director of regional stewardship will serve on the ECU Service Learning Committee.
- The director of regional stewardship will monitor data collected from both campus and off-campus constituencies to identify and target areas of emphasis for regional stewardship activities.
- The director of regional stewardship will develop and implement a regional communication plan.

### KSU's Infrastructure Plan

On November 15, 2006, KSU submitted a request to the Council for \$200,000 in 2006-07 and \$200,000 in 2007-08 Regional Stewardship Program funds. A revised plan was submitted February 2007. If approved, these distributions will fully utilize the university's 2006-08 infrastructure pool allocation.

About 80 percent of the requested funds will be used to pay for the director, archivist, and administrative assistant for the newly created Regional Stewardship and Public Engagement Office. The remaining 20 percent of requested infrastructure funds will support center operating expenses, including travel for professional development and supporting stewardship initiatives, equipment and supplies, and costs or services associated with convening advisory group meetings, hosting public forums, and developing information/tracking systems. These proposed uses of infrastructure funds comply with guideline requirements for the stewardship program.

Selected components of the university's action plan are listed below.

- Regional stewardship and engagement will be incorporated into the campus five-year strategic plan.
- The mission statement will be revised to include the importance of regional stewardship.
- KSU will form a Regional Advisory Committee to guide the regional stewardship process. Representatives from campus leadership, administrators, and faculty will serve on subcommittees of the Regional Advisory Committee.
- The university will use its own funds for competitive grants and faculty release time to promote stewardship activities.
- The regional stewardship director will work with deans, chairs, the faculty senate, and other campus leaders to ensure that all campus bylaws, policies, and standard operating system manuals specify goals, criteria, standards, and performance measures related to stewardship.

- A plan for faculty release time to pursue regional stewardship activities will be devised.
- As part of the curriculum revision process, there will be a focus on incorporating service learning into core classes of the Integrative Studies Program.
- The regional stewardship director will work with campus officials to ensure that all recruitment materials reflect commitment to engagement.
- The university has already developed potential indicators of the effectiveness of engagement activities.

### MoSU's Infrastructure Plan

On January 3, 2007, MoSU submitted a request to the Council for \$200,000 in 2006-07 and \$200,000 in 2007-08 Regional Stewardship Program funds. A revised infrastructure plan was submitted in March 2007. If approved, these distributions will fully utilize the university's 2006-08 infrastructure pool allocation.

About 60 percent of the requested funds will be used to pay salaries and benefits for a director, a service learning coordinator, a clerical support person, and five faculty/staff with .50 reassigned time (or equivalent) in the newly created Center for Regional Engagement.

The remaining 40 percent will be used for operating expenses, including computer equipment and software, marketing and public awareness, establishment of a Regional Advisory Council, faculty/staff professional development and travel, consulting/facilitator services, and survey processing. These proposed uses of infrastructure funds comply with guideline requirements for the stewardship program.

Selected components of the university's action plan are listed below.

- The Center for Regional Engagement will be created as a component of the Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy, which is the university's Program of Distinction.
- The university will form a Regional Advisory Committee to help identify regional needs and programming priorities for the Center for Regional Engagement and assist in assessing the center's effectiveness.
- MoSU will reallocate resources to facilitate the implementation of regional stewardship activities within the context of the university's strategic plan.
- The Center for Regional Engagement will be responsible for developing and securing extramural support for projects related to regional stewardship priorities and for encouraging collaboration between community needs and university expertise in various areas.
- The university will revise salary and promotion and tenure systems to provide more comprehensive rewards to faculty for public engagement activities.

- All departments will provide at least one service learning course or a course that incorporates public engagement as a major portion of course activities. The Regional Stewardship Program will provide resources to increase the range and scope of such offerings.
- MoSU will increase the amount of funding available for intramural faculty competitive grants related to regional stewardship.
- Faculty development activities related to regional stewardship will be substantially increased.
- The university will alter job announcement templates to include language reflecting interest in hiring professionals with expertise in regional partnerships and public engagement.

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