

Subject: University Senate Newsletter

From: "Dr. John All" <john.all@wku.edu>

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To: "Faculty-All" <Faculty-All@wku.edu>, "Staff-All" <Staff-All@wku.edu>

Hello. As Vice-Chair of the University Senate, it will be my pleasure to prepare a brief monthly newsletter summarizing the Senate's most recent activities. This will be a VERY abbreviated list of the most important events so that everyone is informed about pressing issues without discussing all of the details. The entire University Senate minutes are available at the University Senate webpage: <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/FS/>

September, 2005
University Senate Newsletter.

- Faculty Regent Elections will be this semester on November 1st. Additional emails will be forthcoming seeking nominations and with additional information.
- During the past semester, SGA evaluations did not have as many respondents as the SITE evaluations and it has been agreed that the trial period of separate administration will continue for one more semester before the program is re-evaluated. If student participation rates for the SGA evaluations do not closely approximate those of SITE, the SGA evaluations will be placed on the SITE form for the Spring, 2006.
- At a recent Board of Regents meeting, a first year non-tenured faculty member was not continued primarily based upon a single class's poor SITE evaluation. This has raised some troubling issues including the future of due process for non-continuance of non-tenured faculty.
- Tenure and Promotion packages will likely be limited to 2 inches thick in future years.
- The Administration is planning to begin a centralized process of classroom allocations to deal with some inefficiencies. The Provost noted that: 'classrooms do not belong to a department, classrooms do not belong to a college, classrooms belong to the University.'
- The Executive Committee forwarded a resolution urging the University to sue the Commonwealth of Kentucky regarding the diversion of funds from ORP retirement plans into the KTRS retirement system. It is expected that the lawsuit will be a class action suit filed with other Kentucky Universities. The Senate narrowly voted to postpone this issue until the October meeting pending a report from the Benefits Committee.

John All PhD, JD

Office: Environmental Science and Technology Building, Room 332
Office Phone: (270) 745-5975
Departmental Office Phone: (270) 745-4555
Fax: (270) 745-6410
Mobile: (270) 991-2191

john.all@wku.edu
climatehealth@yahoo.com

Office Mailing Address:
John All
Department of Geography and Geology
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd #31066
Bowling Green, KY
42101
USA

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