

November 1, 1978

Dear Senator,

The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluations was formed at the request of the Associated Student Government to study the feasibility of faculty evaluation by students at WKU. Faculty representation on this committee was requested by the ASG in the Spring of 1978, and three members of the Senate were appointed to serve. The involvement of faculty on this committee seems reasonable for several reasons. In August, Senator Miller reported on the Committee to the full Senate. At that time there were no concerns expressed by the Senate as to the composition of the committee or its deliberations.

The action requested of the Senate at the October meeting was perhaps premature in light of the controversial nature of the issue. From the point of view of the committee, and the absence of concern expressed earlier, we felt it appropriate to request Senate support for funds to allow continued development of the project. The time factor was the prime reason for making the request for approval at the October meeting. Unfortunately, we did not first come before you with a more general proposal concerning the concept of faculty evaluation.

In light of the concern expressed by several members of the Senate and other faculty both formally and informally, we feel it would be appropriate to discuss the general concept of student evaluation of the faculty at the November 9th Senate meeting. We realize the inherent difficulty of discussing such an issue in a general way, since the formulation of attitudes and opinions by some faculty members would require knowledge of the specifics of the evaluation before they would be ready to vote "aye" or "nay" on the issue. So, it would be useful if the Senate could additionally define the boundaries that should encompass such an evaluation. Some items that could be discussed to aid this task are listed on the attached sheet. It does not represent a complete list, and you may have others.

We hope this meets with your approval.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Evaluations

Some Items for Discussion

1. Should such an evaluation be mandatory or voluntary for each faculty member?
2. Who should administer such an evaluation?
 - a. the ASG
 - b. the FS
 - c. ASG and FS together
 - d. the administration (Dept. Heads for example)
 - e. someone else
3. What should the evaluation form be like?
 - a. only multiple choice questions
 - b. written comments only
 - c. both M.C. and written comments
 - d. same form for everyone
 - e. part of the form the same for everyone, and part put together by the individual or department members
 - f. other
4. What should happen to the results?
 - a. given to faculty member only
 - b. given to faculty member and his/her Department Head
 - c. given to ASG for distribution to faculty members and/or others
 - d. results should be made available to all students to aid their choice of instructors
 - e. other

Since the Faculty Senate may be able to come to some conclusions at the November 9th meeting that might not be in line with the 'purpose' of a faculty evaluation as outlined in the rough draft of the letter given you at the last FS meeting, do you have thoughts on any changes we might make in the Purpose Statement?

The purposes currently are:

- A. To improve the quality of Western's academic program where ever improvement is necessary, and
- B. To provide teacher/course information useful to both student and instructor