

MINUTES

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

November 13, 1980

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order on Thursday, November 13, 1980, at 3:12 p.m. in the Ballroom of Garrett Conference Center by the chair, Don Bailey. A quorum was present.

Roll Call

Absent:

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| 1. Georg Bluhm | 10. Raul Padilla |
| 2. Phil Constans | 11. Ed Pease |
| 3. Ed Counts | 12. Neil Peterie* |
| 4. Jeff Crisp | 13. David Rivers |
| 5. James Davis* | 14. Ron Roberts* |
| 6. Connie Foster | 15. Craig Taylor |
| 7. Ray Johnson | 16. Ron Veenker <i>John</i> |
| 8. John Jones | 17. Dale Wicklander |
| 9. Bill Leonard | 18. Donald Zacharias |

*sent observer

Minutes

The minutes of the October 9, 1980, meeting were approved as received.

Report of the Chair

The chair commented on several items of interest to the Senate. Senator Bailey received a response from Harry Snyder concerning the resolution passed by the Senate at the October meeting regarding the restoration of funds to higher education. Snyder replied that, "The administration has committed itself to the restoration of these funds if the revenue picture improves. . ." The letter will be published in the November issue of the "Newsletter."

John Sweeney, WKU's Director of Development, and the College Heights Foundation, presented a plan of development to the Board of Regents at its November 1, 1980, meeting. Senator Bailey announced that all department heads have copies of this plan available for faculty examination.

The chair introduced Senator William Buckman as the newly reelected Faculty Regent and acknowledged the fact that Senator Buckman has served in this position for the past two terms.

Senator Bailey stated that he had called each candidate and extended a personal thanks for the important contribution made by being a candidate in this election. This allowed faculty members to exercise the democratic process. The chair informed the Senate that the By-Laws, Amendments and Elections Committee will study the possibility of a public forum for subsequent elections.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Senator Bowen reported that the Executive Committee had met twice since the last Senate meeting. At the meeting on October 15, the mechanical details of the costs of publishing the "Newsletter" were discussed and suggestions were forwarded to the chair of that committee.

Letters confirming the appointment of members to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Awarding of Honorary Degrees and the Advisory Committee on Administrative Evaluation were sent to respective members of these committees. The Executive Committee suggested that developing an instrument for new evaluation of staff officers might be more difficult than that of line administrators and might not be ready as suggested.

At the November 5 meeting, Senator Bailey announced that Bill Bivin, the university's attorney, will be consulted on the fate of the results from previous evaluations.

Election procedures were discussed, and the Executive Committee has charged the BAE Committee to design some form of consistent procedure for future elections.

Academic Affairs

Senator Glaser informed the Senate about the areas that the AA Committee is currently involved in. The study of the make-up and format of graduate examinations was examined by this committee, then forwarded to Dean Gray. The committee felt as though it was not qualified to deal with this matter.

An inquiry regarding the accreditation of various academic programs on campus will possibly be published in the Faculty Senate "Newsletter." The committee welcomes suggestions concerning which academic programs will be accredited outside of WKU.

Senator Glaser announced that the committee plans to have a report completed by the end of the academic year on the study of grade distribution at the university. The committee is also working on a statement regarding the stability of major and minor program requirements for students who have declared their program choices. The statement shall consist of a guarantee to such a student that the program of study chosen will not be altered because of changes in the catalog. The policy will be fair to the university and to the student, and it will designate a time that the program cannot be altered. The university will need to provide a publication to the student if and when required courses are abolished. The committee will meet again to finalize the statement because of some difficulty in its wording.

A great deal of concern has been expressed about the recruitment and handling of underprepared students at WKU: how many students Western retains and how many graduate. The committee will be studying the effect of remedial programs in relation to ordinary classes and invite suggestions. The item will be further discussed at the monthly meeting December 3.

Institutional Goals and Planning

Senator Blann expressed his appreciation of the responses to the IGP questionnaire. Although the response was not overwhelming, enough information was gathered so that a more structured and detailed questionnaire can be developed. The committee plans to have the survey ready for distribution in February and the results of the final return at the end of the academic year.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns

Senator Powell commented on the desire of some faculty members to know the specific criteria used in their personal evaluations. The committee has developed the first draft of an Evaluation Procedure Information (EPI) sheet which is intended to identify the frequency of specific procedures and practices used in the evaluation process.

Members of the PRC Committee will make appointments with administrators who evaluate faculty performance. The administrator will be given a copy of the EPI to fill out for his files while the committee member

fills out a copy for study purposes. All answers will remain anonymous as only the name of the college is used on the answer sheet. A frequency distribution will be sent to the department heads and a report of the completed study to the members of the Senate.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Hanser requested that a brief report be made concerning information collected by the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee during its study of dental insurance coverage for the University community. Senator Parks was called upon to address the Senate in regard to this study. He gave no exact figures but stated that the cost of faculty dental insurance would be expensive. Senator Long made several comments in relation to this matter and stated that 100 percent enrollment is required to obtain this kind of insurance. The summary of this study will be published in a future "Newsletter."

Senator Parks briefed the Senate on what has taken place with the promotion policy which was approved by the Senate last spring. The document rests in the president's office, and Senator Bailey will inquire about its status and report at the next Senate meeting.

Senator Buckman expressed his appreciation to the Senate and the BAE Committee for conducting the regent election in such a professional manner. He stated that he was pleased by the large percentage of faculty turnout for the election. Senator Buckman asked that the Senate investigate a due process procedure for faculty grievances concerning tenure. Senator Bailey agreed that this topic should be brought before the Executive Committee for assignment to a standing committee or an ad hoc group.

COSFL Report

Senator Bailey checked with Senator Veenker regarding the activities of COSFL and reported that there would be an up-to-date report given to the Senate after the December 6, 1980, COSFL meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Bowen briefly reported on a meeting she attended, representing the Faculty Senate, concerning work/study student employment. As a result of the recent congressional passage of the Higher Education amendments of 1980, work/study students employed at institutions of higher education

must be paid minimum wage (\$3.10/hr.), retroactive to October 1, 1980. This rate increases on January 1, 1981 when the minimum wage becomes \$3.25/hr. Because the amount the student can earn in a given school year, and the amount the University has budgeted for work/study pay has already been established, it is more than likely that the number of hours the students may work will be cut.

Senator Bowen also announced that Senator Connie Foster, Faculty Senate Secretary, and her husband, Tom, are the proud parents of a son, Michael Thomas.

Senator Bailey reminded everyone to check with their respective department heads concerning the new guidelines for travel. The new travel regulations will be coming out and evening meals will be limited to \$8, effective September 4. Faculty should consult department heads to get specific information about monetary remittances and what kind of receipt would be considered acceptable.

ADJOURNMENT

A Powell/Melville motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 4:00 p.m.