

SUMMARY-SENATE VIII

The following is a brief summary of some of the resolutions, proposals, and incidental items discussed by Senate VIII (May 84 - April 85). More complete information can be obtained from Senate minutes, newsletters, and full committee reports, all of which are on file and available for faculty perusal in the Senate office in the faculty house.

The most discussed issues were:

1. Athletics (Fiscal Affairs Committee) - including budget considerations and their role at WKU. The Senate suggested that the administration consider moving to division III in football to alleviate financial problems.
2. Merit pay - three resolutions concerning merit pay were passed;
 - 1) this years raises should be 3% across-the-board
 - 2) the faculty should have formal input into future compensation decisions, and
 - 3) the present system is unacceptable.
3. Research and Scholarly Activity (Academic Affairs Committee) - recommended a distribution of work load assignments along the lines of a "Ten Percent Plan". The plan allows for an increase in research time allocation for those faculty who choose to pursue high level research, and recommends no penalties for faculty not choosing the plan.

In addition to the above issues, each committee and sometimes the full Senate investigated the following:

By Laws and Elections - conducted all Senate elections and began a process to streamline future elections. Several minor changes in Senate procedures could alleviate current problems.

Committee on Committees - recommended various faculty for assignments to committees such as Presidents Advisory, Athletics, Library, and Strategic Planning.

Institutional Goals & Planning - studied the implications of SCR 30, the legislative review of higher education. Wrote letters to Gov. Collins and Senator Lackey. Recommended a waiver of out-of-state tuition for neighboring counties in Tenn. and Ind. V.P. Haynes announced such a waiver last month.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - centered its work about the issues of student (Purdue) and administrative evaluations. Recommend changes in both procedures. Looked into the matter of scholarship support for academically superior students. Had the Senate form an Ad Hoc Affirmative Action Committee.

Faculty Status and Welfare - published the annual salary survey noting the continued decline in faculty purchasing power. Discussed the Early Retirement Option and university policy with respect to filling faculty vacancies, student evaluations, and the timing of class rosters.

COSFL - expanded its membership to include Faculty Regents and officers of Faculty Representative Organizations. Planned large meeting (April 19th and 20th) in Frankfort with several legislative keynote speakers addressing faculty concerns statewide.

In addition; the Senate office has been permanently relocated in a large office in the faculty house; the Senate, in cooperation with V.P. Haynes sponsored a workshop and lectures on effective teaching attended by 250 faculty; the Senate appeared on channel 4 in Nashville several times (a county in which we are now recruiting students by offering out-of-state waivers); Senate news items made the Louisville and Nashville papers (and of course the local paper); and the Senate Newsletter continued to be an accurate review of Senate meetings.

This report has been purposely limited to two pages. Remember that details concerning any of the above issues are contained in Senate records which are open to all faculty.