

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE--Tom Jones, Chair

The Faculty Senate Constitution makes the chair of the Senate also the chair of the Executive Committee, whose constitutional charge is to see to it that the duties and responsibilities of the Senate are carried out. The Senate may direct the Executive Committee to do something, and the Executive Committee may direct the chair similarly.

But I would rather talk briefly about how the committee has in the past functioned.

There are two versions of the Executive Committee: one is the committee itself, consisting of seven members, elected by college caucus in March of each year; the other is an expanded version of the first, consisting of the basic committee and all chairs of standing and ad hoc committees--a total of fifteen people.

There has been, in my estimation, a high degree of good will and mutual trust among members of both committees: meetings have been characterized by friendliness and supportiveness of the members of the Executive Committee for the real work of the Faculty Senate, which is the work carried out daily by the standing committee chairs. Members of the Executive Committee are also members of other Senate committees.

Although as a sub-unit of the larger unit, the Faculty Senate, the Executive Committee is bound by the Sturgis Rules of Order, no Executive Committee meeting that I have chaired has been chaired in a formal sense; there has seemed no need for it.

A typical meeting begins with the chair reporting on his activities--including the activities of the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders, if any--and moves to activities and concerns of the other committees of the Senate. We are now meeting on Monday nights at 7:00. The last meeting before the Senate meets on the second Thursday of every month is the most important one, because it is there that the Thursday meeting is firmed up.

Doubtless the day will come when the Faculty Senate and its committees will be bound by all sorts of by-laws and procedural proprieties of this and that subtle brain's working; doubtless it's in the nature of time and chance and human nature that sooner or later the activities of the officers and committee members of a group like the Executive Committee will be straited and strictured by rules and regulations: in that day in my opinion and in Hamlet's words, "enterprises of great pitch and moment, /With this regard their currents turn awry, /And lose the name of action."

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--Neil Peterie, Chair

Activities of the Academic Affairs Committee under the Chairmanship of Donald C. Butler, March 1978--March 1979:

1. Conducted a study on the issue of the difference in the salary increases between WKU faculty and administrators and found that there was no wide disparity in the percentage

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--Neil Peterie, Chair

- of salary increases between 1977-78 and 1978-79. Disparities between the average base salaries of faculty and administrators were not included in the study, however.
2. Conducted a study on possible student abuse of the BEOG financial aid program and found no evidence of widespread abuse of the program at Western.
 3. Continued involvement in the ASG student evaluation of faculty project.

Activities of the Academic Affairs Committee under the Chairmanship of D. Neil Peterie, beginning March 1979:

1. Interviewed the Chairman of the General Education Committee of the Academic Council as a preliminary step in a possible investigation of the undergraduate general education requirements at Western.
2. Adopted a proposal to revise the University's policy statement on academic freedom.
3. Began an investigation into possible means of awarding academic credit to the ASG President for his/her year of service.
4. Offered to assist the Vice-President for Academic Affairs in the Owensboro Consortium issue.
5. Offered to assist Faculty Regent and the ASG committee in the student evaluation of faculty project.
6. Held preliminary discussions on other issues related to the quality of academic programs at Western, particularly grade inflation and the special accreditation of various programs and departments.

THE FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE--Jim Parks, Chair

The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee has experienced another busy year. Because of the large number of items being considered, the committee has been divided into five subcommittees.

The Subcommittee on Salaries, consisting of Senators Krenzin and Parks, is repeating the salary distribution study made earlier and is also studying the salaries of continuing faculty from the 1972-73 school year to present.

A new promotion policy is being formulated by the Tenure and Promotion Subcommittee, composed of Senators Veenker, Adams, and Crisp. Former President Downing had requested a review of the present promotion policy. The tenure policy will probably also be reviewed during the fall semester.

Two subcommittees are each represented by one individual. Senator Rivers of the Benefits Subcommittee is studying dental benefit plans; he has recently been appointed to the University Insurance Committee. Senator Bluhm is a subcommittee of one studying alternatives for seeking higher salaries.

The Subcommittee on Experience Credit includes Senators Bingham, Madron, and Wicklander. They are studying the crediting of experience to WKU faculty for teaching, research, and other activities that were performed before employment by WKU.

THE FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE--Jim Parks, Chair

Most of the concerns expressed by faculty are eventually directed to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee. This fact and the number of studies already underway indicate still another busy year ahead. The committee welcomes and solicits suggestions from the faculty.

THE FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--Don Bailey, Chair

The study on cost increases across the university is finished, and a summary of data from the study will be presented to the Senate at the May 10 meeting. Detailed data from the study will be available in the Senate records or from the committee. The expenditures study should reveal where the University has placed its priorities over the past several years.

There is one observation about salaries which should be pointed out. Expenditures for salaries have increased at a rate of about 12% per year (since 1975-76). If the administration would agree to use these funds for salaries, and if departments and offices would free these funds from the burden of expansion, there should be no problem offering a cost-of-living raise and making up slowly some of the purchasing power lost in the last 6 to 8 years.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE--Mary Ellen Miller, Chair

Senators Bryce Combs and John Jones have joined Senators Clark, Neel, Rowe, and me on the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee.

We are now working on a follow-up report to the enrollment report submitted to the Faculty Senate in March. We established an April 27th deadline for written responses, and by that date we had received a number of helpful suggestions and recommendations, including a detailed update from Carl Chelf.

We have recently made a study of the Lucas Resolution. Results of that study will be submitted to the Senate.

We invite your suggestions for specific directions our committee might take in the coming year. You can help us a lot by sending to any one of the committee members information you might have--news stories, reports, your own ideas--that has bearing on the long-range welfare of Western.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONCERNS COMMITTEE--Al Petersen, Chair

This year a study of the grievance procedures available to faculty members and the possibility of a university faculty ombudsman were among the items looked at by this committee.

We have also examined the administrative policy of faculty evaluation and along with this the immediate access or availability of each

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONCERNS COMMITTEE--Al Petersen, Chair

faculty member's personnel file as it exists in the department office, the Dean's office, and in the Vice-President's office. The committee found all files were available with immediate access. (See Newsletter, Volume 1, No. 6)

If you have any questions or suggestions that relate to these issues or if you have other concerns that may relate to the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee, please feel free to contact me.

THE BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE--Linda Pulsinelli, Chair

During the 1978-79 school year, the BAE committee has been busy attending to a variety of matters. In addition to conducting the regular Faculty Senate spring elections, the committee was charged with the responsibility of supervising the election of faculty members to the WKU Presidential Search Committee.

Throughout the year, an attempt was made to keep the Senate eligibility list as current as possible and to respond quickly to questions from faculty members concerning eligibility and election procedures. In fact, the BAE committee's decision to provide absentee ballots for Senate elections arose from a concern expressed by some faculty members.

In order to achieve some degree of consistency and continuity in conducting elections, the committee has also spent some time devising a set of internal procedures which are subject to revision by members of subsequent BAE committees.

Currently, the BAE committee is studying the possibility of holding the Senate organizational meeting at some time other than in March. According to some Senate members the present system leads to inactivity during the second semester. We have sought opinions from standing committee chairpersons and shall consider the possible solutions in the fall.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of a hard-working committee, our business has proceeded smoothly even during the most hectic times. We are looking forward to an equally successful session during the 1979-80 school year.

THE FOLLOWING WAS TAKEN FROM A PRESS RELEASE FROM GEORGE ATKINS FOR GOVERNOR HEADQUARTERS, MAY 2, 1979:

"I have observed that there are a lot of people in state agencies and especially in our universities and vocational education programs who would like to stay on in public service but are being driven out because state government cannot provide them with an adequate living... therefore, I am today announcing my support for an annual guaranteed salary increase for each state employee at least equal to cost-of-living increases. This program would delete the current 5% automatic increases

and instead 5% would remain the minimum with the actual inflation rate the maximum automatic increase."

"The cost of the program would be financed through normal attrition in the number of state employees I have already advocated. Further, in the long run this program can actually reduce total personnel cost. State government spends millions of dollars for the training of new employees only to lose them to private industry as their state salary becomes less and less competitive each year. We need to retain these experienced and effective employees. It's just good business."

(While the Newsletter is in no way endorsing political candidates, we felt including this statement was important because it refers to a subject that concerns us all.--L.F.)

EDITOR'S NOTE--Leo Fernández, Chair, Communications Committee

This has been the final issue of the Faculty Senate Newsletter for the 1978-79 academic year. We have concluded with summary statements from each standing committee chair.

As we are constantly alert for ways to make the Newsletter more pertinent and interesting, we welcome at any time any comments or suggestions.

Let me thank here Pauline Jones, Herb Shadowen, Robert Martin, Bob Blann and Jim Browning, our Senate secretary, for all the time and energy they have contributed to this project.

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