

THIRD SENATE HOLDS FIRST MEETING

Following recent elections of new members, the Faculty Senate which met on March 8 was officially a new body; the first actions of that body were the election of a Chair and the reorganization of the standing committees. Tom Jones was elected to a second term as Chair by a unanimous vote. New committee lists will be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

State Representative Jody Richards, who is Chairman of the House Committee on Education of the General Assembly, addressed the Senate, speaking briefly on legislative sessions and state budgets and on the Council on Higher Education. Representative Richards called it fortunate that Western escaped financial harm in the recent special session of the Legislature, but sounded several warnings: the tax cuts in that session strained the state budget, and federal cutbacks this summer will increase that strain. By the 1980 session of the Legislature, the budget will be "limited," Richards said, and he called for "responsible input" from faculty members regarding the 1980 biennial budget. He urged that the Faculty Senate work with legislators and the new governor to get faculty needs across, and that the Senate also do this through the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders. He urged Senators to try to convince the Council on Higher Education of the need to lobby the governor, the legislature, and the finance department of the state government.

On the subject of the Council on Higher Education, Richards reported that he is presently investigating the workings of such councils in other states, but he already has some suggestions for changes. The first is to limit and redefine the powers of the Council, to make it less concerned with overlapping and duplication of programs and more so with such problems as declining enrollment. His other suggestion is to change the terms of Council members so that no one governor would appoint them all. He called the Council and its staff well-meaning, but said that he was often upset by its decisions; he would like to see appointed Council members who are interested in the job and will not simply ratify the work of the staff.

Following Richards' remarks, the Senate went into a regular business session, one action of which was to approve a resolution making official the participation of Western's Senate Chair and one other faculty member in the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders (COSFL). Identical to resolutions being presented to the Senates of all the state universities, it directed the Senate leaders to work for academic and other concerns, share information, and meet in an advisory capacity with the Council on Higher Education to express common concerns.

Reports from several standing committees covered topics ranging from the Fiscal Affairs Committee's preliminary report entitled "Comparisons of Revenues, General Costs, and Salary Increases from Fiscal Year 1976-77 to Fiscal Year 1977-78," to a status report of the A.S.G.'s faculty evaluation from the Academic Affairs Committee. These also included the following reports:

--From the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee, a report forwarded from Vice-President Davis describing the keeping

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of (and access to) official faculty files, and a report that the Council of Deans had approved the suggestion that a dean inform a faculty member if his evaluation of the faculty member differs from that of the department head.

--From the Academic Affairs Committee, preliminary reports on the percentage of increase in faculty and administrative salaries in the last two years and on student abuse of the BEOG program. The latter report indicated there is no evidence of widespread abuse at Western.

The meeting ended with Vice-Chair Charles Henrickson's soliciting suggestions on how the Senate might go about lobbying the Legislature (as Representative Richards had suggested) in an organized manner.

MEETING THE COMMITTEES: INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING
 by Mary Ellen Miller, Chair, IGP

By now, all members of the faculty and administration should have received a preliminary report on enrollment, prepared by the Faculty Senate Institutional Goals and Planning Committee.

You will have noted that Senator Jones' cover letter invites suggestions, additions, recommendations. As of this date (March 20), several such responses have been received, and the committee wants to express its appreciation for the thoughtful and detailed nature of these responses. Please continue to supply us with your best thinking on this important issue.

Almost everybody knows that Kentucky will experience a decline in 18-year-old population in the next decade. State and national census studies place this decline at 25%. If Western's enrollment follows this pattern, we will experience significant decreases in our beginning freshman classes.

Perhaps our enrollment will not follow the population pattern. Some demographers argue that a larger percentage of high school graduates will attend college in the future. At this time, the percentage of high school graduates in Kentucky who go on to college is 36-38%. The national average is approximately 60%. (These figures are supplied by Curtis Logsdon, Director of Institutional Research. They come from four different educational statistics reports.) Obviously, if we can bring the percentage of high school graduates who do go to college closer to the national average, we will have made important progress in offsetting enrollment losses. Let's try to do it.

We have received some splendid suggestions on how to proceed. These suggestions (too numerous and detailed to include here) will become part of our final report. I will mention, though, that Dr. Sam McFarland's recommendation (one of several he has made) for a state-wide task force to sell high school students on the values (both tangible and intangible) of a college education seems especially meritorious. I'm sure many of you have worthwhile suggestions on how

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best to deal with or compensate for projected declining enrollments. We hope to hear from you.

Why panic when we have options? We should be concerned with raising Kentucky's college-bound student population even if we had no enrollment problem. We should be concerned about our retention rate even if our classrooms were crowded. I believe that more than half of our entering freshmen are degree-worthy, but we are graduating fewer than half. As of next fall, no Western teacher will be assigned more than twelve hours. This is a step forward. I hope our next step will be to reduce teacher-student ratio.

I would hate to see the University lose its head by trying to retain students who are not college material; by lowering standards; by courting every 18-year-old Tom, Dick, and Jane in the state; and by corralling anything in jeans with acne. I don't think we have to do that.

I am convinced that more than 38% of Kentucky's high school graduates are college material and that more than 45% of our entering freshmen have the mental wherewithal for a college diploma. Are you? If so, please help us think of ways to prove it.

MORE NEW SENATORS

The following faculty members were elected to represent their Colleges as at-large Senators:

Business and Public Affairs:
Education:

Richard Cantrell
Alton Little
Robert Melville
Richard Miller
Don Bailey
James Bingham
Wilburn Jones
William Leonard
John Long

Ogden College of Science and Technology:

Potter College of Arts and Humanities:

CORRECTION

In the February issue incorrect titles were used for the recently formed departments of the library. We apologize for this error. Listed below are the official designations.

Department of Library Reference Services
Department of Library Circulation Services
Department of Library Automation and Technical Services
Department of Library Special Collections

The cost of printing this publication by Western Kentucky University was paid from state funds KRS 57.375.

SHADOWEN TO HEAD AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EMERITUS FACULTY

Faculty Senate Chair Tom Jones has appointed Senator Herb Shadowen of Biology as head of a newly formed committee on emeritus faculty. More information about the goals of this committee will be given in the April issue.

FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Institutional Goals and Planning

M.E. Miller, Chair
Don Rowe
Fred Clark
William Neel
John Jones
Bryce Combs

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns

Al Petersen, Chair
Robert Teske
Virginia Neel
Barbara Strande
Brian Sullivan
Joanne Powell
Wilburn Jones

By-Laws, Amendments and Elections

Linda Pulsinelli, Chair
Marizu Richardson
Elaine Harrison
Ed Bohlander
Doris Broach
William Leonard

Faculty Status and Welfare

Jim Parks, Chair
Ron Veenker
Mary Crisp
Agnes Adams
Georg Bluhm
Joan Krenzin
Charles Henrickson
David Rivers

Executive Committee

Tom Jones, Chair
William Davis
Herbert Shadowen
Robert Melville
Greg Lowe
Pat Bowen
Marion Lucas

Fiscal Affairs

Don Bailey, Chair
John Long
Raul Padilla
Agnes Adams
Richard Cantrell
Richard Miller

Academic Affairs

Neil Peterie, Chair
James Bingham
Pat Bowen
Don Butler
Mohaninder Gill
Norma Jean Schira

Communications Committee

William Walls, Chair
Pauline Jones
Herbert Shadowen
Leo Fernandez

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR--Tom Jones

I had intended to make other remarks in this space for this newsletter. But tragic events sometimes replace orderly intentions. Senator William Walls, as I am sure most of you know, died early Monday afternoon, March 26, 1979. Senator Walls edited this newsletter. This newsletter has probably done more good for the Faculty Senate than any single thing the Senate has done. Let this and all past issues be in memoriam for Bill Walls.