

DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

J. David Cole, Chairman of the Board of Regents, met with the Faculty Senate on December 14 and presented his personal views on a wide range of subjects. Concerning the position of president, he stated that he was "pleased with the number and quality of applicants for the position. The faculty will have an opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the final five. The openness and the integrity of the selection process is as important as the person selected. We will continue to welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we proceed. Western Kentucky University has a tremendous opportunity at this juncture." Concerning academic excellence he said, "By achieving academic excellence we can encourage the better students to attend Western. We should actively recruit top academic students by offering enticements such as scholarships and by convincing them of the advantages of attending Western. Western compares favorably with universities of similar size throughout Kentucky and the surrounding region. I was pleased and proud to read of the record of W.K.U. graduates in their admission and progress in professional schools."

Chairman Cole responded to some wide-ranging questions. He did not know the effect of the special session on Western but expressed a "guarded optimism." His response to a question concerning the cost of the W.K.U. athletic program: "Moneywise it is a losing proposition, but there are other factors to consider. Athletics are expensive programs, but you balance that with the intangible benefits such as recruitment and prestige for the school." To a question concerning some of the major problems that lie ahead, he replied that "we face the problems applicable to all universities in the future - economics and inflation and declining enrollment." Chairman Cole's warmth and his willingness to respond to all questions was noted with appreciation by those present.

Two important reports were submitted by standing committees. Don Bailey, Chairman of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, presented a lengthy report entitled "The Cost of Administration and Instruction at the College and Departmental Levels." This report will be discussed at a later meeting. Jim Parks, Chairman of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, and Ron Veenker presented two reports and a resolution. One report, "Trends in Average Salaries," has been shared with the Board of Regents. The other was a preliminary report concerning rank and promotion policy. In final action a resolution recommending that salary increases for the 1979-1980 academic year be no less than the rate of inflation for the 1978-1979 year was approved.

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The meeting on January 11 was brief, with the major item being a resolution presented by faculty regent William Buckman. The resolution supports the efforts of the Congress of Faculty Senate Leaders and the Student Government Association of Kentucky in obtaining student and faculty membership on the Council on Higher Education. (The Congress of Faculty Senate Leaders will meet with Harry Snyder, Executive Director of the Council, on January 26 in Louisville to discuss various faculty concerns.)

WE WANT YOU (TO BE INFORMED ABOUT SENATE ELECTIONS)

During the week of February 12, elections for departmental senators will be held. When the Senate was first organized, half the departments, chosen by lot, elected senators for a two-year term, the others for a one-year term. The forthcoming election will be held in those departments whose senators have served two years. They are: Health and Safety, Home Economics and Family Living, Military Science, Accounting, Business Administration, Business Education and Office Administration, Information Systems and Distributive Education, Teacher Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Services, Physical Education and Recreation, Physics and Astronomy, Agriculture, Journalism, Art, Foreign Languages, Communications and Theatre, and Philosophy and Religion.

Each college will elect at least one at-large senator during the week of February 19.

Senator Herb Shadowen expresses his views on the importance of the coming elections in the following editorial.

GREATER PARTICIPATION NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN FACULTY SENATE  
 by Herb Shadowen

As the names of the senators were called at the five meetings last semester there were 65 periods of silence. Senators were absent at a rate of 13 per meeting. A few names appeared on the absentee row with regularity. It is disappointing--to say the least--to see individuals who diligently labored for the establishment of the Faculty Senate and others who agreed to serve on important committee assignments absent from three of the five fall meetings.

There were valid reasons for some absences. The College of Education, with the poorest attendance record, had faculty members involved in off-campus courses. Some senators had classes or other commitments which prevented their being present at every meeting. However, most of those absent did not keep themselves and their department informed by sending observers when they were absent.

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GREATER PARTICIPATION NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN FACULTY SENATE

by Herb Shadowen

During the month of February senate elections will be held. This is your opportunity to strengthen the Faculty Senate. Make your vote count by voting for a colleague who has a genuine interest in faculty concerns and will represent you by his/her active participation. After the election, be willing to serve as an observer when your department representative is unable to attend. The strength of OUR Faculty Senate depends on the strength with which we support it.

MEETING THE COMMITTEES: BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE by Linda R. Pulsinelli

The primary functions of the By-laws, Amendments and Elections Committee of the Faculty Senate are reflected in its title. As the need arises, this committee examines suggested amendments to the Senate Constitution and considers adding by-laws or rules which will help simplify Senate proceedings. Throughout the existence of the Senate, the BAE Committee has pursued a policy of extreme circumspection in that it has proposed very few amendments and only a handful of by-laws and rules (each of which must be approved by the Board of Regents). The original Constitution of the Faculty Senate was written very carefully over a long period of time, and our desire has been to alter it only when absolutely necessary. Naturally, there have been some changes in wording; no constitutional authors could foresee all the difficulties which might arise when their document was put into practice. In general, however, the present Constitution of the Faculty Senate differs very little from the original.

The majority of the time and effort of the members of the BAE Committee is spent in overseeing various faculty elections throughout the year. In the fall, much time is spent by each committee member in updating the Senate eligibility list for his or her college. These lists are used throughout the year for elections and mailings and also provide a working list for various Senate and administrative committees interested in separating WKU personnel into faculty and non-faculty components.

Each spring, the BAE Committee conducts the election of departmental senators in each department where the two-year term of the current senator is expiring. If, during the course of a term, a departmental senator resigns from his or her position in the Senate, a new departmental election is held as soon as possible. Also during the spring, elections are held to fill expiring terms of at-large senators. (Each college is entitled to a total

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of one senator for every ten faculty members). The results of these elections are retained in Faculty Senate files, and in the event of a resignation by an at-large senator, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the at-large election fills the unexpired term.

The BAE Committee has spent quite a bit of time during its initial years in refining the election procedure in an attempt to insure the integrity of election results. Because this committee has become familiar with the mechanics of campus-wide elections, it has also been charged with the responsibility of conducting the election for Faculty Regent and faculty representatives to the Presidential Search Committee.

SUMMER SCHOOL: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

This summer, 1979, Western will inaugurate a new summer school calendar; this change has caused a number of questions among the faculty. In order to find answers to those questions, the Faculty Senate Newsletter interviewed Dr. Wallace K. Nave, Director of Special Programs. We here present what we learned. Please note, however, that although what follows is in question-and-answer form, the answers are not quoted directly from Dr. Nave.

- Q. What will the new system be like?
- A. There will be two sessions, each five and one-half weeks long, beginning on May 29 and July 5. In addition, because of some concern, especially among those in the sciences, that more time was needed for some courses, departments may offer courses lasting up to eight weeks. Such courses must, however, be adequately justified to the appropriate dean and to the vice-president. Other departments will offer internships which will run for longer periods of time. Students may earn a maximum of six credit hours per session and twelve for the summer. In computing the number of hours, however, a student taking a course lasting more than five and one-half weeks must count that course for both sessions: one taking such a course for three hours' credit would be limited to six additional credit hours for the summer, three in the first session and three in the second.

There will be three registration periods. The first, for on-campus students only, will be an advance registration on April 2, 3, and 4. At this time and at the second registration on May 29, students may register for one or both sessions. An additional registration for the second session will take place on July 5, the opening day of that session. Tuition will remain the same as for the present semester.

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SUMMER SCHOOL: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- Q. How did this change in the calendar come about?
- A. After some interest in a change was expressed to him, Vice-President James L. Davis appointed a committee to study the situation and to make recommendations. Beginning in the fall of 1977, this committee surveyed other schools and assessed Western's own program. They found that having a summer session of two equal terms is widely accepted, and that in such a format the advantages would outweigh the disadvantages. On the other hand, a subcommittee looking at the old system found more weaknesses than strengths in the May term (in particular) and eight-week session.
- Q. What disadvantages of the old system does this one answer?
- A. The May term was too brief for many courses--and this was especially true of graduate courses--and some departments therefore scheduled no classes during that term. The resulting smaller selection of courses caused scheduling problems for several groups of students: those who needed a full twelve hours of credit in order to graduate early and graduate students who needed twelve graduate hours were particularly affected. If such graduate students were public school teachers, the early opening of May term put them at an even greater disadvantage. Another group affected by the opening time were those who needed only six hours, but were forced by the one-course limit of May term to wait until June to begin summer school. A different kind of scheduling problem was experienced by twelve-month employees of the university, who had difficulty finding a good time for vacations. With the five-and-one-half-week sessions, all of these problems will be alleviated; the additional possibility of extending certain courses over eight weeks will offset some of the problems of shortening the summer session.
- Q. Were there no advantages to the old system?
- A. One advantage, the length of the eight-week session, was mentioned above. The new system will also sacrifice the two advantages the subcommittee found in the May term: it was ideal for students who needed only three hours' credit and for special classes which were essentially field trips. The new calendar will not include the one free day per week of the old summer session.
- Q. Will there be any changes in the number of courses offered in the summer?
- A. The number of "slots" (blocks of six credit hours) allotted to each department will be based on last summer's May term and summer session enrollments as in the past. There will be close scrutiny of what happens with enrollment. The courses which have been scheduled are more equally divided between the two terms than they have been in the past; departments were encouraged but not required to spread the offerings in this way.
- Q. What will summer stipends be?
- A. No one knows. The stipends are under review, but were not approved with the rest of the recommendations of the committee. The committee made two recommendations in this area: that the stipends be increased, and that they be based on the number of credit hours taught. The latter recommendation was designed to eliminate the inequality of paying the same (full) stipend for anything from five to seven hours, and a half stipend for three.
- Q. Are any evaluation and possible future changes being planned?
- A. No formal evaluation has been set up; the office of the vice-president and other administrative offices will undoubtedly monitor this first summer session carefully to see what changes might be needed for future summers.

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