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Meeting Minutes

WKU Council of Academic Deans

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MINUTES

Council of Academic Deans Meeting March 28, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Dean's Conference Room of Cravens Graduate Center with the following members present: Davis, Mounce, Hardin, Sandefur, Russell, Stroube, Chelf, Hourigan, Cravens, Sutton, Gray, Nelson and Cortis.

The minutes of the March 7 meeting were approved as distributed.

In the first item of business, Dr. Cravens commented on the possible need to reconsider the proposal from the Council of Academic Deans which had been made to the Academic Council to establish a 54 hour upper division credit hour requirement. Dr. Cravens indicated that several problems had been called to his attention and he felt that it might be useful for the deans to reconsider setting the requirement at 54 hours. Various deans presented their points of view and discussed the issues and problems involved. The Council of Academic Deans agreed to leave the recommendation at 54 hours. Dr. Sutton indicated that he had been requested to attend a meeting with representatives of the Ogden College of Science and Technology and that he had met with them to discuss various issues growing out of the proposal. For the benefit of the deans, Dr. Sutton commented on various aspects of the meeting which he thought would be of interest to the deans.

Dr. Sutton commented on the information dissemination of the grades and grade point averages report. Dr. Sutton indicated that this information should be distributed to individual departments and that his office would be responsible for providing this information to the college deans on an annual basis. The deans' offices would be responsible for extracting certain portions of the report which would be appropriate to the individual departments in their colleges and sending that information to the individual departmental offices.

Dr. Davis indicated that he would like for the deans to provide him with an annual report and he requested comments from the deans concerning a format for annual reports. Dr. Mounce indicated that he would like for Dr. Davis to provide the deans with a general format that would have an opportunity for each college or unit to elaborate on special areas or unique aspects to the college or unit. Dr. Davis indicated that he would supply the deans with a draft document for their consideration by the next deans meeting.

Dr. Davis commented on non-reappointment situations and indicated the need for department heads to follow the university policy concerning providing a written statement of reasons for non-reappointment. Dr. Davis elaborated on the university policy and the reason for the policy and asked the deans help in making certain that the policy was followed. Dr. Davis also indicated that it might be desirable to have a special workshop with deans, department heads, and directors to review various legal aspects of institutional policies.

Dr. Davis indicated that he would have to leave the meeting and requested that Dean Nelson serve as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting. Dean Hourigan indicated the desire to have item II.B. delayed until the next meeting.

Dr. Hourigan discussed various developments which have occurred among several officials of the university in terms of the possibility of Western's sponsoring an energy conference. Dr. Hourigan advised the deans that a meeting would be held on April 7 in the Applied Arts and Health Dean's conference room to further consider this possibility. Dean Russell indicated that he had been in discussions with Dean Hourigan and that he was hopeful that such a conference could come about. It was indicated that Tennessee Valley Authority officials have been involved in some preliminary discussions concerning assistance in conducting such a conference. Dr. Nelson noted that Dr. Ahmed has been on sabbatical leave dealing with energy resources and that he could serve as a resource person in the development of such a conference.

Under other business, Dr. Chelf commented on the request from the Council on Higher Education concerning Western's sponsoring graduate level courses over the KET System. On a motion by Dr. Sandefur, seconded by Dr. Gray the Council of Academic Deans passed the following motion: "That Western not participate in the offering of these specific courses and that Western go on record against the practice of offering graduate level courses through KET on the grounds that it represents an inferior quality of graduate instruction." Dr. Chelf also commented on the need for deans to work with the faculty to assist in recruiting efforts by making certain that faculty would be available to talk with perspective new students. Dr. Chelf referred to various problems which had been identified in a recent memorandum by Mr. Mefford. Also under other business Dr. Stroube advised the deans that the Office of Academic Affairs had sent out a memorandum requesting faculty assistance in verifying the number of years of experience which each faculty member has. Dr. Stroube also commented on the passage of Senate Bill 339 which is waiting the Governor's signature. This bill would make it possible for Western to purchase insurance liability for faculty and administrative staff. Mr. Largen has indicated that Western is prepared to move towards purchasing the insurance liability coverage as soon as it has been authorized. Also under other business Dr. Corts reminded the deans about the Honors Convocation on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Diddle Arena. Dr. Nelson reminded the deans of the banquet being held in the honor of Dr. William Jenkins which would be held in the Garrett Conference Center Ballroom at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul R. Corts
Secretary