

FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

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Do you wish to learn science easily? Then begin by learning your own language.
— Étienne Bonnot

SENATE HAS SHORT MEETING!

Emery Alford

Clarification of a Clarification

Dr. James Davis, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, clarified once again the University's change-of-grade policy. Apparently certain academic deans were concerned that a "few" students were requesting changes of grades from several faculty members within a given department and therefore suggested that the department head's signature be required in addition to the instructor's. This is now the policy accepted by the Registrar's Office. Dr. Davis and Senator Seeger "clarified" that an "X" (incomplete) can be removed within the "specified period" without the department head's signature. (Got it now?)

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Kell reported that his committee has been examining the advanced registration process and its positive and negative effects. It seems that, of the approximately 8500 students that pre-registered in Spring, '83, some ten percent were some kind of "no show" in Fall '83: 450 returned drop cards; 350 were dropped for non-payment of fees; and 150± either did not return their drop cards or could not pay their fees.

Are undergraduate degree forms a "contract" to graduate? According to the Registrar, Yes! The point at issue involves the statement in the 1983-85 Bulletin, page 43, column 3, paragraph 3, dealing with "additions which may arise out of undetected errors or omissions in the original program." Vice-President Davis has spoken with the University Attorney and will recommend the deletion of this passage, thereby making the degree form *more* of a contract. A complication of the "undetected errors" factor is that the degree form is not checked when filed, but rather when the student files his application for graduation. Vice-President Davis will also recommend that the undergraduate degree form be checked upon its initial filing, though that office is presently understaffed.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee:

Senator Rust and his committee will present an update on the Consumer Price Index/Faculty Salary Report within the next two weeks.

At the request of Regent Miller, this committee is studying the health insurance program at Murray State; a report is forthcoming.

Scholarships for children of Western faculty? No senator voiced an interest in this "fringe benefit." Senator Baldwin pointed out that many of the faculty's children are among the intellectually elite anyway and win some of the available scholarships. Senator Krenzin added that this might be a fringe benefit not useful to all the faculty. Senator Rust agreed and added that the addition

of other fringe benefits might be in lieu of - *horrors!* - raises!

Political Action Committee:

Senator Robe announced that Jim Bunning, candidate for governor, will be in the Faculty House on October 28 (time unconfirmed as of this writing) and will present his views on education. By the time you read this, Alice McDonald, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction will have spoken at the Red Carpet. (For those of you who are able to act backwards in time, this event will have taken place on October 18, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. It will have been a fundraiser, and tickets will have been \$10.00 each.)

Senators Robe and Weigel represented Western at this year's first meeting of COSFL in Louisville on October 15. A "grapevine" has been established through this organization, which any faculty members may use to gather information from other COSFL members.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee:

This committee was asked to investigate the procedures for determining recipients of the College Awards. Their conclusion: "the procedures are quite good." Dissatisfaction may be due to the inadequate publicity which might affect the number of nominees. The committee recommends an increased awareness of students and faculty through increased publicity. No examination of the University Awards was made, but will be if anyone desires such.

A study is being conducted regarding the use of student evaluations by department heads for faculty evaluation.

Concerns over "perceived inadequacies" in the Purdue Cafeteria System have been voiced. There is a committee that will meet periodically in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Purdue System. Senator Howe is working on this issue, although it is doubtful that any significant change is possible, other than substituting some other system for the Purdue System.

An investigation is being made into what happens to "recaptured" salary dollars (when a faculty member receives external funding/salary, what happens to "his" salary?). Senator Miller is working on this issue and any comments should be directed to her.

Retreat to Miami (Ohio, That Is)

Vice-President Davis advised the Senate of an invitation by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Miami University (Ohio) to send representatives from the Western faculty to the Second Annual Lilly Conference on College Teaching. The Office of Academic Affairs will "foot the bill" so that four Westerners might attend (preferably one from each College). Interested? Contact Rich Weigel or Joan Krenzlin *asap*.

Definition

A grade: *"an inadequate report of an inaccurate judgment by a biased and variable judge of the extent to which a student has attained an undefined level of mastery of an unknown proportion of an indefinite material."*
(Paul Dressel, 1957. Quoted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10/5/83, page 72.)

MISCELLANEA

Ed Dorman

Announcement: More on Administrative Evaluations

Senator Howe has informed us that many faculty members who have talked to her are not aware that the new, administration-sponsored evaluation of administrators will be given during this academic year, and has requested that the Newsletter report on this matter.

The evaluation referred to is the instrument developed by Dean Gray's *Ad Hoc Committee on the Review and Evaluation of Academic Units and Administrators*, and adopted at the April 30, 1983 meeting of the Board of Regents. It consists of two procedures: (i) an annual review of "each administrative unit in the academic affairs area and of its administrative officer," and (ii) a periodic evaluation, at five-year intervals, of the same units and administrative officers. The five-year-periodic evaluation is a lengthier and more complicated process than the annual review, but each involves a survey of faculty opinion by means of questionnaires: one questionnaire (Form A) being used in the evaluation of Department Heads, College Deans, and the Academic Services Dean; the other (Form B) being used only in the evaluation of the Academic Vice-President.

According to Vice-President Davis, both procedures will be begun in the spring semester of 1984. The annual review is to be conducted, this spring, for all the units specified under (i) in the preceding paragraph. The five-year-periodic evaluation will be conducted, this spring, for some, but not all, of these units; the reason that not all units will be evaluated during the same semester is that, although each unit is to be evaluated with a periodicity of five years, the starting times for different sets of units are staggered in order to coincide with the schedule of the Council on Higher Education for the evaluation of degree programs.

The information given above was obtained from Vice-President Davis and from the document *Review and Assessment of Academic Units/Administrators* in the form adopted by the Board of Regents and contained in the minutes of their April 30, 1983 meeting.

Letters to the Editor

*"Pray what is an Editor - why do you shoot
It? Or are its advances refused?
Or is it perhaps a maleficent Brute?
I protest I am wholly bemused." **

Dr. Ed Dorman, Chairperson, Senate Newsletter Committee:

I was disappointed with the last edition of the Faculty Senate Newsletter. Admixture of news reporting and editorial comment seems to me inappropriate in a publication of this nature.

I would like to suggest that in future Newsletters editorial comment be confined to a section on its own, and that it be extended to include a wide variety of individuals and concerns. I hope we are not going to start using this vehicle for the waging of personal vendetta.

E. Margaret Howe
Professor of Philosophy and Religion

("Editorial comment" is not the logical complement of "news reporting." Not all comment is "editorial." Some is merely playful. I am involved in no vendetta, either in, or out, of the Newsletter. "Honi soit qui mal y pense.")

*Belloc, slightly altered, but not fixed.

Dr. Ed Dorman, Editor, Faculty Senate Newsletter:

Since you have become editor, I have elevated the Faculty Senate Newsletter from the bottom to the top of my "must-reading" list. The publication has become what it should have been all along: informative, poignant, and lively. As I am certain you are aware, your report of the verbal exchange between the President and you has created quite a stir of emotions among faculty and administrators. I disagree with those individuals who claim that you are engaged in a feud with the President or that you have misused your position. Those of us who are acquainted with you personally and professionally know that you would never be party to such behavior. Evidently, your witty style of writing coupled with your penchant for detail in reporting has misled some people less gifted than you into believing that you were attacking the President.

I commend you for the superb job you have done as editor of the Newsletter. I close with the sincere hope that this letter helps to resolve the controversy surrounding the aforementioned report.

Sebastiano A. Fisicaro
Department of Psychology

(A model letter. The check [from State Funds KRS 56.375] is in the mail.)

Ed Dorman, Faculty Senate Newsletter:

I read with some interest the account in the September 15 Newsletter of the September Faculty Senate meeting. Speaking as someone who was at that meeting, I am sorry to say that I do not believe that the summary of President Zacharias' remarks gives an accurate impression of the tone of what he said nor of the question which occasioned his remarks.

The question, as posed by the Editor of the Newsletter, is reported in the Newsletter as follows, "Requested by your reporter (Ed Dorman) to address the Senate on the question of whether he opposes evaluations that are constructed and conducted by the faculty, President Zacharias charged" This very neutral way of stating the question completely misses the provocative manner in which the question was asked. As I recall, you began by saying that you considered Western to have a "plantation mentality" in which the administration was the master and the faculty the slaves. When the faculty wanted something, they had to go up to "the big white house." Why was this not included in the Newsletter?

Given the tone of the question, I personally felt that Dr. Zacharias' answer was restrained and professional. It is true that he made known his displeasure at the tack you have taken in recent Newsletters. But he was moderate and refrained from unproductive posturing.

I would hope that future Newsletters can make a distinction between reporting and editorials. The reporting should be as objective as possible. Comments should be reserved for a separate column.

T. Baldwin
Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies

(To have printed what you think I should, would have required devoting as much space to my arguments as to those of all the other Senators who spoke, combined. Nevertheless, I now wish I had — it was a mistake in judgment not to. If you want me to print my remarks in the next issue, just let me know. They may be considered outrageous in a convent, but, where a University is concerned, let me remind you of the words of C. S. Lewis, "We have both learnt our dialectic in the rough academic arena where knocks that would frighten the London literary coterie are given and taken in good part; and even where you may think me something too pert you will not suspect me of malice.")



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