

FEBRUARY MEETING



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Administrative Evaluations

One of the most recent serious concerns over the current administrative evaluations was the apparent abrogation of an agreement between the Faculty Senate and the Administration over the transcribing of written statements prior to submission of the formal evaluation. This difficulty seems to be resolved in that *all comments will be transcribed* prior to inclusion in the final evaluation report.

COSFL

Legislative activity is beginning to mount and has resulted in some significant developments:

Two lobbyists have been selected for service during the current legislature. They are Steve West, of Murray State, and Tom Jones, of Western. Jones has been further delegated as Press Liaison for COSFL.

Jones presented the text of a House Bill to be sponsored by COSFL and presented to the House during the week of 13 February. In essence, the bill calls for a 15% budget increase every two years in order to achieve "educational parity" for higher education. It further stipulates that salaries are to be designated as "line items" so as to forestall the diversion of salary funds into other areas.

COSFL is developing position papers on a number of unidentified topics for release in the very near future.

Funds collected for political activities have reached approximately \$500. Some universities have not yet participated.

Study of Promotion Criteria

A document that outlines proposed promotion criteria for University faculty was distributed by the college deans for consideration week before last. Faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller voiced a number of objections to the proposal:

The proposed policy does not make provision for departmental promotion policies.

The requirement for "superior performance," based on meeting the criteria of excellence in teaching, research, and University service is still unchanged.

The proposed policy has not been submitted to the Faculty Senate for review or recommendations.

The proposed policy has been withdrawn by President Zacharias, and the Executive Committee of the Senate has asked that serious consideration be given to each objection before a revised document is issued.

Faculty Salaries

A question arose as to whether there was any truth to a rumor that average salaries for faculty ranks at Western are below the national averages, but that average salaries for administrative positions are above the national averages. Vice-President Davis

responded that there was not: that average salaries at Western are lower than the national averages at all levels - both faculty and administrative.

Senator Kummer noted that the latest issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* contains a study of faculty salaries which would probably be of interest to faculty members at Western. Senator Rust, Chair of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, announced that his committee will provide its latest study of faculty salaries at the next meeting of the Senate.

Faculty Senate Attendance

Senator Kummer voiced a concern over the poor attendance at Faculty Senate meetings. The responsibility of elected representatives to protect the interests of, and address the issues important to, their constituents became the focus of a brief discussion. The Executive Committee will undertake serious consideration of possible courses of action to correct this situation.

Scholarship Committee

The following persons have been appointed to the Scholarship Committee: Charles Aldridge (Accounting), Virginia Hanks (Mathematics), Juanita Hire (Teacher Education), Karen Pelz (English).

Recaptured Salary Dollars

Senator Howe reported that funds provided by external funding agencies for the purpose of replacing faculty members are distributed, when they are *not* used for faculty replacement, on the following basis: half is allocated to the budget of the Office of the Dean of the participating faculty members, and half is retained for the general University budget.

Evaluation of the Administrative Evaluations

Senator Howe also reported that the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee has prepared a form to be used by faculty members in evaluating the administrative evaluations. This will be circulated shortly. Faculty members are encouraged to express their opinions and return the forms. This committee will communicate with administrators about their reactions to the administrative evaluations at a later time.

NEA Questionnaire

Senator Otto announced that the NEA questionnaire circulated throughout the University has resulted in the following responses to date: 41 interested, 17 not interested.

Dithyramb for Davis

We would like to express our appreciation to Vice-President Davis for taking action on the recommendation of his Faculty Advisory Committee to have faculty comments on the administrative evaluations transcribed instead of photocopied. Such responsiveness is in the best interests of faculty-administrative harmony and deserves our plaudits. - e.d.



FACULTY SENATE
communications committee
NEWSLETTER