

# FACULTY SENATE communications committee NEWSLETTER

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## MARCH MEETING

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### Absentee Senators To Be Told To Walk

At the March 15 Senate meeting, the Senate adopted (by a vote of 26 to 10) the following By-Law (By-Law VI):

*The Chair of the Faculty Senate shall declare vacant the position of any elected Senator who is absent from three regularly scheduled Senate meetings during a Senate year, and who fails to provide for a temporary alternate or observer for any of the three, as the case may require. That member's department head will be apprised of the reason for the vacancy. The vacancy will be filled in accordance with Article III C 4 of the Constitution.*

### Faculty Salary Study

At the time of the meeting, Senator Rust did not yet have available all the salary data necessary for the study, but when it is ready it will include the usual listings plus: (i) additional information regarding benchmark, sunbelt, and Kentucky schools; (ii) averages by discipline; and (iii) salary data from the February 8 issue of the *Chronicle*. Information about the new early retirement plan approved at Eastern was scant but should be available by the next meeting. So hang on to your position for 30 more days.

### Political Activities

There seems to be little hope for more money for higher education. The Political Activities Committee advises that we support the Governor's current education bill in the hope that we will not be left out of the next one. Opposition against a tax increase for education at any level appears to be building in the House. House Bill 634, which would allow the Governor to reappoint all university board members this year, will probably never get out of committee in the Senate.

### Evaluation of the Administrative Evaluation

While 79% of the faculty returned the new administrative evaluations, only 30% returned their questionnaires about these evaluations. According to Senator Howe, two-thirds of the faculty were satisfied with the evaluations but many complained about whom they were allowed to evaluate. Administrative assistants (e.g., assistant deans), library and service personnel, and even coaches were among those whom some faculty members wished to evaluate.

### Constitutional Amendment Adopted

The timing of Senate elections has bothered some faculty and department heads. As a consequence, the Constitution of the Faculty Senate has been amended so that

- (i) elections for departmental senators will be held during the third week in February,
- (ii) elections for at-large senators will be held during the fourth week in February.

### Weigel Relieved

The Senate relieved Senate Chair Weigel of the responsibility for the results of the Senate's evaluations of administrators in 1978 and 1980. These documents are to be deposited in the University Archives, "there to be held under seal for thirty years after the date each evaluation was administered."

### Governor Supported

The Senate endorsed a resolution, proposed by the Political Activities Committee, expressing its support of Governor Collins' proposals to improve education in Kentucky and urging their enactment. This was done with the intent outlined on page 1, under *Political Activities*.

### Graduation Committee Appointed

A committee to study graduation procedures has been formed and will consist of Harry Allen (Journalism), Rose Davis (Library Automation and Technical Services), Mary Gulson (Physical Education and Recreation), Terry Leeper (Industrial and Engineering Technology), and Judith Parkhe (Finance and Quantitative Business Analysis).

### Senate Elections

The following faculty members were elected to the 1984-85 Senate:

#### Academic Services:

Carole Jackson (Media Services)

#### Business Administration:

Eugene Evans (Management and Marketing)

Frank Hollenbeck (Economics)

#### Education:

Sallye Clark (At-Large)

#### Ogden:

Barry Brunson (Mathematics)

Larry Gleason (Biology)

Edmund Hegen (Geography and Geology)

Terry Leeper (Industrial and Engineering Technology)

William Neel (Allied Health)

Deborah Oldenburg (Nursing)

David Coffey (At-Large)

Thomas Coohill (At-Large)

John Crenshaw (At-Large)

Howard Lowery (At-Large)

Claude Pickard (Geography and Geology)

#### Potter:

Louis Beck (Sociology)

Helen Crocker (History)

Joe Glaser (English)

Dwight Pounds (Music)

Jeorg Seitz (Government)

David Lee (History)

Nancy Davis (At-Large)

Jim Wayne Miller (At-Large)

Lysbeth Wallace (At-Large)

## Article

(The following article consists of excerpts from a memorandum submitted by Edgar Busch to Vice-President Davis, describing a conference on teaching at Miami University. It is being published at the request of Vice-President Davis, and with the permission of Dr. Busch. Elisions are indicated by ellipsis marks.)

Several speakers ... [led] one to consider 1) that professors tend to think the opportunity to earn a high grade is a motivator for all students when it is not, 2) that learning-oriented students learn differently than goal (grade)-oriented students, and 3) that language-bound students learn differently than language-optional students and therefore teachers ideally should present material in two formats.

Considering the time required to test each student for the above characteristics, the time required to cover certain material in two different ways (while recognizing that half the class will be uninterested when you are not using its desired format), and that classroom/university policy will constrain the use of some techniques lest uniform treatment of students not occur, the speakers' discussion of theory seemed not geared to practical application. The main point, perhaps, is that professors should be aware that there are several equal ways to learn and that we should be both flexible and sympathetic to some student expressions of not understanding the material.

Below are a few suggestions made by various conference speakers ... which I think are worth mentioning.

On the first day of class, after distribution of the syllabus, ask each student to list one thing on the syllabus he does not like, one he likes, one he has a question on, and one thing he would change if he were the professor. This practice may provide guidance to the instructor on potential problem areas and on topics of special interest to the student.

"Spell out" exactly what you are seeking in class participation, e.g., *mastery of content, communication skills* (student should be able to inform others, respond appropriately to questions from the instructor and other participants, avoid rambling, and avoid dominating the discussion), *ability to synthesize and integrate* (connect class topics with other fields or with material covered in prior class sessions), *creativity* (does student show further implications of materials), and *"valuing"* (what values underlie an idea and why does the student agree/disagree with the values). Obviously these criteria can be applied to written assignments also.

For weekly classes require each student (24 hours before the class meeting) to submit one paragraph on a topic from the week's assignment and which the student wants to discuss. This assures that everyone has one thing to say and that the student is prepared. Following the seminar the written paragraph is returned - with comments. This whole process emphasizes it is a student responsibility to help move the discussion along and helps to achieve the university goal of improving oral and written communication skills.

One suggestion especially relevant for use with really good students is to encourage them to write the "top" people in the field. Such contact with names helps to energize the interested student.

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## Salaries of Public School Teachers in Georgia

Senator Otto passed out copies of an advertisement for openings for public school teachers in suburban Atlanta. The salary range for 190-day teachers was \$15,000 - \$31,849. These figures do not include benefits.

## Announcement

Victoria P. Malmer is the *Herald* reporter covering Faculty Senate activities. If anyone has suggestions for *Herald* articles related to faculty matters, please call her at 2670(home) or 2653 (work).