

# FACULTY SENATE NEWSLETTER

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## MEETING SUMMARY



Outgoing chair Tom Coohill opened the meeting with brief testimonial to the people who helped him make Senate VIII a memorable one. In addition to the chairs and members of standing committees, several administrators came in for warm praise--especially President Zacharias, Bob Haynes, John Minton, and Paul Cook.

The chief business of the new senate was to elect new officers and committee chairs, and this was accomplished with little drama. Officers for 1985-86 will be Gene Evans, Chair; John Parker, Vice-Chair; Helen Crocker, Secretary; Carl Kell, Parliamentarian; and Chuck Crume as COSFL Representative, with Bob Otto as Alternate.

Committee Chairs for next year will include Edmund Hegen, Academic Affairs; Nancy Baird, By-Laws, Amendments and Elections; Linda Allan, Committee on Committees; Nancy Davis, Institutional Goals and Planning; David Lee, Fiscal Affairs; Robert Bretz, Professional Responsibilities and Concerns; and Barry Brunson, Faculty Status and Welfare.

Practical matters disposed of, the senate voiced its appreciation of Tom Coohill's work, not only in the past year but throughout his career at Western, which has been remarkably successful by any standard. Mary Ellen Miller delivered a very convincing account of Tom's value to the senate and the university, and her remarks, unlike many encomiums, climaxed in a meaningful resolution:

It is hereby resolved

- that a new university excellence award be instituted;
- that the recipient of that award be the individual who has demonstrated the most outstanding achievement in teaching effectiveness, research/creative activity, and university/public service;
- that the new award for general excellence be called the THOMAS P. COOHILL AWARD FOR GENERAL EXCELLENCE.

Mary Ellen's resolution passed by acclamation.



President Zacharias wanted to tell the senate about efforts he and the other presidents are making to improve the lot of higher education in Kentucky. On May 23rd, KET will broadcast a statewide edition of People's Business focused on higher education. University presidents and board chairs will meet shortly to promote our collective activities. A public relations firm in Lexington has agreed to voluntarily add its efforts to the cause. And a specific plan to boost Western would soon be unveiled.

Higher education, the President said, clearly does not enjoy a privileged position in Kentucky, but its leadership is assiduously working to change that state of affairs.

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS--SENATE VIII

The following is a brief summary of some of the resolutions, proposals, and incidental items discussed by Senate VIII (May 84--April 85). More complete information can be obtained from Senate minutes, newsletters, and full committee reports, all of which are on file and available for faculty perusal in the Senate office in the faculty house.

The most discussed issues were:

1. Athletics (Fiscal Affairs Committee)--including budget considerations and their role at WKU. The Senate suggested that the administration consider moving to division III in football to alleviate financial problems.
2. Merit pay--three resolutions concerning merit pay were passed:
  - 1) this year's raises should be 3% across-the-board
  - 2) the faculty should have formal input into future compensation decisions, and
  - 3) the present system is unacceptable.
3. Research and Scholarly Activity (Academic Affairs Committee)--recommended a distribution of work load assignments along the lines of a "Ten Percent Plan." The plan allows for an increase in research time allocation for those faculty who choose to pursue high level research, and recommends no penalties for faculty not choosing the plan.

In addition to the above issues, each committee and sometimes the full Senate investigated the following:

By-Laws and Elections--conducted all Senate elections and began a process to streamline future elections. Several minor changes in Senate procedures could alleviate current problems.

Committee on Committees--recommended various faculty for assignments to committees such as President's Advisory, Athletics, Library, and Strategic Planning.



Institutional Goals and Planning--studied the implications of SCR 30, the legislative review of higher education. Wrote letters to Governor Collins and Senator Lackey. Recommended a waiver of out-of-state tuition for neighboring counties in Tennessee and Indiana. Vice President Haynes announced such a waiver last month.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns--centered its work on the issues of student (Purdue) and administrative evaluations. Recommended changes in both procedures. Looked into the matter of scholarship support for academically superior students. Had the Senate form an Ad Hoc Affirmative Action Committee.

Faculty Status and Welfare--published the annual salary survey, noting the continued decline in faculty purchasing power. Discussed the Early Retirement Option and university policy with respect to filling faculty vacancies, student evaluations, and the timing of class rosters.

COSFL--expanded its membership to include Faculty Regents and officers of Faculty Representative Organizations. Planned large meeting (April 19th and 20th) in Frankfort with several legislative keynote speakers addressing faculty concerns statewide.

In addition, the Senate office has been permanently relocated in a large office in the faculty house; the Senate, in cooperation with Vice President Haynes sponsored a workshop and lectures on effective teaching attended by 250 faculty; the Senate appeared on Channel 4 in Nashville several times (a county in which we are now recruiting students by offering out-of-state waivers); Senate news items made the Louisville and Nashville papers (and of course the local paper); and the Senate Newsletter continued to be an accurate review of Senate meetings.

This report has been purposely kept short. Remember that details concerning any of the above issues are contained in Senate records which are open to all faculty.

T. Coohill

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

The following report comes from Margaret Howe and the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee:

These are the academic scholarships which have been awarded for the current academic year:

1985-86

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Source</u>
A. Alumni Leadership	\$2,000	3	Alumni/CHF
B. Hallmark (National Merit)	1,750	All who enroll	WKU
C. Award of Excellence	1,750	15	CHF
D. Regents	800	30	WKU
E. Scholastic Achievement	600	20	WKU
	500	16	WKU
F. C.H. Foundation Meritorious	400	50	CHF
	200	30	CHF
G. Alumni	300	33	Alumni/CHF
H. H.H. Cherry (non resident)	2,000	10	WKU
	1,000	20	WKU

In addition

Approximately 275 students are currently receiving scholarships through the College Heights Foundation trust and custodial funds. The average scholarship for this group is \$466.00.

59 students are receiving \$400 Regents Scholarships because their cumulative GPA at the end of the previous year was 3.75-4.0.

61 juniors and seniors are receiving \$400 College Heights Foundation Meritorious Scholarships.

Dr. Ronnie Sutton is attempting to develop academic scholarships for 25 incoming freshmen each year. The scholarships would be \$3,000 renewable for 4 years. It is not clear yet whether this will represent new money or a different use of existing scholarship money.

Dr. John Petersen is attempting to develop academic scholarships for 20 incoming freshmen each year. The scholarships would be \$1,000 renewable for 4 years. These would be only for students participating in the Honors Program. There is talk of additional benefits for these people such as dormitory accommodation (an Honors Dorm, or Floor). It is not clear yet whether these scholarships may be held IN ADDITION TO other scholarships. Nor is it clear yet whether these scholarships will represent new money or a different use of existing scholarship money.

I have asked Dr. Sutton and Dr. Petersen to keep us informed of developments in relation to these scholarships.



## MEETINGS AND MONEY

The recent COSFL meeting in Frankfort was pleasant, informative, and perhaps even useful. For one thing, it occasioned a good deal of conversation between groups from various campuses. I spent an evening with the delegation from Eastern, and was amazed to learn that they regard Western as a lively campus with an enviable degree of faculty activism. They were especially impressed by our salary surveys and our study of athletic spending.

But the trip was mainly about money. No one thought great wads of fresh cash would be forthcoming soon from new taxes, at least not for higher education; but the people from the CHE had interesting thoughts on allocations within existing Kentucky appropriations. It seems one reason Kentucky schools look overfunded according to the Larry Lynch study reported in the last Newsletter is that our system runs an unusually large amount of non-instructional spending through its "higher education" budget. No less than 38.57% of what is appropriated for higher education actually goes for hospitals, health services, agricultural extension services and experiment stations, and other expenses not directly related to instruction. Other states fund non-instructional programs through their higher education appropriations too, but Kentucky leads the pack in this area of creative financing. We do appropriate a respectable amount per FTE student (we're about at the median appropriation per FTE for schools served by the Southern Region Education Board), but then we go spend a higher percentage of the this money on bedpans and the diseases of swine than any other school in the region.

Allocations are a problem closer to home as well. The new university budget is out and shows a net increase of 5.47%, of which, Bob Otto notwithstanding, only 1.65% went for salaries--the rest of the new salary money came from scrambling within existing budgets. Well, no one expected 5.5% raises; there are too many unavoidable expenses with prior claims on the new money. But Western did find fresh funding for sports. Meanwhile, the Fine Arts Festival, which cost less than half the new allocation for football players' meals, has apparently gone the way of the debate program and the university orchestra.

Here are some figures from the new budget you may find mildly interesting. The budget for instruction is up 1.5%. Athletics as a whole is up 4.6%. Football is up 3.7%, while recreation programs are down 9%. Funded research is down 15.5%. Public Service is up 22%. Among the colleges, totaling up department budgets, Business is up 3.9%; Education is down 5.2%; Potter is up 3%; and Ogden is up 1%. In the deans' offices, Business is up 8.5%; Education is up 17%; Potter is down 8.5%; and Ogden is down 28%.

These figures undoubtedly reflect some anomalies and strange situations, but they also reflect university priorities. The research cut jumps out at you. So do the decline of Education and the continuing obsession with IAA football, which will run a half a million dollar deficit--or more if receipts prove optimistic and/or we experience the usual overruns.

Joe Glaser



**FACULTY SENATE**  
communications committee  
**NEWSLETTER**

Office of the President  
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