



FACULTY SENATE communications committee NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XII, NUMBER 3

NOVEMBER, 1988

NOVEMBER SENATE MEETING

Connie Mills

Chair Fred Murphy reported on the October meeting of the Executive Committee with President Meredith. Among topics discussed were student advisement, health insurance, class size, parking problems, and the general education package of courses. President Meredith expressed support for a general education core program because two or three career changes are now typical for American workers and students need to prepare for that eventuality. Senator Murphy encouraged faculty to voice problems to members of the Executive Committee because the monthly meetings provide an excellent chance to present concerns to the President.

Bart White, Chair of the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee, distributed information concerning Western's medical insurance. Any questions on the topic that do not duplicate those already presented to the insurance committee should be presented *in writing* to any member of the FSW Committee by Thursday, Dec. 1. All questions submitted will be forwarded to Mr. Jim Tomes, who will answer each of them during the December Senate meeting. Senator White also stated that the Committee's goal is to have the anniversary contract's date moved from April to January 1.

Senator Karlene Ball, Chair of the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee, reported on their meeting with Dr. Jay Sloan, Director of Academic Computing and Research Services. As with most programs, scarcity of money dictates limitations. The computer lab in Thompson Complex is staying open until 2:00 A.M. for greater accessibility. Because Academic Computing is intended primarily for instructional programs rather than faculty research *per se*, it is unlikely that most of the computing facilities will open during the upcoming semester break. The lab in Science and Technology Hall will be available on a limited schedule. Participants in the meeting felt a need for greater communications to acquaint faculty with available services.

A study of the requirements for graduate faculty membership was distributed by the Academic Affairs Committee. The Executive Committee has asked that committee to respond to the Report of the Task Force on General Education by advising the Task Force through the Academic Council. In order to meet deadlines the Academic Affairs Committee requests that all departmental senators whose departments wish to respond to the General Education Report (official guidelines distributed to the Faculty Senate) do so in writing on or before November 30.

Senator Joyce Rasdall, Chair of the Committee on Committees, stated that the Committee had submitted recommendations for the Academic Vice President's Advisory Committee. Now serving on that Committee are Charles Aldridge, Gabriel Buntzman, Martha Jenkins, Julia Roberts, Rita Hessley, Glenn Powers, James Flynn, Richard Stone, Connie Foster, and Joe Fulmer.

Senator Paul Campbell reported on the state-wide meeting of COSFL. Elected officers for the year are President John Taylor, Vice President Harry Robe, and

Treasurer Paul Campbell. Representatives attending the meeting indicated that faculty members were, relatively pleased with bonuses, raises, and increased benefits, particularly at Morehead where all employees are to receive a \$400 mid-year bonus, and faculty members will also get a 2% increase in their base pay. At Morehead the insurance benefits were extended with family preventative dental care provided by a plan at no cost to the employee. However, not all were so elated; the University of Louisville representative said that they had been notified of a pending increase in health insurance premiums. COSFL will study various insurance plans available from campus to campus. COSFL is also looking into athletic spending at Kentucky universities and will urge the Council for Higher Education to gather reliable, uniform data on the topic.

Faculty Regent Gene Evans gave an outline of major concerns discussed by the Board of Regents. Topics included the need for program priorities, retention of minority faculty and students, strengthening relations with community colleges (perhaps with 2+2 programs), and expansion of academic support for all WKU athletic programs similar to that of the WKU basketball program. ("Student athlete' is not an oxymoron," saith Evans.)

Evans also reported on the annual meeting of university regents and the Council for Higher Education. While there were few complaints about the formula for expenditures, there were quite a lot about the actual funding. Expenditures on athletics concern both the regents and the Council. Apparently Governor Wilkinson's visit to WKU had positive influence on his attitude toward higher education. Gary Cox, Executive Director of CHE, encouraged other state universities to invite the governor to their campuses. The general impression at the meeting was that state universities have support in the legislature, but Governor Wilkinson is convinced that the universities can do much more with the available resources. Evans amplified points of his report in response to questions from Senators Alton Little, Jim Wesolowski, Joyce Rasdall, and James Brown.

Under the heading of new business, Senator Ron Veenker moved that the Senate approve the recommendations of the Academic Affairs Committee regarding requirements for graduate faculty membership. Essentially they are:

- (1) That the Graduate Faculty Review Committee make specific recommendations to the individuals whose applications are denied as to the reasons for denial.
- (2) That Western Kentucky University establish a system whereby membership on the graduate faculty is both an honor and a privilege. Such a system would require that faculty receive some benefit from attaining such membership.
- (3) That the applicants for Graduate Faculty be required to complete the applications and not submit a professional vita which requires the review committee to decipher what is and what is not relevant to the current application.

The motion was seconded, and discussion ensued regarding a three-hour class reduction given in some colleges. The motion will receive a second reading at the December Senate Meeting.

With admonitions to attend to our senatorial duties, the November meeting adjourned.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Governor Wilkinson has made his educational stance known to area educators who seek moderate salaries, reduced class size, competitive health benefits, and other "minor" objectives. He has suggested that if educators (some of whom work second jobs to cover expenses an educator's salary does not cover) would quit complaining and griping and get to work, education would be better. The Governor's statements to teachers and health care actions against them are forbodingly consistent. After less than one year in office, there is little evidence that our Governor has any more commitment toward higher education than he has to elementary and secondary education. His actions and rhetoric to date are hardly a reliable hope for meaningful support of education in Kentucky.

The October 16, 1988 issue of the *Courier-Journal* graphically portrays the ground lost in faculty salaries and spending per full-time student during the Brown administration. When will we recover these losses? Given Governor Wilkinson's current position on education; administrators, faculty, and students must begin now if education is to move forward or, at the very least, hold its own during the next three years. If we do not prepare now, the slip backwards under Gov. Wilkinson could be worse than that documented by the *Courier-Journal* for the Brown administration.

Reactions are often too late, too weak, off-target, and/or too poorly organized to have any real effect. Too often educators are apathetic, passive, dormant, and status-quo oriented. Administrators, educators, and students must be more active, creative, and on the offense for education. Strategies such as toll-free numbers, letters, and other contacts in Frankfort must be planned now to forestall a 4-year endurance test. The options are many. A message to Wilkinson could be made with marches, rallies, and, as a colleague suggested, a strike in early January when fee-paying parents and students would likely become more interested in education.

Joyce Rasdall
Department of Home Economics and
Family Living

CORRECTION

Due, no doubt, to the intervention of an ill-natured sprite, the General Education document published in the September *Newsletter* omitted three mathematics courses that should have been included in category I.A. Mathematical Reasoning. The sentence that was printed, *Any of the following courses will satisfy the mathematical reasoning requirement: Math 109, Math 120, Math 126*, should have read:

Any of the following courses will satisfy the mathematical reasoning requirement: Math 109, Math 116, Math 118, Math 119, Math 120, Math 126.

COMMON PREDECESSORS: RESULTS

The winner of the *Common Predecessors* puzzle that appeared in the September *Newsletter* is Pauline Jones. The answers listed below were considered to be correct or, at least, acceptable.

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| (1) full | (24) endogenous |
| (2) potato | (25) objective |
| (3) hard | (26) star |
| (4) book | (27) prime |
| (5) Irish | (28) fairy |
| (6) lost | (29) dead |
| (7) time | (30) prima |
| (8) death | (31) grey |
| (9) natural | (32) rational, work |
| (10) yellow | (33) transition |
| (11) bar | (34) pathological, social, habitual? |
| (12) oral | (35) blue |
| (13) platonic, romantic | (36) red |
| (14) Dutch | (37) light |
| (15) conversion | (38) florid |
| (16) Manila | (39) military, quick? |
| (17) compact | (40) quantitative, faulty |
| (18) high | (41) primary |
| (19) major | (42) elliptical, hyperbolic |
| (20) final | (43) service |
| (21) swan | (44) French |
| (22) auto | (45) sprung |
| (23) battle | |

A curious sidelight on the contest is that almost everyone who entered gave for item (37) an answer ("hand") which makes no sense to us. We realize, of course, that in some cases decisions as to which word is "correct" are to a considerable extent arbitrary or, perhaps, themselves incorrect. Complaints should be addressed to Fred Murphy, Department of History, Room 200, Cherry Hall.

LOGIC PUZZLES

As these puzzles will appeal primarily to persons whose desires far transcend the material, there is no prize. None of them is original; references will be given in a future issue.

- (1) In the land of Dichotomia, every inhabitant is either a Verax or a Mendax. A Verax always tells the truth; a Mendax always lies. A tourist encountered three of the inhabitants (called A, B, and C) and asked A, "How many of you are Veraces?" A mumbled so that the tourist could not understand his answer. The tourist then asked B what A said. B replied, "A said that only one of us is a Verax." C then said, "B is lying." What are B and C?
- (2) The tourist surprised two inhabitants rifling his hotel room. He asked one of them if either of them happened to be a Verax. The inhabitant answered, and from his answer the tourist was able to deduce the answer to his question. What is the inhabitant who answered? What is the other inhabitant?

- (3) A tourist is being mugged by two inhabitants, A and B. A says, "B is a Verax and this is the city of Malaise." B says, "A is a Mendax and this is the city of Malaise." Is the tourist in the city of Malaise?
- (4) An inhabitant told the following story: "The faculty at my university are organized into departments in such a way that a faculty member can belong to more than one department. Each department is named after a faculty member and every faculty member has a department named after him, yet no two departments are named after the same faculty member. A faculty member does not have to belong to the department named after him. If he does, he is said to be scholarly; if he doesn't, he is said to be unscholarly. And believe it or not, the set of all unscholarly faculty members constitutes a department." Is the inhabitant a Verax or a Mendax?
- (5) In a different country, in a different universe, there is a university which is staffed entirely by an infinite number of part-time faculty, each of whom works for zero wages. The university catalog states that every set of faculty members constitutes a department, each faculty member has a department named after him, and no two departments are named after the same faculty member. Furthermore, each department is named after a faculty member. Is this possible?

MALENESS CONFERENCE AT WKU?

The usual unreliable sources inform us (that is, after all, what sources do) that Western is under consideration as site for the first regional conference on maleness and the problems associated with being male in a feminist world. It is all up in the air at present; we are given to understand, however, that the following talks are tentatively scheduled:

Are 'Gender Differences' Real? The Case of Parallel Parking.

Anti-male Bias in the Job Market - Why Women Get the Truly Fulfilling, Lightly-taxed Positions.

The Male Archetype in the Novels of Elinor Glyn.

Genderjabber: How to Make Gender a Substitute for Scholarship.

Steroids, Gynecomastia, the D Cup, and You.

Whatever Happened to Penis Envy?

The Greater Size of the Female Brain.

The Bicep: the Real Seat of Intelligence?

(We realize that this article contains material that may be offensive to some. Complaints should be sent to Fred Murphy, Department of History, Cherry Hall. Material other than complaints should be sent to The Faculty Senate Newsletter, Department of Physics & Astronomy, TCCW.)

As usual, material in the Newsletter not ascribed by name to a particular author is the responsibility of the editor, whatever his name is.