

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Garrett Ballroom

March 17, 1988

3:20 p.m.

Senator Murphy called the meeting to order. Absent without observers were: Kern Alexander, Reza Ahsan, Karlene Ball, Paul Campbell, Chuck Crume, Dorsey Grise, Robert Haynes, Rita Hessley, Mary Lazarus, Alton Little, Edward Martin, John Oakes, Michael Richardson, Joerg Seitz, Brian Sullivan, Michael Trapasso, Terry VanderHeyden, and Ron Veenker.

The minutes were approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Senator Murphy offered two suggestions concerning the new executive committee:

- 1.) That the Tom Jones Symposium be discussed as to its continuance, and the holding of it every other year rather than annually. Anyone having suggestions, the executive committee would be glad to receive them.
- 2.) That an ad hoc committee be established to study/revise the Faculty Senate constitution.

Senator Murphy announced an open forum to take place on April 13th at 3:30 in the Garrett Conference Center auditorium for all of the faculty. All are encouraged to attend. Anyone may ask any question they wish. Work towards having a large attendance.

BY-LAWS, AMENDMENTS, AND ELECTIONS

Faculty Senate elections of new members are completed. See handouts. Complete rosters of the full Senate will be ready for distribution at a later date.

INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND PLANNING

This committee withdrew its report. Senator Ball has completed the new questionnaire. Copies will be sent to each Senator, who will distribute them within their departments. They are to be returned by April 1st. Senators are encouraged to get a good response.

COSFL

Senator Murphy reported that the COSFL legislative reception was successful since many legislators indicated their support for higher education, though they could not promise much for this session. Senator Kafoglis from Bowling Green, and Representative Richardson from Glasgow, attended. Senator Murphy expressed thanks for the support which those who attended the reception gave to higher education.

There is an annual meeting of COSFL. This year it will meet on the 18th and 19th of March at the Capital Plaza in Frankfort. The banquet will feature a TIAA/Creff speaker. Lt. Governor Jones may make an appearance on Saturday.

Craig Nelson will speak on "Teaching Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum." Robert Sexton, Executive Secretary of the Pritchard Committee on Academic Excellence will be the luncheon speaker.

Jo Chaney from Murray will also be speaking on Faculty Rights vs an unclear topic.

The fee is \$40.00 for the whole conference and \$25.00 for Saturday only. The Senate may be able to cover the cost for those wishing to attend. All were invited to attend.

#### PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONCERNS:

Senator Davis presented the following:

The Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee has discussed the report of the Task Force for Evaluation of Teaching and presents the following recommendations:

1. That the Faculty Senate endorse the report of the Task Force for the Evaluation of Teaching.  
(See attached report)
2. That the Faculty Senate recommend a validation study be undertaken here at Western to see if a survey of student opinion is correlated with student academic gain.
3. The Faculty Senate urges that, in the future, we return to the practice of transcribing student comments, even if there is a delay in returning the evaluations to the faculty.

It was moved and seconded that this be handled as three separate motions. The motion carried.

#### THE FIRST MOTION

Discussion on the first motion was extensive. Senator Reber fielded questions. Some criticized the assumptions in the report that students and department heads are qualified to evaluate teachers/teaching. Others pointed out the advantages of student evaluations. Still others indicated that validation studies prove neither argument, therefore, guidelines would be established.

The use of "academic gain" needed defining: and brought about additional discussion. The report does not go into detail as to how to measure academic gain.

Additional consideration included:

The manner of evaluating upper level courses; the development of evaluation instruments by departments; the definition of teaching; the causes for changes in students' scores; the examination of measurement problems; and the investigation of indicators of teaching besides being in front of a class.

Discussion ended and the first reading of the first motion was completed.

### THE SECOND MOTION

Discussion of the second motion centered on whether or not we want to do a validation study, and if we do, who will undertake the task. "Academic gain" surfaced again in looking for the causes of academic gain.

Senator Murphy encouraged all to talk about these issues with members of their departments.

The first reading of the second motion is completed.

### THE THIRD MOTION:

Discussion centered about the Herald article, 3/17/88, which spoke of the faculty reading hand-written comments of students concerning a faculty person's teaching. Students fear that professors will recognize their handwriting. If students have the same professor for another course, they fear recriminations.

A notice indicated that these hand-written comments would not be typed because of expense and delay.

No cost figures were quoted, but Senator Murphy will try to get some. When typed, originals are shredded.

Discussion indicated that professors would not "punish" students who made negative comments.

The first reading of the third motion is completed.

### FACULTY STATUS AND WELFARE COMMITTEE:

Senator Brunson moved that the following resolution be considered. Senator Love seconded the motion.

Especially in a time of critically tight budgets, all components of a university should be financially well-managed and accountable.

Academic freedom is a standard which must be upheld in poverty as well as in prosperity. No actions should be taken which have the effect of abridging or curtailing the editorial independence of the press, including the College Heights Herald and the Talisman. Student editors, reporters and staff, once selected, should be under no faculty or administrative editorial constraints, but under only the constraints of responsible journalism.

This motion was an impromptu motion springing from the March 16, 1988, Park City Daily News and the March 17, 1988, issue of the Herald concerning student publications. National News Network, USA Today, the Atlanta Constitution, U.S. News are rumored to have reported on this issue.

Senator Brunson indicated that the committee wanted to avoid any hostile attitudes in presenting the motion, and that the motion comes to the Senate with strenuous objections from some of the committee membership.

The motion was moved and seconded.

Discussion centered about advisor vs editor; editorial/fiscal accountability; class credit for a lab experience; payment of student reporters; covering national news; censorship.

Senator Meyers suggested that the Executive Committee address the issue with the President Alexander to find out his reasons/background before adapting such a resolution.

A substitute motion reads:

That the Senate, as a body pass a sense of concern, to the President by the Executive Committee to get some clarification, and then report back to the Senate before passing a resolution.

The motion was moved and seconded.

The motion failed to carry. This brings us back to the original motion. The first reading is completed.

Two meetings in April will provide opportunities to vote at the April Senates.

The Senate adjourned at 4:55 p.m.