

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY,
ARCHIVES



FACULTY SENATE
communications committee
NEWSLETTER

The first meeting of the 1987-88 school year for Faculty Senate XI convened at 3:20 p.m. in the Regents' Room on Thursday, Sept. 10.

Executive Committee Report

Nobel Lecture Attendance

Chair Fred Murphy reported on a meeting with President Kern Alexander. The Chair had discussed the Nobel Lecture Series with the president, and concerns some faculty had expressed regarding being required to attend the lecture. Dr. Alexander explained that he had been concerned with poor attendance at the morning meeting with students and the speaker, and therefore suggested that the faculty be reminded of that night's lecture. Dr. Alexander said it had never been his intention for faculty to think they were expected or required to attend.

Academic/Athletic Scholarships

President Alexander also has responded to a resolution from Senate X which requested that the university establish academic scholarships, equivalent to the best athletic grants-in-aid, for students planning to teach humanities, mathematics, natural or social sciences in the public schools. His reply outlined the scholarships which do exist as well as plans for further expansion. The Chair, in the name of the Executive Committee, indicated that while the Senate very much appreciated what the university was doing to attract top-quality students, it hoped the administration would give further consideration to establishing the specific type of scholarships which the Senate had recommended.

Dr. Alexander to address Senate

Dr. Alexander will speak to the Senate at the Oct. 8 meeting. He also has been encouraged to attend every Senate meeting. The Executive Committee has urged that the president hold a news conference-type meeting periodically with faculty to give faculty the opportunity to ask questions of Dr. Alexander.

National Faculty Exchange

Livingston Alexander, of Vice President Robert Haynes' office, addressed the Senate regarding the National Faculty Exchange, of which WKU is a new member. Joining the organization had been recommended by the Senate last spring. Now that WKU is a member, faculty may apply to teach for a year at another member school. Teachers accepted for the program will continue to be under contract with Western, and will be paid by Western. Senators and Dr. Livingston have more information on the program. The deadline to apply is Oct. 15.

By-Laws, Amendments, & Elections

Brian Sullivan reported that this committee will be reviewing the Senate's constitution and recommending necessary changes. Election of senators to fill vacancies in the departments of Administrative Office Systems, and Music, will take place soon.

Committee on Committees

Rich Weigel reported that the Senate has recently placed people on: Vice President's Advisory Committee, University Publications Committee, Asian Studies Committee, Unrestricted Development Funds Committee, and Advisory Committee on Programs for Outstanding Students. Senators will soon be distributing questionnaires to all faculty to find out on what committees faculty are currently serving, or on which committees faculty would be interested in serving.

Faculty Status & Welfare

Salary Survey

Barry Brunson distributed the committee's recent faculty salary survey. All senators have a copy. Brunson said that compared to the previous survey, WKU fared slightly better when compared with universities similar to Western. The extensive survey has each salary listed by department, as well as the average salary per department, and the ranking of salaries from highest to lowest in the university. If you want to know exactly where you stand, consult your senator.

Sick Leave Policy

Brunson said the committee will be meeting with Jim Tomes to gain further information on the sick leave policy discussed at previous Senate meetings.

Task Force on Faculty Recognition

Rose Davis moved, and Rich Weigel seconded, that the report to the academic vice president from the Task Force on Faculty Recognition, be endorsed. As this was the first reading, discussion will be conducted on the motion at the October meeting. Senators have a copy of the proposal.

Parts of the report include:

--recommending that each college present awards for teaching, research, and university/public service. The various winners at the college level would then compete for university awards in the same categories. Media and Library Services would be considered a "college" for these purposes. The re-structured award system would give the "best of the best" at the University Awards level. This would also make the Faculty Awards competition similar to the College and University Scholars competition for undergraduates. Suggestions regarding the awards process include building the monetary element of the award

directly into the winner's salary; having a lunch/dinner/reception for award winners; providing greater publicity for award winners by announcing their names before graduation; inscribing the names of winners at both the college and university level on plaques which would be displayed in appropriate places.

--establish more contact between administrators and faculty on the "faculty's turf."

--establish distinguished professorships and/or endowed chairs.

--allocate merit pay that is "meaningful" and not necessarily "across the board."

--do more to honor retirees

--establish a standardized university policy for allocation of credit to faculty members teaching independent study courses

--encourage President Alexander to write a regular column in On Campus

--provide free tuition for spouses and children of faculty; benefits package for single faculty

--allow leaves for faculty learning/development, shorter than sabbaticals and possibly in the form of internships during the summer, which would carry a summer school stipend.

Tom Jones Symposium

Paul Campbell is in the process of organizing a committee for the second Tom Jones Symposium, to be held late this fall. Suggested topics included a review of ten years of Faculty Senate, the future of Faculty Senate, and discussion of what other faculty senates in the state are doing.

Adjourned until Oct. 8

The meeting adjourned at 4:02. The next meeting will be in the Garrett Ballroom on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Faculty Senate Office

The Faculty Senate office is in the Faculty House. Senate office hours are Monday and Wednesday, noon-4 p.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4 p.m. The student secretary this year is Rhonda Hamilton. The Senate Office phone is 5325.