



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

January 8, 1976

Dear Faculty Member,

As you know, the Committee on Faculty Participation was established by President Downing on September 10, 1975, and charged to study "the ways and means through which members of the faculty participate in the development and formulation of academic policy recommendations, to identify alternatives by which faculty members may effectively express their reasoned recommendations and advice, and to recommend a plan for achieving the objectives of more effective participation and improved communications."

Since that time the Committee has made an intensive study of the present situation with regard to faculty participation and of possible methods of improving it. The results of the poll of the faculty conducted by the Committee in October indicated a feeling on the part of a substantial majority of the faculty that more effective participation was needed, particularly at the college and university levels. A substantial number of the faculty responding indicated a strong desire for the formation of a faculty senate as one of the most appropriate means of improving faculty participation.

The Committee, therefore, after considerable deliberation, recommends the establishment of a faculty senate as outlined in the attached draft constitution.

We are submitting this draft constitution for your careful consideration. We ask that you indicate your views on the attached form and return it to the office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs no later than 12:00 noon, Monday, January 19, 1976.

We realize that we have not produced a perfect document, and we assume that experience with this constitution will reveal areas where change may be required. The amending process provides a means by which changes may be initiated. But we feel strongly that this proposed body should be implemented as quickly as possible. You may recall that Benjamin Franklin

remarked on the last day of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 that he favored the Constitution although he did not agree with everything in it. "Thus I consent, Sir, to this constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the Convention who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion, doubt a little of his own infallibility, and to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument." We hope that you will see fit to follow his advice.

Sincerely,

Members of the Faculty Participation
Committee

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