

FACULTY SENATE XV MINUTES

September 12, 1991

The September meeting of Senate XV was called to order by Chair Vos at 3:30 p.m. The minutes of April 23, 1991 were approved as submitted. Senators absent without representation were: Donna Blackburn, John Crenshaw, John Faine, and Jeffrey Jensen. In addition to Senators present, ~~President Thomas Meredith and Vice President Robert Haynes also signed in.~~

Chair's Executive Committee Report: Chair Vos indicated that his meetings and the executive committee's meetings with the President had been good, and touched on several other topics as follows. Part-time faculty is still under study, including appropriate level of part-time faculty usage and remuneration. Student health services were also mentioned briefly. Chair Vos indicated that there was still a question about tuition grants for stepchildren of faculty, wherein the President advised that this had been taken care of and that stepchildren were to be included as eligible for the grant. The Chair deferred comments about new positions in the Athletic Department to the Fiscal Affairs Committee. The Chair advised the Senate that the regents were interested in general education reflecting the priorities of Western XXI, but would not be interested in getting involved in the "nuts and bolts" of that project. Chair Vos announced that the shuttle now runs until 5:00 p.m. and may run until after 8:00 p.m. eventually. Senators were asked to notify colleagues and students of the service. The Chair then specifically mentioned a small controversy regarding reserved parking for the athletic director and coaches and advised that the offer had been rejected.

The President then rose to announce that structural problems on the ramps in the parking structure would result in the loss of 250 to 300 parking spaces and that efforts were under way to have the ramps repaired as soon as possible. In the interim, it will be possible to use the parking structures by using one silo for ingress and one for egress. Chair Vos then announced that a smoking policy for the university would be forthcoming. Finally, it was announced that Tammy Clements is the new Senate Secretary, and her hours are expected to be approximately 1 to 3.

Academic Affairs Committee Report: Senator Murphy reported the results of the January 1991 survey by the Academic Affairs Committee. The faculty responding to the survey indicated that: The first priority is an outcome assessment survey, the second priority is plagiarism, the third priority is evaluation of teaching faculty by freshmen, the fourth priority is cheating, and the fifth priority is cross listing of community college courses with regular courses. Senator Murphy then indicated that the committee would welcome other suggestions for topics for investigations through the year.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee Report: Senator Kacer indicated that there were no by-laws pending, but that the committee is ready to assist Senators with elections when advised of the need.

Communications Committee Report: Senator Garrett reported that the Communications Committee produces the Faculty Senate Newsletter and invites articles regarding the life of the university from Senators and non-Senators alike. Those contemplating articles are invited to contact Senator Garrett. Senator Garrett indicated that the Faculty Senate Newsletter will contain at least one innovation, that being a table of contents.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee Report: Senator Kuehn indicated that the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee will produce the annual salary survey, that the Committee

is looking into questions regarding the credit union, a smoke-free environment, and will follow up on tuition waivers as old business. New issues being looked into include the question of the status of women faculty, maternity and child care leave, health issues, liability of faculty taking students off-campus for fieldwork, and other issues as may arise.

Fiscal Affairs Committee Report: Senator Glaser reported on fiscal affairs matters. Concerning athletics, the addition of a new Budget Manager was noted, with the hope that future Athletics Department budgets should be more realistic. However, with Western in a new conference this year the opinion was expressed that the department is likely to be over budget, and furthermore that participation at the NCAA-1A level is expected to be a money losing proposition. A Coordinator of Equipment and Facilities was hired at a salary of about \$17,000. Additional personnel changes having an impact on the Athletics Department expenditures include hiring of a Director of Marketing and Promotions at a salary in the low \$20,000's, and promotion of an individual to Associate Athletic Director. All new positions are expected to at least partly pay for themselves according to Senator Glaser. Senator Glaser noted that his committee, like others, is open to new topics.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Report: Senator James reported that the committee is studying procedures regarding faculty sick leave, and is interested in suggestions for more issues.

Faculty Regent Report: Regent Evans began by noting that he does not speak for the Board, but believes that the Board is interested in athletic spending, pursuit of "greatness in football" is not a high objective for the Board, and that many Board members think education is the main game.

Regent Evans noted the long time to get the budget passed, and acknowledged concerns of some board members about the disparity in raises accorded to individuals, and a wide gap in salary from top to bottom.

Regent Evans reported to the Board the Senate's position with respect to Board involvement in questions relating to comprehensive examinations, and noted that the Board will meet shortly to revisit the question of the credit union on campus. Regent Evans noted some of the concerns that the Board of Regents had, including most particularly the questions of whether the Western Kentucky University can legally have a credit union on campus, and if so the circumstances under which that might be possible. Regent Evans stated that the Board deliberated carefully before acting and took its position vis-a-vis the credit union with no animosity towards the credit union.

A lively colloquy followed Regent Evans' report and involved several Senators including Senators Bruni, Bluhm, Caillouet, Dorman and Murphy. Questions arose concerning whether the University attorney had looked adequately into the question, whether the needs of employees and students were considered, whether the diversity of membership was a relevant issue, and concern about the lack of an Attorney General's opinion specifically on the Western Kentucky University credit union. Regent Evans replied that the regents relied on the advice of attorneys in coming to their decisions, that he was not aware of any specific ruling on WKU's credit union, and that in any event the Regents had no objection to bringing up the issue again.

New Business: Senator Murphy proposed a resolution as follows: "In response to widespread faculty and staff comment, the Faculty Senate asks the Board of Regents to reconsider and modify its decision of July 29, 1991 regarding the Western Kentucky

University Credit Union." Senator Murphy moved to approve the motion on its first reading, which motion was seconded by Senator Otto. Following discussion, a motion was made by Senator Bluhm and seconded by Senator Foley to amend this resolution by substituting the word "rescind" for "modify". This motion was carried by both voice vote. Following discussion, the amended resolution was passed on voice vote. Senator Glaser moved to accept the motion on a first reading and, no objection being registered, the motion was accepted by the Chair. Following this item the Senate session was adjourned.

RESOLUTION OF FACULTY SENATE XV
September 12, 1991

RESOLVED, In response to widespread faculty and staff concern, the Faculty Senate asks the Board of Regents to reconsider and rescind its decision of July 29, 1991 regarding the Western Kentucky University Credit Union.