

Oct. 10, 1991

FACULTY SENATE XV MINUTES
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The October meeting of Senate XV was called to order by Joan Krenzin, substituting for Arvin Vos. The Chair and Vice Chair being absent, Joan Krenzin served as the Chair and Fred Murphy served as Parliamentarian. The minutes of the September 12, 1991 meeting were approved as submitted, except that the last sentence in the opening paragraph was deleted. Senators absent without representation were James Bingham, John Bruni, Larry Caillouet, Ann Cline, Phil Duff, John Faine, Stephen Jacobs, Gary McKercher, Robert A. Otto, Norma Schira, Stephen Spencer, and Stephen White. Senators absent but represented by their respective substitutes were: Louella Fong by M. Jenkins; Susan James by Nan Restine; Sally Kuhenschmidt by Jacqueline Pope; Arvin Vos by Edward Schoen; and Ed Dorman for Richard Hackney. Vice President Robert Haynes was also absent.

Executive Committee Report: Senator Krenzin relayed a request by Arvin Vos to Committee Chairs that if they could not be present at the meeting of the Council of Committee Chairs he would appreciate the presence of another committee member in the council. The Executive Committee considered the possibility of a Spring university convocation at the President's request and advised the President that it was less than enthusiastic regarding it because of the concern about having an extra meeting.

Academic Affairs Committee Report: Academic Affairs had nothing to report.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee Report: New senators were asked to stand and introduce themselves. There was some confusion on this point. In particular, Senator Lou Turley was not sure whether he would be considered a new Senator inasmuch as he had attended the September 12th Faculty Senate meeting. Following clarification that this round of introductions was intended for all Senators who were new to the Senate this term, Lou Turley graciously rose and introduced himself to the Senate with other new Senators then following suit.

Communications Committee: Jan Garrett announced that the first issue of the Faculty Senate Newsletter was out, but that the Communications Committee did not yet have any articles for the next issue. Senator Garrett announced that the Committee would need four or more pages of material to comprise a Faculty Senate Newsletter. Senators who did not receive the appropriate number of copies should notify Senator Garrett or the Senate office.

Fiscal Affairs Committee: The Fiscal Affairs Committee had no report.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee Report: Georg Bluhm substituting for the Committee Chair reported that the Committee is beginning work on documentation of the progressive increases in travel costs, and associated travel allowance disbursements. The Committee expects to produce a report in March 1992 in which it may be found that travel reimbursements are adequate or inadequate. In either event the Committee will report to the Senate at large.

Report of COSFL Meeting: Sylvia Pulliam reported on the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education (COSFL) meeting held Saturday, September 28th in Louisville, Kentucky. Notable reports were received on women's issues, from the University of Kentucky delegation; athletics, from Western Kentucky University; and on part-time faculty from the University of Louisville. COSFL also discussed the

Western Kentucky University Credit Union issue, recommended an exchange of ideas and information, and decided not to make funds available for lobbying because of limited funds.

Faculty Regent Report: Regent Evans announced the two issues he was prepared to discuss, the WKU Credit Union and the Student Health Service. Regarding the Credit Union, Regent Evans reported that he introduced and the Regents passed unanimously a resolution to attempt to see that the same services provided by the WKU Credit Union remain available to faculty, students and staff on campus. The Board of Regents' legislative intent regarding the Credit Union is that WKU should end up with services very much like those provided by the present Credit Union. The Board resolved that space was to be let to the highest and most qualified bidder for space.

Regent Evans announced that he asked the Chairman of the Board to seek an Attorney General's opinion about the legality of the WKU Credit Union, but got back a letter which was not an "opinion". The letter advises that Section 177 of the Kentucky Constitution prohibits WKU as a State agency to assist organizations it has no control over. Before being leased, the Credit Union space would have to be declared for these purposes as surplus, then sealed bids or public auction would be a required mechanism to let space for a credit union. At present the Credit Union rent is believed to be \$402.50 per month including utilities. It was announced that 1,178 signatures had been collected protesting the closing of the WKU Credit Union.

President Meredith spoke on the general issue of the Credit Union and announced that the University is getting a list of all services provided by the WKU Credit Union in order to construct a bid specification. In addition, it was announced that the Credit Union would use a reduced space in a new arrangement, that the bidding procedure is intended to go forward in an open and fair process and that Valerie Kinder is pleased with the process to date.

Regarding the future of Student Health Service, Regent Evans announced that he has not detected any particular opinion of Board members. He reminded the Senate that the initiative regarding changes in the Student Health Service came from faculty and staff via the Western 21 document. The goal is the best level of quality for a reasonable price.

Fiscal Affairs Committee Report: There was no report from the Fiscal Affairs Committee.

New Business: Fred Murphy moved to adopt a resolution regarding possible budget cuts to assure that decisions about them are made according to the spirit and priorities of Western 21. The motion was seconded by Georg Bluhm. President Meredith spoke in support of the resolution. The President indicated that a meeting was held at the Frankfurt State Budget Office in which there was some "doom and gloom" and that some budget cuts seemed likely. "Therefore: Be it resolved that whenever and if ever budget cuts become necessary the Faculty Senate urges that they should be made according to the priorities established by Western XXI, with its emphasis upon the importance of the classroom and teaching, and in consultation with representative faculty." The motion carried on voice vote.

Georg Bluhm rose to propose a second resolution as follows in support of the proposed revision of the Kentucky Revised Statutes to assure that Regents are drawn from a pool of qualified people. Currently no particular qualifications are necessary for WKU Regents. Current statute requires only that there be no more than two from one county,

and no more than four from each political party. The motion was read as follows: "Therefore: Be it resolved the Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Committee of the Faculty Senate shall forthright establish contact with the Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Northern Kentucky University. The purpose is to create a unified position of the six State universities for preparing and promoting legislative revision by the General Assembly in its forthcoming session of the Kentucky Revised Statutes currently in effect which determines the governance of the six State universities." The motion was seconded by Mike Klien and was adopted by voice vote. The Chair may appoint an ad hoc committee to implement this resolution.

President Meredith rose to announce the status of the health insurance program at WKU. He noted that four years of coverage had been proposed via sequential annual options. The Plan T-2000 will go up in price significantly but other plans have had much more modest increases. In asking for a sense of the Senate regarding extra money being expended for organ transplants, a show of hands indicated that the Senate would be in favor of having this option for a small additional cost.

There being no further business, the Senate meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF FACULTY SENATE XV
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RESOLVED, That whenever and if ever budget cuts become necessary the Faculty Senate urges that they should be made according to the priorities established by Western XXI, with its emphasis upon the importance of the classroom and teaching, and in consultation with representative faculty.