

FACULTY SENATE XV MINUTES

Feb. 28, 1992 [Jan]

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The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. by Chair Arvin Vos. Absent without representation were Senators Ann Cline, Ed Dorman, William Howard, Norman Hunter, Susan James, Gary McKercher, and Barbara Strand and President Thomas Meredith. Minutes of the December 12, 1991 meeting were approved as submitted.

Executive Committee Report: The chair commented briefly about the value of faculty communicating with area business persons. He noted that the public's primary information about the university is from the news media, and that it is primarily about athletics. The chair noted that some members of the Executive Committee had taken whatever opportunities were presented to them to inform the business community of the challenges which confront faculty in the classroom and suggested that other faculty might do likewise since at this time there is almost no flow of information regarding the academic mission of the university into the community. It was proposed that any differences between the parties may be based on a lack of information rather than ill will. Therefore, providing information on behalf of the faculty and the university as a whole might turn the business community's concern, which is welcome, to a good purpose. The chair also reported that the administration's progress on such matters as formulating policies on sexual harassment and smoking has been delayed by recent events.

By-laws, Amendments and Elections Committee: The chair reported that a new at-large senator from the College of Education, Sam Evans, would be joining the Senate to replace Senator Ann Cline.

Faculty Status and Welfare: Senator Kuhlenschmidt commented that the last paragraph of the committee's report in the newsletter concerning liability issues was truncated. The committee will continue gathering appropriate information and committee member Larry Scott was named as the person that interested parties may contact. Senator Kuhlenschmidt also noted that last year's committee report on sexual harassment was forwarded to a new Administration committee without explanation and that committee is to take the current report and, with an attorney's input, formulate a new policy to submit to the Board of Regents for approval. This committee expects to present resolutions in the near future on sexual harassment, affirmative action officers and salaries. The Chair then advised that the President had assured the Executive Committee that the full senate would have an opportunity to look at and discuss the work product of the new committee. The Faculty Senate's annual Faculty Salary Survey was distributed at the end of the meeting. (Departmental senators are to make their copy available to colleagues.)

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Fiscal Affairs Committee: Senator Glaser presented a Football Finances Report which indicates that football revenues continue to fall even while spending is apparently being controlled. Less was budgeted for food this year but it appears that the team is about to overspend. As a point of information Senator Glaser noted that Western's recent vote in support of a I-AAA NCAA classification was an accommodation to other schools and was not an indication of the Administration's intentions with regard to WKU football. Dr. Marciani had indicated in another forum that the administration intends for WKU to continue to compete in football at the current level. It appears that revenues continue to fall along with attendance and the "bottom line" is an increase in institutional resources devoted to the football program. Financially the program appears to be worse off this year than last year. The figures do not include cost areas such as trainers, medical expenses and stadium maintenance, which are not reflected in the budget for football. The chair and vice-chair indicated that the athletic director has been invited to address the Senate in February and may respond to the report at that time.

Political Action Committee: Richard Weigel, substituting for Charles Bussey, noted that the prominent items for the committee at this time are the Scorsone bill to reform the process for appointing regents (House Bill 149) and the open records bill. The committee distributed the names and addresses of key senators to lobby for the regents' reform bill, as well as the names and toll free numbers of Warren County's state legislators. The speaker reported that Governor Jones expressed interest in having more direct community and university president input into the Boards of Regents. The speaker then voiced his own concern that a mechanism to achieve such input could invite unwarranted interference in university governance.

Faculty Regent: No report.

New business: Vice-chair Robert Otto introduced four resolutions dealing with the university budget. As the resolutions were introduced on behalf of a committee, a second was not required. The Vice-chair proposed that the resolutions be considered on one reading and, no objections being heard, the proposal was adopted. Following discussion, the resolutions passed on voice vote as a set with copies of the resolutions to be forwarded to Budget Committee members as well as the President.

Announcements: The next meeting of the faculty Senate will be Thursday, Feb. 13.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTIONS

1. That the funds required for increased fixed expenses as well as the decrease from the current budget required by the state be taken from areas which do not impinge directly on the classroom or library.
2. That there be no cuts in areas which directly affect the classroom.
3. That the Administration and the board of Regents examine and re-evaluate the various support areas of the university, both with an eye to possible efficiencies and with regard to evaluating the contribution of each to the mission of the university.
4. That the Senate rejects the modification of Western XXI that changed Inter-collegiate Athletics from "desirable" to "essential." The Senate also requests that the Intercollegiate Athletic program be reviewed, as proposed in Western XXI.