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Faculty Senate Minutes
September 9, 1993

Call to Order

The second meeting of Senate XVII was called to order by Chair Dietle at 3:32 p.m. . R. Hansen substituted for Charles Hay and Connie Milks substituted for Larry Scott. Absent without alternates were Jim Brown, Dorsey Grice, Chris Hamilton, Rita Hessley, Terry Leeper, Bill Meadors, Richard Patterson, Carol Stavropoulos. Chair Dietle announced a change in the agenda: the Faculty Regents report was cancelled since Regent Mendel was not available.

Considerations of the Minutes

The minutes for the April 29th meeting were approved without any corrections.

Report from President Meredith about the State Commission on Higher Education

The announcement that the budget would not be cut further for this current year came simultaneous with an announcement that a commission to study higher education was formed. The commission is composed of the presidents and the board chairs of all Kentucky state universities, as well as some legislators and the Council on Higher Education Chair. All senators received in their package a list of the 10 "very heavy and complicated issues" for consideration by the commission. President Meredith was told about this commission on August 10th, 1993. The final report of the commission is due November 1, 1993. The commission has not met yet. The meeting scheduled for September 13th, 1993 has been postponed since Governor Jones expressed a desire to be involved with the commission and particularly its first meeting. President Meredith indicated that the presidents of the Kentucky state universities don't know anything at this time and are anxious and concerned about the direction this commission may take since the topics are very impactful.

President Meredith had a meeting on campus with the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate and a number of other people to seek input on the issues to be discussed by the commission. President Meredith is not sure about the posture WKU should take on the issues, but wants to have several plans formulated by the time the commission meets for the first time. He indicated further that he is seeking campus input on those topics.

All the members of the board of regents have the opportunity for input once the direction of the commission's work has been clarified, as will anyone on this campus.

Glenn Lohr raised a question about whether or not WKU is in a state of "financial exigency" since the minutes from the March meeting paraphrased Meredith as saying that. Meredith said that WKU is not in a state of financial exigency.

Committee Reports

Report of the Executive Committee (by Robert Dietle)

The executive committee is made up of the officers, the elected representatives from the colleges and the chairs of the Faculty Senate committees. The executive committee meets to set the agenda for the Faculty Senate meetings. Anyone can bring issues and items to the attention of the executive committee.

Report of the Committee on By-Laws, Amendments and Elections (by Larry Snyder)

The committee supervises nominations, elections and studies recommendations concerning by-laws and amendments. Larry Snyder asked the other members of the committee to caucus after the meeting to vote for a chair.

Report of the Committee on Professional Responsibilities (by Lynn Newhart)

The committee deals with policies and procedures regarding issues such as faculty evaluations, grievances, patents and copyrights. Last year the committee conducted the survey of how faculty felt about faculty evaluations. The committee might do this again this year. The member of the committee should caucus after the meeting.

Report of the Committee on Faculty Status and Welfare (by Marvin Leavy)

Marvin Leavy indicated that he will draw upon the skills and expertise of the members of the committee for the annual task of preparing the salary survey of faculty. The committee is open for suggestions from other senators about how to improve the format of the survey. A copy of the survey is available in the reference room of the Helm library. The committee will caucus afterwards to determine meeting(s) for later this semester.

Report of the Committee on Academic Affairs (by David Neal)

The work of the committee will be guided by the platform statement as written last year. The committee will concern itself with the business the Academic Council is undertaking and also business they think they should undertake. For that purpose they will contact the Chair of the Academic Council to get their agenda. For issues with budgetary consequences they will liaison with the Financial Affairs committee.

Report of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs (Shula Ramsay substituted for Larry Scott)

The senator read the section concerning the Fiscal Affairs Committee from the Constitution of the Faculty Senate. She also asked other senators for input on how the committee can meet its responsibility.

Report of the Committee on Communications (by Ed Dorman)

The committee publishes the Senate News Letters and puts out other communications from the Chair of the Faculty Senate to the faculty as a whole. The newsletter solicits and welcomes contributions from all faculty members. Contributions can be sent to any member of the committee.

New Business

Election of a representative and alternate for COSFUL

Joan Krenzin explained that COSFUL used to stand for "Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders". It is a group composed of the Faculty Senate or Academic Council Chairs of the eight public institutions of Kentucky and one or more other representative of each school. COSFUL meets about once every 2 months, sometimes more often at different schools. Glenn Lohr nominated Charles Bussey; Joan Krenzin nominated Barry Brunson, who respectfully declined; Lynn Newhart nominated Bart White. By ballot, Charles Bussey was voted as representative and Bart White as alternate.

Joan Krenzin raised the question whether another regular member is needed since the Chair indicated that he will not be able to join COSFUL this year. The Chair decided to ask the Vice Chair to take over that responsibility.

Resolution offered by Bart White

Bart White made a motion which reads as:

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate encourages the Chair of Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents to reconsider the committee assignment of Faculty Regent Ray Mendel by assigning Dr. Mendel to the Financial Committee of the Board of Regents.

The motion was seconded. The Chair decided that this motion requires two readings and that the second reading will be at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

William Traugott suggested to use a different set up for the meetings of the Faculty Senate such that the senators are not so widely spread out.

Announcements

Chair Dietle requested that all committees which do not yet have elected a chair caucus after the meeting for the purpose of selecting a chair and inform him about who the chair is.

The Chair wants to see all the chairs and the members of the executive committee right after the meeting.

The Chair indicated that there will be big issues coming up for discussion this year, such as the budget and the salary plan.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07.

Respectfully submitted by Uta Ziegler