

Faculty Senate Minutes

November 11, 1993

Call to Order

The fourth meeting of the Faculty Senate XVII was called to order at 3:37 p.m. Fred Murphy substituted for Charles Bussey, Betty Fulwood substituted for Fong Louella, Jean Almand substituted for Marvin Leavy, and Susan Devaney substituted for William Traugott. Absent without alternates were Larry Caillouet, Dorsey Grise, Chris Hamilton, Joan Krenzin, Terry Leeper, Bill Meaders, Stiles David, Smith Robert, Samanta Thapa, James Worthington.

Considerations of the Minutes

The minutes for the October 14th meeting were approved without any corrections.

Committee ReportsReport from the Executive Committee (by Robert Dietle)

The Executive Committee met on November 2 to select the members of the faculty committee to review Western XXI. The following are the 12 members:

Business College: Doug Fugate, Tom Noser, Linda Johnson,
Coll. of Educ.: Joyce Rasdall, Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Barbara Kacer,
Potter College: Richard Weigel, Michael Sidler, Lynn Newhart,
Ogden College: Joe Winstead, Claus Ernst, Linda Brown.

Chair Dietle received several calls concerning the fact that the deadline for the nominations to the Western XXI-review committee was not officially announced in the Faculty Senate Newsletter before the deadline passed. The deadline was set at the full meeting of the Faculty Senate. The representatives from each department were instructed to inform their departments of the deadline. Therefore, the nomination process was valid and the committee stands as announced.

The committee to review Western XXI met on November 8 and elected Richard Weigel as chair and will meet again on Nov. 22.

Dietle was contacted by the student government. They are interested in a grading system including + and - grades. This is an issue the academic committee might consider.

Report from the Benefits Committee (by Charles Henrickson)

The members on the Benefits Committee are: Wayne Higgins (Public Health), Peggy Keck (Finance and MIS), Charles Henrickson (Chemistry), Mike Dale (Director of Personell Services, chair), Barbara Denning (Physical Plant), Cecil Garmon, Irene Motley (representative of the secreterial staff), Jane Brooks (Library), James Ramsey, Nancy Givens (Wellness Program Director), and some ex-officio members.

The Benefits Committee is dealing with all the aspects of any and all benefits for all university personell, including holidays, leave, sick leave, flexible benefit packages, continuing education programs for employers, tuition, and grants.

The committee is currently considering several other issues: - a 403(b) annuity fair (something similar to what is offered by VALIC); the committee wants to bring several companies on campus to compare their offers;
- allowing members of the faculty and staff to get prescriptions at a lower cost; the discussions on this subject are still tentative;
- an optional mental health rider that can be added on to the regular insurance;
-incorporating the wellness-concept into Western's health program.

The primary criteria used for evaluating the health insurance bids were:

- first year premium (25%);
- incorporate experience of the provider;
- financial status of the provider;
- whether the provider employs cost containment services;

Senator Henrickson gave a short description of the plans and their cost. The plans selected by the committee were described in a memo mailed to every

faculty and staff member by Mike Dale.

Report of the Faculty Regent (Ray Mendel)

At the last meeting the board established some budget priorities to guide the budget preparation for next year. The priorities were 1) continue with salary plan as adopted last year; 2) continue with emphasis on minority recruitment and retention; 3) continue with technology and networking across campus; 4) maintenance on campus. The finance committee discussed the last issue and decided to collect data by the time of the next meeting which would show whether or not a maintenance problem exists on campus. Nevertheless, the priority was adopted already. The board did not adopt a recommendation of the Academic Committee to suspend the master's program in business administration (which has been dormant for several years). At the next board meeting additional information will be reviewed on that issue.

The board is not dealing with the Higher Education Review Commission as a board. The board did not have any meeting or discussion about the issue. Regent Mendel requested the involvement of the board in the efforts of HERC about six weeks ago in a letter to the chair of the board. Being very actively involved in the process which might come up with recommendations requiring a substantial restructuring of higher education should be in the interest of the board as well as every person involved with higher education.

According to a letter (Nov 5) from Garry Cox to HERC, the commission is moving ahead with decisions which can be used to determine which programs can be eliminated at which school. The commission made a list of all the programs which should be offered at each school (Art, General Biology, General Chemistry, General English, French, German, History, History and Government, General Mathematics, General Music, Music (Liberal Arts), Philosophy, General Physics, Political Science and Government, Spanish), as well as determining the focus of each institution by assessing its mission statement.

Old Business

The resolution below was brought to the floor for a second reading.

Whereas, the University libraries perform service functions that affect the academic role of the entire University, and

Whereas, the university-wide oversight committee for the libraries established during the presidency of Dr. Donald Zacharias, which reported directly to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, no longer exists, and

Whereas, such a committee would be as beneficial in helping the libraries to fulfill their service functions now as it was in the past, therefore

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges President Meredith to re-establish a University Library Oversight Committee, reporting directly to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, to be composed of one faculty member from each of the four colleges, elected by the departmental library representatives of that college, one faculty member from the University Libraries, elected by the University Library Faculty Committee, one faculty member representing the Faculty Senate, elected by the Senate, with the college deans and the Dean of Libraries as ex-officio members, this committee serving the same function with respect the library decisions than the Academic Council serves with respect to curricular decisions.

Chair Dietle informed the senate that the Council of Deans is interested in this issue and that something can be worked out. The resolution passed.

Senator Miller offered a motion to add a representative from the library and the community college to the faculty committee to review Western XXI. The

motion was seconded and passed.

New Business

Senator Lohr offered the following resolution for considerations:

Whereas, the faculty of Western Kentucky University has strived since 1906 to make the University a respected center of learning,

Whereas, Western Kentucky University faculty excels in both basic and applied research,

Whereas, Western Kentucky University faculty has earned reputations which enable them to provide service on a regional, national and international level,

Whereas, the ninety-six academic majors and six master degrees attract students from throughout Kentucky, the United States and foreign countries,

Whereas, the faculty of Western Kentucky University is expected to respond to regional, national and international issues relative to their teaching, research and service role,

Let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate of Western Kentucky University strongly supports the revised mission statement of Western Kentucky University as attached and encourages President Meredith to champion this statement as deliberations continue on the subject of university mission statements.

Chair Dietle decided that this resolution only needs one reading, if there is no objection.

Senator Brunson offered a friendly amendment to change the last sentence of the resolution to read "... supports the concept of Western Kentucky University as a comprehensive university and encourages President Meredith to champion this cause as deliberations.....". The amendment was accepted.

The resolution passed.

Senator Wilder made the following motion:

The Faculty Senate establishes a committee of 5 Senators to meet after this meeting to work out a statement to be sent to the board which emphasizes the concern of the Faculty Senate over the activities of the Higher Education Review Commission and to encourage the board to take action.

The motion was seconded. Senator White offered a friendly amendment to delegate the task to the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate. The amendment was accepted. The motion passed.

Announcement

All the members of the executive committee should meet after this meeting is adjourned.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.

Respectfully submitted by
Uta Ziegler