

Call to Order

The seventh meeting of the Senate XVII was called to order by Chair Dietle at 3:32. John Barnum substituted for Corban Goble, Bob Hansen for Charles Hays, Joe Brooks for David Kelsey, Sheryl Venable for Karen Sansom, and Rose Davis for Nelda Sims. Absent without alternates were Jim Brown, Lou-Ann Crouther, Matthew Dettman, Ed Dorman, Louella Fong, Dorsey Grice, Chris Hamilton, Barbara Kacer, Terry Leeper, Patricia Lockett, Glenn Lohr, Bill Meadors, David Neal, Rudy Prins, Karen Sansom, Larry Scott, Robert Smith, and Uta Ziegler.

Considerations of the Minutes

The minutes for the February 17th meeting were approved without any corrections.

Committee ReportsReport from the Executive Committee (Robert Dietle)

The chair presented the resolutions passed in the special session on February 24 to the board of regents. The reception was polite and the board members seemed to be interested.

The annual evaluation of President Meredith will be sent out the week after spring break. The same format is used as last year.

Candidates for office for the new senate are needed.

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

New departmental elections were held in Ogden College, Potter College, and the College of Business Administration. The following were the newly elected senators for the departments:

Allied Health:	Bill Howard	Biology:	Jeff Kent
Chemistry:	Earl Pearson	Engineering Technology:	Mathew Dettman
Geography/Geology:	David Keeling	Industrial Technology:	Daniel Jackson
Mathematics:	Randy Swift	Nursing:	Linda Clark
Government:	Ed Yager	History:	Fred Murphy
Music:	Charles Smith	Sociology&Anthropology:	Lynn Newhart
Dep. of Management:	Eugene Evans		

Ogden College will be electing 4 at-large senators. One of these seats is a new seat based on the number of faculty. Education will be adding one new seat based on the number of faculty.

Report from the COSFL representative (Charles Bussey)

COSFL met on 3-5-94 in Louisville. A resolution was drafted and presented to the Council on Higher Education on 3-7-94. The resolution is a response to legislation pending in the House and Senate. The resolution urges the Council to reject or revise several recommendations in the report of the Governor's task force on teacher preparation. The pending legislation would be a very serious violation of fundamental principles of academic freedom and university governance in the area of instructional methods. It would also base tenure, promotion and merit pay decision on the application of instructional methods and standards evaluations determined by an agency outside of the university.

University of Louisville faculty decided to bring in an auditor from the national AAUP this spring to audit the university's certified financial statement and to deliver a public address afterwards. Northern Kentucky University indicated that they are also interested in doing this.

Report by a faculty representative on the Budget Committee (Bob Hansen)

The first meeting of the budget committee was in September, the second meeting around February 14. Nothing has been done to institute any cuts, nor have any actions been taken to raise additional revenue. The budget committee has not been given adequate information or opportunity where they have a choice of cutting. Suggestions made by members of the budget committee don't seem to have any impact at all. Most of the decisions are made with the vice presidents. Their decisions are given to the budget committee. The budget is supposed to be finalized on March 25, 1994.

Pay increases to faculty and staff (\$2.7 mill), increases in fixed costs (\$0.5 mill), promotions, library periodicals and insurance increases (\$0.25 mill), other items marked as essential dealing with technologies including special faculty research grants (\$0.9 mill), other items marked as desirable (\$0.22 mill), Academic Affairs (hire full-time faculty members in each area of study at the community college to satisfy SACS requirements) and other faculty needs (\$0.6 mill), President's Office and Student Affairs (\$0.2 mill), VP Office for Institutional Advancement (\$0.4 mill), VP Office for Finance and Administration (\$38,000) add up to increases of \$5.8 million in expenditures, but revenues increase only by \$1.8 million.

Report by the faculty regent (Ray Mendel)

The 5% salary increase for faculty and staff falls short of what the 3-year plan calls for. President Meredith has repeatedly said that he has protected instruction. However, the percentage of money spent on instruction has not increased relative to the budget in place when President Meredith came to WKU. Data shows that the percentage of university money spent on non-instructional areas is too high. One of the SACS reviewers questioned whether the university is spending an appropriate amount on instruction.

The faculty regent will meet with each college in the next few weeks. The faculty needs to stand up if they believe that a more realistic allocation of resources is necessary.

In the last 3 years, the university has consistently underestimated increases in revenues and/or overestimated increases in expenditures. At the end of the fiscal year, the "left-over" money is put in a fund balance. Last year \$3 million were added to the fund balance. The current fund balance is about \$4 mill.

Old Business

Senator Leavy's resolution below passed on the second reading.

WHEREAS information on the Highest Degree is missing for many faculty in the printout supplied to the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee for use in preparing its annual salary survey for the Faculty Senate;

WHEREAS the Nine Month Equivalent salary of faculty for the prior year in the printout is not systematically updated to reflect all changes in that year (thereby creating some incorrect \$ and % change figures);

The Faculty Senate of Western Kentucky University requests that the Office of Institutional Research supplies the Computer and Informational Services Office with updated information on the highest degree and revised prior year nine month salaries of faculty to be posted in the printout run off each fall for the Faculty Status and Welfare Committee of the Senate.

New Business

Senator Miller put the following motion on the floor for a first reading.

Whereas, the faculty of the English Department strongly questions the procedures used for administering the Instructor and Course Evaluation Forms; and

Whereas, the methods used imply that all faculty members of the university may be unprofessional, unethical and untrustworthy; and

Whereas, the faculty waste time and effort in searching out colleagues to administer the evaluation which serves no useful purpose since the confidentiality of the process can still be breached; and

Whereas, the university faces shrinking financial resources;

Resolved, that the original system of administering the forms be reinstated while the university reconsiders the use of Instructor and Course evaluations in general.

Larry Caillouet moved to amend by substitution to read that the Faculty Senate will create a committee to re-evaluate the process by which instructors and courses are evaluated at Western. The amendment carried. The

Motion will be up for the second reading at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Senator Newhart moved that the Faculty Senate should consider a change in the evaluations of the President.

During the discussion it was mentioned that some faculty members would prefer a yes/no question as the vote of confidence rather the extended format of evaluation which is used now. The motion failed.

Senator Newhart made the following motion: The Faculty Senate of WKU urges the administration to restructure the university so that there is an increase in the percentage of budget allocated to instruction. The motion was not seconded.

Senator Snyder moved that the Faculty Senate request the Board of Regents to undertake a study of other benchmark institutions to determine the percentage of budget spent on instruction.

The motion was accepted for the first reading. William Traugott moved that the motion can be passed on one reading. A vote in favor of this procedure passed. The original motion passed.

Announcements

The next meeting is on April 14, 1994. Nominations for next year's officers are needed soon.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50.

Respectfully submitted by Uta Ziegler