

Faculty Senate Minutes  
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XVIII  
Thursday, October 13, 1994  
Garrett Conference Center Ballroom

Call to Order

The faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chair Marvin Leavy at 3:31 p.m. Russell Moore substituted for Charles Bussey, Randy Deere for Mary Cobb, John Petersen for Robert Haynes, S. R. Ahsan for David Keeling, and Antony D. Norman for Shula Ramsay. Absent without alternatives were Larry Caillouet, Sharon Holzendorf, Jeff Kent, Fred Murphy, David Stiles, and Weib Van Der Meer.

Leavy informed the Senate that Steve Catron was not able to attend today's Senate meeting, due to a death in the immediate family. Therefore, the discussion on the Western Kentucky University Foundation is being delayed until the November meeting, which is being rescheduled for Tuesday, November 8. One advantage to this delay is that Senate members can submit questions to ask Catron and Vice President Robert Rutledge; questions concerning the WKU foundation can be submitted to Senators Charles Hays, David Keeling, Shula Ramsay, and Ed Yager.

Consideration of the Minutes

The minutes from the September 8 meeting were corrected to spell the name of Earl Fischer, Chair of the Board of Regents, correctly. Approved as corrected.

Reports of Faculty Senate Committees

A. Executive Committee (Marv Leavy):

- 1) Chair Leavy reported that the President has agreed to send to the Senate Executive Committee copies of College and Vice Presidential reports that will be submitted in response to the President's document "Moving to a New Level." The President has also assured the Executive Committee that there will be major faculty involvement in the committee that will be formed to respond to these reports, although he has not guaranteed the 50% commitment that the Senate has requested.
- 2) The University Budget Committee has tentatively recommended the following priorities for Western Kentucky University:
  1. Enhance faculty and staff salaries
  2. Enhance minority student recruitment
  3. Enhance student retention
  4. Enhance funding to "move to a new level"
  5. Enhance technology
  6. Increase the operating budget
  7. Maintain current staffing levels
- 3) Leavy also reported that the Senate has asked for the text of the resolution passed by the Special Budget Subcommittee of the Finance Committee that will be forwarded to the Board of Regents. The President has responded that he will send a

copy of the full resolution to the entire faculty.

- 4) Senator Charles Hays has been newly appointed by the President to the University Budget Committee, and Senator Fred Murphy continues to serve on this committee. Hays was a nominee of the Executive Committee of the Senate. Also, nominations for the V.P.A.A.'s advisory committee have been forwarded to Dr. Haynes.
- 5) Leavy attended the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) meeting in Louisville, on September 17. He reported that COSFL provides an opportunity to learn what is happening at other Kentucky universities. Eastern Kentucky University has adopted our faculty morale survey form. At the next meeting, COSFL will draft a set of questions for General Assembly legislators. The plan is to discuss the issues with one or two legislators at a time.

B. Professional Responsibilities and Concerns (Roy Cabaniss):

Senator Cabaniss addressed our faculty evaluation forms. In 1988, a Senate committee recommended that we drop this form and measure "outcomes" instead, but it stopped there. The literature on the topic indicates that we are using a form of satisfaction measurement rather than evaluation; and the literature on satisfaction measurement indicates that the way we are doing it isn't the way it should be done.

Cabaniss indicated that Purdue University, which is the source of our procedure, quit using it 4 years ago. Faculty at Purdue usually received a midpoint evaluation for items with a 7-point scale, whereas we usually receive a score of 4 on a 5-point scale. Purdue did not have an overall evaluation item, but had a 6-item common core which it used in summation.

Discussion followed, which suggested that "tough" professors are likely to receive lower evaluations and that evaluations often reflect the course itself or the interests of students in the course rather than the professor's performance.

Report of Faculty Regent (Ray Mendel):

Regent Mendel reported that what has happened at the Special Budget Committee of the Board of Regents is a watershed event. Partly due to the Herald's efforts, the committee focused on substance in that open meeting on October 5. Hopefully, this will set a precedent. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for October 28.

The Special Budget Committee stated a need for increasing the emphasis on the instruction, research, and library portion of the budget, sustained over several years, pointing out the need for specific budget approval and a multi-year plan.

Mendel pointed out a PCS Category disparity in a comparison of Western's spending with in-state and out-of-state benchmark institutions. WKU is 5.5% to 6.0% below the benchmark average for instruction, but higher than the benchmark average for institutional support and financial aid, with student services about 1/2% higher than the benchmark average. Academic

expenditures (combined total of instruction, research, academic support, and libraries) is 8% below the benchmark average. He suggested that we need to do some reallocation.

Mendel provided an overhead chart showing that money spent on instruction, research, and libraries as a percentage of the total budget (E&G) went down for 2 years under President Kern Alexander, then up for 3 years, and down again for 2 years.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A. Senator Dorsey Grice made a motion to commend the Special Budget Committee of the Board (appended to minutes); seconded. Senator William Traugott moved to amend the resolution to include the President; seconded. Amendment failed. Resolution passed without amendment.

B. Senator Eugene Evans stated that the Senate is grateful for the stellar work that Regent Mendel has done in encouraging the Board to act openly and substantively. The comment was greeted with applause from the Senate.

Announcement

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 8, at 3:30 pm, in Garrett Ballroom. Note the change of date to allow Steve Catron and Robert Rutledge to attend. We intend to follow the agenda originally scheduled for today.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted by Sylvia Clark Pulliam

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Resolution passed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate commend the Special Budget Committee of the Board of Regents on its open discussion on October 5, 1994, of the University's budget, on its recognition of the need for more emphasis on expenditures for instruction, research, and libraries, and on its report of recommendations to the Board.