

Faculty Senate Minutes, Tuesday, April 25, 1995
 Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XIX
 Gerard Auditorium, Garrett Conference Center

Call to Order

The first meeting of Faculty Senate XIX, for the 1995-96 year was called to order by outgoing Chair Marvin Leavy at 3:34 pm. Craig Taylor substituted for Ed Bohlander and Mary Ellen Miller for Joe Glaser. Nancy Baird, John Crenshaw, Charles Crume, Matthew Dettman, Blaine Ferrell, Bill Howard, Jeff Kent, Glenn Lohr, Zubair Mohamed, Tony Norman, Brent Oglesbee, Earl Pearson, Joyce Rasdall, Jack Rudolph, Karen Schneider, Charles Smith, Bill Traugott, and Wieb Van Der Meer were absent without substitution.

Disposition of the Minutes

The minutes of the April 13 meeting were amended to show that the first recommendation of the resolution which was passed concerning part-time faculty should read, "Increase the stipends by \$100 across all Grades," rather than by \$1000, as originally recorded. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Reports of Faculty Senate Committees

A. Executive Committee (Marvin Leavy):

The Executive Committee met yesterday with President Meredith to follow up on new level recommendations. The President reported that although the state will be granting WKU less money this year than last, a 5% average salary increase is still targeted for 1995-96. He is also concerned about how individual health insurance coverage will be affected by new state-wide insurance coverage.

Chair Leavy expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee and to those who served on (especially those who chaired) Senate committees. If he could have changed anything, he would have expedited committee reports in order to get to old business earlier. He suggested that the next Senate see how many Senators would be impacted if Senate meetings were to begin at 3 instead of 3:30.

Leavy reported the results of the Senate Survey of Faculty Opinions, also known as the Morale Survey (copy attached). There were 262 respondents to the survey, or 49% of the faculty surveyed (visiting, part-time, and early retirement professors were not included). Four responses were too late to be included, so 258 were counted. Thirty-four comments were received and are available in the Senate office, as well as mean scores for each item, excluding the Undecided category. Randy Swift was responsible for statistical computation, along with students assistants.

The most positive responses were to items 14, "I rate my working relations with other faculty as .."; 13, "I rate my job satisfaction as .."; and 11, "My personal assessment of my department head's job performance is that it is ..". The most negative responses were to items 6, "the latitude for the faculty to influence decision-making is .." and 5, "the expectation that a faculty member must be proficient in all professional areas (teaching, research and service) is that this expectation is ..".

Leavy compared this survey to other years in response to item #1, "My personal impression of faculty morale is that it is ..": 68% of the respondents found morale poor in 1992, 63% in 1993, 60% in 1994, and 42% in 1995. In response to item #10, "My personal assessment of the university president's job performance is that it is ..": 62% found his performance poor in 1992, 44% in 1993, 37% in 1994, and 33% in 1995.

Written comments suggest that most people think Meredith is fine, but they are dissatisfied with salaries and think it is impossible to be proficient in all three areas. Most people are happy with their

department heads, as 64% consider their performance to be good or very good, but 4 out of 5 of the written comments are negative.

B. Bylaws, Amendments, and Election Committee (Catherine Carey):
Carey distributed committee rosters. She also reported that Senators Gene Evans and Bill Traugott are resigning from WKU and therefore will need to be replaced in the Senate.

C. Senate Communications Committee (Bart White):
White is awaiting data to complete the last newsletter of the 1994-95 year. The newsletter will be hand-delivered to department Senators, who will then be responsible for distributing them to their department members.

Old Business

The task force on faculty ethics presented its resolution on Faculty Ethics for second reading (reported at the end of minutes). The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Leavy opened the floor for election of officers for Senate XIX, for the year 1995-96. Marion Lucas nominated Arvin Vos for Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Outgoing Vice-Chair Larry Snyder took the microphone to commend outgoing Chair Leavy for his thorough, meticulous job as Chair. He said that Leavy saw himself as a facilitator, not just someone to represent one segment of the faculty.

Newly elected Chair Arvin Vos took the podium to conduct the rest of the elections.

Mary Ellen White nominated Joe Glaser for Secretary. Carl Kell moved that nominations cease and Glaser be accepted by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

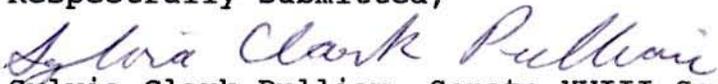
Marion Lucas nominated Fred Murphy for Parliamentarian. Rose Davis moved that Murphy be elected by acclamation. Motion passed unanimously.

Announcements and Adjournment

Senate Chair Arvin Vos asked each committee to caucus and to select a chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,



Sylvia Clark Pulliam, Senate XVIII Secretary

Resolution passed on second reading:

Whereas, faculty status confers both rights and professional responsibilities,

Whereas, discussion of ideals is a valuable activity, profitable in itself,

Whereas, a statement of ethical responsibility expresses the aspirations of a community of people; that community should be involved in the development of the statement,

It is resolved that the Senate present the proposed Statement on Faculty Ethics and Professional Responsibilities to the faculty, and seek ideas from them over the course of the Fall 1995 semester. At the beginning of the Spring 1996 semester the Executive Committee of the Senate will be empowered to revise the working document in light of the obtained ideas. The committee will present the revised document to the entire faculty for a vote on the acceptability of the Statement.