

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XIX
Thursday, December 7, 1995

CALL TO ORDER

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Vice-Chair Carl Kell at 3:35 p.m. Faculty Regent Ray Mendel and Vice President Robert Haynes were present. Deborah Wilkins substituted for President Thomas Meredith, J. Garrett for Arvin Vos, Chris Hamlin for Ed Yager. Nancy Baird, Ed Bohlander, John Barnum, Jim Brown, John Bruni, Charles Daniel, Matthew Dettman, Blaine Ferrell, Bill Howard, Daniel Jackson, Marv Leavy, Glenn Lohr, Herman Manakyan, Brent Oglesbee, Joel Philhours, Jack Rudolph, Karen Schneider, Larry Snyder, and Charles Smith were absent without substitution.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved as read.

REPORT OF FACULTY REGENT - Ray Mendel

Ray and Bart White attended a COSFL meeting at which former Governor Breathitt addressed the group about actions to take for influencing legislators concerning higher education funding. Handwritten letters to legislators from faculty, students, and students families' are more influential. Council of Higher Education funding recommendation is 7% for each year for the next biennium.

The Board met and approved Moving to a New Level with two changes: voluntary service rather than the obligatory service and an altered time table for the rising junior exam. These changes came as a combined effort of Ray, the Senate Executive Committee meetings with the President, and discussions/issues expressed at the last Senate meeting. The President placed the issues before the Board and expressed a willingness to compromise and rethink the issues. Ray commended the President and the Senators for the compromise and open discussion of the issues. The Board approved only the document which was before them at the meeting, nothing more, nothing less. It did not approve the preliminary documents, the individual reports, etc. Nothing is cast in stone and there is room for change to modifying issues as dealt with in committees for implementation.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Affairs - Mark Robinson

Copies of the Moving to a New Level action plan approved by the Board have been distributed to the Senate Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, and five copies placed in the Library Reference Room. New Admission standards will affect new students Fall 1996. Others, including the University College, will take effect Fall 1997. Implementation and getting advisors for the University College will be during the 1996-97 school year. Discussion was held concerning majors and pre-professional programs with rigorous course requirements which students must begin in the Freshman year to graduate in four years. The committee will investigate this issue and report back.

B. By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections - Nancy Baird

No report.

C. Faculty Status and Welfare - Randall Swift

The annual faculty salary review has been distributed. It is a snapshot of status & salary as of September 1995. Committee members tried to verify for accuracy.

D. Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling

Herman Manakyan and Ed Yager are working on an analysis of information on the WKU Foundation. David is on the search committee for the Vice-President for Institutional Advancement. He is talking to the candidates about the open dialog/open books issue which has caused difficulty in gathering information.

The survey of part-time faculty and Dept. Heads has gone out. Part-time faculty responses show concern in salary and perception of part-time faculty. Dept. Head responses indicate concern for salaries and recruiting. Results will be available next semester.

F. Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Marion Lucas

Efforts are being made to get the statement on faculty ethics online for faculty to review and submit responses through e-mail. The Senate Home Page is not yet available.

The University World Wide Web Home Page policy is being studied. Various policies around the country are being reviewed and discussions on a legal bulletin board are being reviewed.

G. Senate Communications - Bart White

The first issue is online but the Senate Home Page is not yet available. The newsletter has passed though the University oversight committee.

H. Executive Committee - Carl Kell

The Executive Committee did not get to meet with the President as he was called to the hospital to be with his mother.

Carl requested Senators review the statement on faculty ethics and responsibilities so it can be presented for a second reading in the spring semester. Copies will be sent to those not up on WKUNet.

Senator Lohr sent Carl a memo that WKU is selling internet services in conjunction with MCI. Lohr recommended that this be available for faculty at no charge. This will be investigated and reported on. Regent Mendel reported that faculty access is being discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Bart White presented a statement on support for higher education from COSFL (Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education in Kentucky) to be considered and passed as worded by all Faculty Senates in the state. COSFL leadership will present it to legislators in January 1996. Bart White moved, J.A.K. Njoku seconded, that we accept this statement of support for higher education and pass it in order to send it to the COSFL leadership this month and have it available in January. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Bart pointed out the resources we have locally in Jody Richards, Speaker of the House, and Jim Ramsey, who will be working with the new Governor. He urged the Executive Committee to take advantage of these resources.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carl suggested everyone remember Chair Vos with a Christmas card. He has been teaching classes, but has limited other activities and could use a little cheer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Davis, Secretary