

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XX
Thursday, February 13, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:35 p.m. Faculty Regent Ray Mendel was present. Deborah Wilkins substituted for President Thomas Meredith, Sharon Whitlock for Jeanette Askins, Nezam Iraniparast for Claus Ernst, John White for Glenn Lohr, Melissa Stewart for J.A.K. Njoku, Lloyd Davies for Karen Schneider. Vice President Barbara Burch, Janet Benton, Catherine Carey, Tabitha Daniel, Charles Daniel, Wade Ferguson, Dorsey Grice, Carl Kell, Herman Manakyan, Tony Norman, Suzanne Norwood, Jack Rudolph, Rick Shannon, and Jianlang Wang were absent without substitution.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 16 meeting were approved with the following correction:

Last paragraph under New Business change "Industrial Education" to "Industrial Technology".

REPORT OF THE FACULTY REGENT - RAY MENDEL

Regent Mendel addressed rumors related to the Board's actions concerning the Presidential search process. It is an open, national search and every effort will be given to get the best person. The search firm has not yet been selected.

At the last meeting the Board looked over the budget. This early look at the budget gave the Board the opportunity to give input to the development of the budget. There is no part of the budget which is protected and no parts will get automatic increases.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs - Marv Leavy

A report which gave a detailed analysis of formalized university scholarships received from Dr. Luther Hughes was reviewed and discussed.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections - Nancy Baird

Two-thirds of the departmental elections are completed. At-large elections for Potter and Education will be held March 4.

Faculty Status and Welfare - Matthew Pruitt

The subcommittee on the faculty development fund is waiting on data and will report in March. There will also be a report on the faculty salary review. Senator Philhours discussed the preliminary report on summer stipends. Senator Petersen reported for Vice President Burch the recognition that current rates for summer school are low and improvements need to be made.

Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling

A report on tuition and fees showing changes between 1985 and 1996 was discussed.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Larry Snyder

The issue of student evaluations of faculty, the availability of these evaluations, a committee appointed by Dr. Burch to oversee this procedure and Senate involvement with this committee, training administrators how to interpret and use the data, and a campus committee looking at record keeping, storage, etc. are being studied. Student evaluations of faculty was one of the more controversial issues raised during "New Level" discussion and approval by the Board was in principle, not details.

Senate Communications Committee - Bart White

The next newsletter is targeted for the first of March with one hard copy sent to each department. Secretary Davis notifies all faculty when the newsletter is on-line.

Executive Committee - Arvin Vos

Colleen Smith is the new student assistant. The Faculty Senate computer is now in the office. The e-mail address is "Faculty Senate". The faculty opinion survey will be mailed soon.

Committee reports are put on the Senate page and included in the newsletter. The data reported by committees is also made available to administrators.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Vos delayed the presentation of the proposed amendment at the request of President Meredith until the Executive Committee has had the opportunity to discuss it with him.

Resolution to the Board of Regents:

The Faculty Senate expresses its appreciation to the Board of Regents for the way in which it has begun the search process for a new president. We hope that the hiring of a search firm will insure a large pool of qualified candidates and can speed the screening process.

We also believe that the proposal to form a search committee that has representatives from various constituencies along with some Board members is sound.

If we can be of assistance as a Senate in hosting a forum for candidates who are invited to campus by the Search Committee, we will be pleased to help.

As members of the Senate, speaking for the faculty, we wish to cooperate in whatever way we can. Not only do candidates need to sell themselves to us, but we will need to convince the candidates that Western will be an exciting place to serve.

Moved for adoption by Senator Murphy, seconded by Senator Keeling. Chair Vos ruled a single reading. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Davis, Secretary