

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XX
Thursday April 10, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:37 p.m. Vice President Barbara Burch was present. J D Droddy substituted for Steve Boilard, Rod Handy for Matthew Dettman, and John White for Glenn Lohr. President Thomas Meredith, Faculty Regent Ray Mendel, Janet Benton, Jim Brown, Tabitha Daniel, Charles Daniel, Ed Dorman, Claus Ernst, Wade Ferguson, Dorsey Grice, Douglas Harper, James D. May, Lyn Miller, Ronald Milliman, J.A.K. Njoku, Tony Norman, Suzanne Norwood, Richard Patterson, Karen Scheinder were absent without substitution.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 13 meeting were corrected as follows: Deborah Lively was present; the second paragraph of the Faculty Regent's report was changed to read: Regent Mendel highlighted some points listed in the report to the Task Force on Higher Education, signed by the Governor. The report is on the Web. Secretary Davis will communicate the web address to Senators. (Secretary Davis will have this web address added to the Faculty Senate homepage.)

REPORT OF THE FACULTY REGENT - Chair Vos

Regent Mendel was unable to attend. Chair Vos reported that Regent Mendel has been communicating to faculty through e-mail.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Affairs - Marv Leavy

Senator Leavy presented the final report of the committee. Recommendations will be presented under new business. Committee members were thanked for work throughout the year.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections - Marion Lucas

All elections are completed. Committee members were thanked, new members were welcomed.

Faculty Status and Welfare - Carl Kell

The summer stipend issue has been discussed by the Executive Committee with Vice-President Burch. The faculty development fund report was reviewed by Senator Kubasik. The faculty development fund committee has been eliminated and the funds will be allocated to the College for distributed. Vice-Chair Kell highlighted a items in the faculty salary review. Thanked committee members and Regent Mendel for work on the salary review.

Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling

Senator Keeling summarized the committee's work on cost/price of attending college in the service area, scholarship funding and athletic funding. Four general recommendations will be presented during new business. Senator Keeling thanked members of his committee.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Larry Snyder

The committee will not be doing a report. Vice-President Burch has convened a committee to review the entire process of faculty evaluations as well as the student comments to report by May 1. The committee members are Chair, Dr. Joe Millichap, Elizabeth Schoenfelt, Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Carol Graham, Wayne Hoffman, Dean Carl Martray, and John Petersen, ex officio. The committee's recommendations will be reviewed by the Colleges and Departments before put in place. Committee members were also thanked.

Senate Communications Committee - Bart White

The latest edition of the newsletter is online. Hard copies have been sent to departments. Secretary Davis was thanked for getting newsletter on line.

Executive Committee - Arvin Vos

Senator Dorman, At-large Senator for Ogden has resigned. The Executive Committee meeting with President Meredith was canceled. The committee met with Dr. Burch. Summer school salaries, part-time salaries, the faculty evaluation process, and the tenure clock issues were discussed.

The faculty morale survey has been completed. Results can not be compared with last year because of changes in the categories and some questions. Chair Vos reviewed the results, 280 returns - up from last year.

Chair Vos thanked members of the Executive committee, Vice-Chair Kell, Secretary Davis, Parliamentarian Murphy for all their work for the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Senator Lucas introduced the proposed amendment from the By-laws, Amendments and Elections committee for the second reading:

Proposed amendment:

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the chair of the Faculty Senate and one senator from each college. The vice chair, the secretary, the parliamentarian and the faculty regent shall sit ex officio and non-voting. The chair of the Senate shall preside and have voting privileges.

No discussion, amendment passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Leavy presented recommendations from the Academic Affairs committee:

1. Inform all prospective students who are offered academic scholarships of loan programs administered by the Student Financial Aid Office in a timely fashion to possibly increase percentage of students accepting scholarships.
2. Increase scholarship program dollars deployed to high-performance students not initially awarded scholarships, without reducing incoming student scholarship funds. (Ms. Chambless informed the committee that forty-two freshmen not on academic scholarship earned a 4.0 GPA this past fall. Retaining these students would seem as important as retaining those who begin on scholarship and who can retain one for four years with a 3.0 GPA.)
3. Encourage ongoing review of the level of intercollegiate athletic competition to which Western is institutionally committed. One reason to do so is to assess whether the high stipends offered student-athletes relative to other awards here is commensurate with that commitment and also with our avowed commitment to academic excellence.

Chair Vos ruled to handle all three as one and as a single reading. Motion to accept the recommendations passed unanimously.

Senator Keeling presented only two recommendations proposed by the Fiscal Affairs Committee, since Academic Affairs covered the other two issues:

1. The Faculty Senate encourages Western Kentucky University to move toward providing a lower-priced educational opportunity in Western's service area through the Community College program, and to continue to assess the role of the Community College in preparing students for the university experience.

Chair Vos ruled to handle this recommendation by itself and with a single reading. Motion to accept the recommendation passed unanimously.

2. The Fiscal Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate urges a university-wide review of athletic budgets and expenditures, particularly in the area of travel and salaries.

Chair Vos ruled to handle this recommendation by itself and with a single reading. Motion to accept the recommendation passed unanimously.

Senator Lucas presented a motion to pass the following resolution on a single reading:

We, the Faculty Senate, urge that the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents accept the action of the Department of Labor in the matter of Wieb van der Meer and engage in no further appeals.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Kell presented the following resolution from the Executive Committee:

Proposed Resolution to President Thomas Meredith

Be it resolved that Faculty Senate XX thanks Dr. Thomas Meredith for his service as President of Western Kentucky University.

Faculty Senate XX wishes the best for President Meredith and his family as they face new challenges in the University of Alabama educational system.

Vice-Chair Kell moved the resolution be adopted. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. President Meredith was not able to attend because his wife is having surgery. The reception could not be canceled. Chair Vos invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Davis reported she sent a card to Fred Lucas, Herald reporter for the Senate, who was hit by a car on University Boulevard. Senator Smith, who was also involved in a wreck on University Boulevard, urged all to be aware of the dangers of the street and to do what we can to promote the safety of both pedestrians and drivers on University Boulevard.

A concern was voiced about summer stipend increases and a possible disincentive to work on research in the summer.

The elections for Senate XXI, will be Tuesday, April 22, 3:30 pm, Garrett 100. Committees will caucus after the meeting to elect a chair for each committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Davis, Secretary