

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XXI
Thursday, November 6, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

The faculty senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:35 p.m. Interim President Barbara Burch was present. Steve Boilard, Mary Cobb, Dorsey Grice, Donna Parker, Earl Pearson, Sylvia Pulliam, and Moosa Valinezhad were absent without substitution. Ed Bohlander substituted for John Faine, Joan Krenzin for Matthew Pruitt, David Stiles for Jack Rudolph, and James L. Brown for Loren Ruff.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 2, 1997 meeting were accepted with one change: delete that the Academic Affairs committee will be focusing on "the proposed 'dead week' preceding finals."

REPORT OF THE FACULTY REGENT

Regent Mendel reported that the Governing Board elected to not purchase property that had been considered, a change from past policies of the Board towards expansion through acquisition of real estate. Regent Mendel praised Dr. Ransdell for his role in this decision.

Regent Mendel also reported on a proposed amendment to the Governing Board By-Laws which would move the audit function to the board. This amendment would require Executive and Finance Committees to have at least one of their five member's be a constituent regent. Neither of these committees have had a constituent representative in the past five years.

Responding to a question from the floor, Regent Mendel suggested that the draft of the institutional review would be made available at the next retreat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs - Lyn Miller

Senator Miller reported that the committee is dealing with issues surrounding the tenure clock. Information gathering has been completed and Senator Miller anticipates a report being presented at the December meeting.

Bylaws, Amendments, and Elections - Fred Murphy (appointed chair)

Senator Murphy noted that the committee requires a senator from the business college and that the election of an at-large representative from Ogden College will be conducted in the spring.

Faculty Status and Welfare - Joel Philhours

Senator Philhours reported that the committee has added to their agenda a study of fringe benefits. A survey has been planned that will be distributed to Kentucky institutions and benchmark Universities.

Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling

Senator Keeling noted that his committee also needs representatives from the College of Business and Education and Behavioral Science. Initial data on part-time faculty have been collected and initial analysis suggests that the University is "Embarrassingly low" in terms of salary.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Zack Murrell

Senator Murrell anticipates delivering his committees final report on student ratings of faculty at the December meeting.

Senate Communications - Rose Davis

Senator Davis also required a representative from the College of Business. The Faculty Senate Newsletter has been put together and each Senator has a packet to distribute. The Newsletter is a digest of articles with the full text available on the web page. Senator Davis also noted that items will be needed for next newsletter (e.g., committee reports, general topics of interest).

Executive Committee - Arvin Vos

Chair Vos expressed his appreciation for turnout of Senators at the reception hosted by Dr. Ransdell. Sylvia Puliam has been selected as the Senate representative to COEFSL, along with Regent Mendel, Chair Vos, and Bart White (AAUP). Chair Vos reported he has been invited to a luncheon with the Governor for a "...discussion on the role and involvement of faculty in the success and implementation of HB 1."

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Burch made several remarks on the most recent information from the Council on Higher Education:

- Incentive grants for programs of distinction criteria are currently being distributed. More than one program of distinction will be allowed at Universities.
- Tuition increases are formula based and are to be studied over the next year. Dr. Burch suggested that reallocation of current resources will be a future trend in University budgeting.
- The contract for the study of Athletic programs at Western is now ready. This report should be completed during the first part of March.
- Dr. Burch also reported that the University is working on a different system for reporting faculty workloads. Comparisons with other universities does not favor us as Western currently reports only teaching load. We need a new measure that will better reflect the full-range of activities that faculty members are performing as part of their duties.

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator David Keeling and seconded by Senator Chuck Smith. Chair Vos adjourned the Senate at 4:25.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. White
Secretary/Treasurer