

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XXI
Thursday, January 5, 1998

CALL TO ORDER

The faculty senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:35 p.m.. Absent without representation were, John Barnum, Fred Corl, Martha Jenkins, Suzanne Norwood, John Warren Oakes, Katrina Phelps, and Jack Rudolph. Nezam Iranpirast substituted for Claus Ernst (and will do so for the remaining term), Patty Silfies for Danita Kelly, Scott Richter for Lyn Miller, Tom Dillon for Gerald Post (will take over duties as Gerald is on sabbatical), and John Carmicheal for Chuck Smith (will take over as Chuck is on sabbatical). JD Droddy will be fulfilling the term for the Department of Government.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 6 and December 6 meetings were accepted as distributed.

FACULTY REGENT

Regent Mendel reported that the governing board had met and examined the institutional review (also referred to as "the Fisher Report"). Dr. Mendel also noted that there has been a noticeable transition in terms of campus governance with a move towards a partnership under President Ransdell. Further points elaborated by Dr. Mendel were:

- (a) Present movement among the Board and President is towards a niche market for the University, with emphasis on Bachelor programs with the University being more selective in its admissions criteria. One mission of the Community College seems to be serving those unable to meet the more stringent criteria (numbers have been suggested that the minimum ACT might raise by 3 points and the minimum High School GPA raise by .5 points).
- (b) The Board will be examining a restructuring of the University to obtain a better mix of funding. As part of this movement towards restructuring, some form of post-tenure review will be adopted by the Board.
- (c) So far as the recommendations in the report with regards to the size and relative inbreeding of the University's administration, Dr. Mendel noted that there has been little progress, but it is realistically too soon to expect major changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs - Rick Shannon (for Lyn Miller)

No Report

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

Senator Murphy reported that the following departments within Ogden College would be electing senators: Allied Health, Biology, Geography & Geology, Industrial Technology, and Nursing. Two new senators were elected from this college: Chuck Henrickson (Chemistry) and Joel Lenoir (Engineering Technology). Four at-large elections will also be held in Ogden during March, 1998.

Potter College will be electing a senator in Sociology and has already elected JD Droddy (Government) and Kathryn Abbot (History). Senator Murphy noted there will be one at-large election in CEBS and one for the Community College.

Faculty Status and Welfare - Carl Kell

Senator Kell reported that his committee is continuing to develop the faculty salary survey with data collection and correction being completed. The committee is also examining the lapsed

salary monies and how those are allocated/spent within the University. Lastly, Senator Philhours presented a report comparing the contribution of the University to faculty elective benefits. According to Senator Philhours' report, the University ranks 21 of 23 benchmark institutions in contributions for Health Insurance (Appalachian State and Northwest Missouri State trailed the University) and dead last when all contributions are combined.

Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling

Senator Keeling asked for input on faculty development monies and also stated that the committee's report on part-time faculty salaries would be ready for the March meeting.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Zack Murrell

Senator Murrell presented the final report of his committee on the student evaluations currently gathered by the University (as part of the SITE process). The report was accepted by the Senate and the committee recommendations had their first reading.

Senate Communications - Rose Davis

Announced the Senate Newsletter would be distributed to departmental representatives soon. Senator Davis also noted that articles and ideas are needed for the next issue.

Executive Committee - Arvin Vos

Chair Vos urged all senators and faculty members to read "the Fisher Report" as it appears to be having an impact on the direction of the University. As a part of this report, we have been asked for input regarding the future of Faculty Governance. The Fisher Report suggested that having both an Academic Affairs Committee and a Faculty Senate was an unworkable governance structure. Faculty are requested to help identify alternative, and hopefully successful models of faculty governance. Chair Vos also reported that the faculty morale survey would be distributed soon.

UPDATE FROM THE PROVOST

Dr. Burch provided several points of information for the faculty.

- a) University is forming a task force to examine the current structure and propose a reorganization of the University;
- b) Strategic planning process is currently happening, with an anticipated completion by the fall semester;
- c) A committee has been appointed to examine the issue of post-tenure review and how it could be incorporated at the University;
- d) The University will be looking at programs with low enrollments and how they have integrated or plan to use distance learning;
- e) Proposed programs of distinction are all moving forward; Current budget development suggests that 1.7 million dollars will need to be found to reach the benchmark of part-time faculty salaries;
- f) Community College's new campus is now open;
- g) Noted that two of the five new buildings approved for community college expansions bear Western's name.

OLD BUSINESS

Academic Affairs resolution passed with the addition of a friendly amendment adding the phrase "be able to" between "may" and negotiate. The revised resolution was accepted unanimously, reads:

Individuals with previous experience may be able to negotiate the length of the probationary period at the time of hire.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution from Professional Responsibilities and Concerns:

"The Faculty Senate recognizes the reliability and validity of the core items of the SITE questionnaire as an effective assessment of teaching and we support the use of this method of evaluation of teaching.

- a) We recommend that the core items be made available to the individual faculty members, the individual's Department Head and Dean, and the Provost and President as part of the established review process of annual review, promotion review, and tenure review.
- b) In addition to the SITE core, the Faculty Senate strongly recommends that all departments utilize additional methods of evaluating teaching at the University.
- c) The Faculty Senate recommends that the transcribed student comments be made available to the individual faculty members and the individual's Department Head for the annual review.
- d) Furthermore, we recommend that the transcribed student comments be made available to the individual's Dean, the Provost, and the President only at the request of the individual faculty member or under extraordinary circumstances, in which case the individual faculty member must be notified in writing of that action."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A question from the floor regarding University closing in the event of bad or poor weather resulted in the announcement that Western has a 'hotline' for such information. This service can be accessed at 745-4845.

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator Stan Cooke and seconded by Senator David Keeling. Chair Vos adjourned the senate at 4:38.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. White
Secretary/Treasurer