

Minutes
Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate XXII
March 25, 1999

Call to Order

The Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:36 p.m. Absent without representation were President Gary Ransdell, John Barnum, Erika Brady, John Bruni, Thad Crews II, Richard Hackney, Robert Haynes, Martha Jenkins, David Lenoir, Deborah Lively, Lester Pesterfield, Katrina Phelps, Jack Rudolph, Loren Ruff, Rick Shannon, Patty Silfies, Chuck Smith, Murat Tiryakiouglu, Moss Validezhad, S. Richert substituted for Lyn Miller and Thomas Nicholson for John White. University Provost Barbara Burch and Regent Mary Ellen Miller were in attendance.

Disposition of the Minutes

The minutes of the February 18 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Report of Faculty Regent

Regent Mary Ellen Miller reported that the next Board of Regents meeting will be May 21. She announced the names of the Faculty Regent's Advisory Council and invited others to contact her if they wish to serve. She will be on the Academics and Student Affairs and the Finance and Budget Committees. She has met with President Ransdell. She stressed the importance of attending the Gordon Davies lecture. She was surprised there was very little reaction to the parking plan. There have been many questions about the Faculty Governance issue.

Report of the Provost, Dr. Barbara Burch

Dr. Burch indicated that faculty salaries for next year are being worked on. In response to a question concerning the handling of indirect cost funds from grants, Dr. Burch indicated that the usual distribution--where the funds are divided among the department, the college, and her office--continues, except for one case. The indirect from the T-TAS grant is currently being held by the Provost's office until a plan is supplied by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences regarding its use in relation to increasing grant and research activity in the unit. (This grant is not tied directly to a particular faculty member (s) or department.) She also commented that stipends for interactive television and similar courses needs to be examined, because of disparities in support currently.

Reports of Standing Committees

Academic Affairs--Lyn Miller: No report.

By-Laws Amendments and Elections--Donna Parker: Department elections are almost complete. The at-large election in the Business College will be conducted shortly. The Colleges are reminded to caucus for committee assignments after elections are complete.

Faculty Status and Welfare--Carl Kell: Committee member, Senator Philhours, announced that the Parking fee can be tax sheltered. He asked that someone be assigned to approach the Administration about making this benefit available.

Fiscal Affairs--Claus Ernst. No Report

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns--Don Nims: No Report

Senate Communications--John White. No Report

Executive Committee--Arvin Vos: It was reported that the results of the Senate Morale Survey and Evaluation of the University President are still being tabulated.

Discussion was held concerning a law passed regarding the cost of health insurance for retirees living out of state. The Faculty Status and Welfare Committee will be asked to investigate this issue.

Special Report

A Special report on Post-Tenure Review was given by Robert Reber. He attended a conference at the University of Kentucky which had representatives from several state universities. UK and UofL are ahead of us in that they have already implemented post-tenure review, but we are ahead of a number of other schools who are still formulating a PTR policy, since we have adopted a policy which has yet to be implemented. In general, our policy seems to be in line with others. (A complete report will be filed with these minutes.)

Old Business

The Faculty Governance Committee is holding meetings in the various colleges. The Executive Committee will select a date for the university-wide meeting to discuss the Faculty Governance Report.

New Business--None

Announcements--reminder to attend the Gordon Davies lecture 2:30 p.m., Friday, March 26, Tate Page Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Davis, Secretary/Treasurer