

FAUCLTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, August 23, 1988
Cravens Board Room
3:35 P.M.

Senator Murphy opened the meeting, and quoted the Herald as misquoting him.

The Senate will meet in the Regents Room on September 8th. The January Meeting will be moved to 3rd Thursday to avoid being in the week we return from Christmas break.

Old Business:

The Heads versus Chair issue is not yet resolved. Vice-President Haynes sent the Deans' concerns about the document, in a memo to President Alexander, and there it rests. The Senate may want to take action once it is revised by the Deans.

It was suggested that the Executive Committee ask the President if we could look at the Dean's concerns. We voted on that document, but if Deans change it, the Senate may want to cancel their support. It may be best to have the Executive Committee to address this issue with the new President and see what he thinks about it.

Institutional Goals and Planning:

The report needs some prodding to receive a response from those services/persons who were addressed in the survey.

Scheduling of classes committee report was out at the end of the Spring Semester. We'll have to look at it.

The Senate lost only 1 Senate member this year, Virginia Eaton. She will need to be replaced.

Faculty Status and Welfare:

An area needing attention is insurance. We've had horrendous increases, and should be addressed by the Faculty Senate.

The Senate needs to put forward a resolution for a university-wide hearing before big changes take place. Chair of Faculty Status and Welfare should be an ex-officio member of the Insurance Committee.

Forty bids went out, with only three replies.

Some of the information on insurance rates has not been communicated to faculty or staff.

Since the Insurance problem impacts staff, they ought to have a forum. Some schools have staff congresses which work with the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Status and Welfare needs to put out their annual salary reports, and compare WKU with Benchmark Institutions in regard to faculty and administrators - to see where WKU stands in both of these levels.

Academic Affairs:

What is happening with General Education requirements? The report is to be in Academic Council some time this fall.

Problem: Most professors are concerned about how General Education requirements impacts on their own departments. A ray of hope is that President Meredith was involved in General Education requirements for the state of Mississippi. The Faculty Senate should have some say in this issue since the Faculty Senate is representative of every department on campus, not so in Academic Council. Members of Academic Council should address reasoning for General Education selections to the Faculty Senate.

Class scheduling has not gotten report out. On the Faculty evaluations, student comments are to be transcribed for the next go-around.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns:

The Heads versus Chairs issue needs to be their first order of business. Second, they need to look into book companies coming in and buying books from individual professors.

Committee on Committees:

The President needs to understand how this committee is supposed to operate.

New Business:

Faculty salaries and morale needs to be addressed. When the going rate for increases is 2.4% and someone gets a 16% increase something is really out of order.

This is timely since the Regents have to meet 30 days after appointed; they should get together sometime in September.

By-laws, etc. should have no new business. Brian needs to tell us who in Ogden is next in line.

On Sept. 15, when the President addresses the faculty, it is unknown as to whether he will allow questions from the floor.

We need to encourage him to attend Senate Meetings or to have his representative attend.

Getting faculty together as in faculty breakfasts worked out well for bridging the communications gap. Include librarians.

Senate needs to look at Athletics again - a new approach would help.

Tom Jones Symposium will be ever other year. Open Forum: issues could include: early retirement, insurance, another session about the Special legislative assembly on Education.

Perhaps we could tap the legislators for their views/input early in December in support of Higher Education.

Begin Faculty Senate meeting with Committee Reports -
- The Executive Committee will send a letter to

Gene Evans for the superb way in which he conducted discussions after each candidate's presentation during the Presidential search; and to the Regents for their presence and interest during the search process.

- The Executive Committee suggests that, for future searches, the list should be made public for the final 8 - 10 candidates, so that some background work can be accumulated on each of them.

A letter of thanks will also be sent to Dr. Alexander from the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.