



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Faculty Senate

MEMORANDUM TO: Thomas Meredith, President
Western Kentucky University

FROM: Frederick I. Murphy, Chair
Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: November 15, 1988 Meeting

DATE: November 21, 1988

Thank you for meeting with the Executive Committee on Tuesday morning. These meetings provide important opportunities to develop greater mutual understanding as you share with us your vision for Western and we convey to you concerns of the faculty.

As you could tell from our meeting those concerns run the gamut from worries over class size to problems with campus mail. I am sure that we all found helpful your pointing out that large class sizes may in a sense be regarded as an honor to Western and its faculty since so many are eager to attend here, although at times we may feel that we really cannot absorb many more such honors. Nonetheless, it is an interesting perspective.

We were very pleased to know that you are working toward letting departments know earlier just what funds are going to be available, thus making planning easier. This is especially helpful in the recruiting of top graduate students. We share your concerns about the recruitment and retention of black students and faculty. The idea of bringing in superior black high school seniors from across the state for a one day visit on campus shows great promise, as does your determination that in the future no black faculty or professional staff member should be allowed to leave the campus without notification to you. Also, with regard to recruiting, we like the idea of a corporately-sponsored luncheon for outstanding students in the area, their parents and counselors. All of these are important steps toward improving the quality of the student body, a goal which the faculty enthusiastically support.

Your remarks concerning your philosophy of merit pay were of great interest. This has been an issue which has been a matter of continuing concern largely because the standards for determining it have never been clearly enunciated.

I am enclosing with this letter a number of items relating to the heads vs. chairs issue. We appreciate your interest in this topic and are hopeful that some sort of resolution can be reached in the not-too-distant future.

Thanks again for meeting with us. We look forward to our next meeting on December 13.

cc: Executive Committee