Minutes
Faculty Senate
Western Kentucky University
April 13, 1978

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate was called to order on Thursday, April 13, 1978, at 3:10 P.M. in Garrett Conference Center by Chairperson Tom Jones. A quorum was present.

Roll Call

Absent:
1. Raul Padilla
2. John Phillips
3. Gregory Lowe
4. Ron Veenker
5. Lawrence Finley
6. Billy Adams
7. William Meadors
8. Phillip Duff
9. Carl Kreisler
10. Bennie Beach
11. William Buckman
12. Jefferson Caskey
13. Stan Cooke
14. Don Butler

Minutes

The minutes of the March 9th meeting were accepted as presented.

Remarks

Chairperson Jones presented brief welcoming remarks to the Second Faculty Senate, summarizing the First Faculty Senate's activities and suggesting that definition of what the Senate is and can be will come from the actions of the Senate.

Introduction of Senators

Reports of Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Senator Krenzin reported on the meetings of the Executive Committee and their discussions with University Attorney William Bivin and Vice-President Harry Largen; the initiation of two five-week sessions of summer school in 1979; appointing a Communications Committee to send periodic news letters to the faculty; and appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the ASG on a faculty evaluation by the students.

Fiscal Affairs Committee

Senator Bailey reported that this committee has reviewed last year's work; that he had met with Vice-President Harry Largen and discussed the role of the Council on Public Higher Education and the Legislature on the fiscal affairs of WKU; and that Mr. Largen had indicated his complete cooperation to the committee. Senator Bailey indicated that the Committee had gathered figures in beginning a breakdown of major budget and expenditure categories including instruction and departmental research as well as general administration. The Committee plans to investigate the manner in which budget priority decisions are made for the university. Senator Bailey asked that the Senators present suggestions of particular budget areas to the Fiscal Affairs Committee for study.
By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee

Senator L. Pulsinelli reported that two elections had been held to replace two Senators who have resigned, one in Business Administration and one in Accounting.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee

No report.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee

Senator Petersen discussed the Grievance Procedure which was considered earlier by the Senate and tabled. Senator Petersen asked the Senators to suggest changes in the Grievance Procedure so the committee can proceed. Senator Petersen presented the concern voiced by some faculty over time spent by faculty members in consulting and outside employment.

Institutional Goals and Planning Committee

Senator Miller reported on the goals of the committee, a possible convention of the Faculty Senates of other state universities, and Senator Miller's meeting with Paul Cook to discuss the effect of the Council's activities on long-range planning for WKU. General discussion followed.

Academic Affairs Committee

No report.

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Structure

Senator Lucas presented the tentative report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Structure, comparing the growth of administration, faculty, and the student body. The suggestion was made that each departmental Senator check the report's statistics to be sure that the listing of each department is correct. After discussion Senator Constans moved and it was seconded that the report be studied, questions raised, discrepancies checked and that the report be placed on the agenda of the next Senate meeting. Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Committee on Administrative Evaluation

Senator Harrington reported that the committee had completed the evaluation survey of the administrators of WKU. A 69 percent overall response was reported as of this date. Senator Harrington reported several comments by faculty members who were not given a chance to evaluate their immediate supervisors; she suggested that future evaluation
instruments could include other administrators.

Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Senate
Senator Mary Ellen Miller nominated Charles Hendrickson.
Senator Robye Anderson nominated Joan Krenzin.
Senator Hendrickson was elected.

Election of Secretary-Treasurer of the Senate
Senator Constans nominated Sally Ann Koenig.
Senator Koenig was accepted by acclamation.

Election of Parliamentarian of the Senate
Senator Sanders nominated Joan Krenzin.
Senator Krenzin was accepted by acclamation.

New Business
Concern was expressed that the new schedule of two five-week sessions for summer school in 1979 should come before the Faculty Senate and/or the Academic Council for discussion. Dr. James Davis stated that President Downing had suggested that the new schedule be presented to the Academic Council which Dr. Davis will do.

The Senate voted to direct Senator Petersen and the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee to look into the matter of time spent by faculty in consulting and outside employment and report back to the Senate.

Announcements
The next Faculty Senate meeting will be May 11, 1978.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Sally Ann Koenig
Secretary
Welcome to the Second Faculty Senate of Western Kentucky University. Realizing that many of you are new to the Senate, I'd like to make some comments...to explain, to clarify, and to express some personal opinion.

This Faculty Senate is unique, a new thing under the sun at Western Kentucky University. Created by the powers of the Board of Regents and having a constitution under which we operate, we are nevertheless not yet totally defined, not totally named. And so I wish to speak to you for a moment about the powers of definition.

Maverick Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz has stated what he believes to be a principle of human behavior this way:

"In nature, the rule is 'eat or be eaten';
In the affairs of men, the rule is 'Define or be defined'."

Szasz believes, indeed, that the powers of language and of the ability to name others is equal in dimension to the eat-or-be-eaten struggle for survival in the rest of the animal kingdom.

These first few years of the Senate's existence are crucial years, years during which we may passively recline and allow others to define, or name, us—and thus to some extent to allow ourselves to be
eaten—or they are years during which we may take the power of definition
into our own hands, and thus to eat, a little, ourselves.

How does this defining, or naming, of us by others work?
Here's an example: each of us has been given by the Vice-President's
office—and if you don't have it, it's available—a thick red notebook
containing "WKU Governing Statutes—rules—policies—Administrative
Regulations." A cover letter with that notebook says this: "You have
been identified"—or defined, or named—"as a campus leader who
should receive..." these materials. So you see: every person in this
room is defined, at least by the office of the Vice President, as "a campus
leader." Perhaps you didn't know that about yourself, and perhaps you're
pleased to be thus positively defined. I know I am.

Here's another positive definition of the Senate, from the
Senate Constitution as approved by the Board of Regents:

The Faculty Senate functions as an official
representative voice of the faculty on any
university policies which the president may
refer to it for consideration and opinion, or
which it determines should be brought to the
attention of the president, or to the Board of
Regents through the president.

That is the Senate's entire, official, definition. I would suggest, however,
that the first line should read that the Senate is "the official representative
voice of the faculty" rather than it is "a...representative voice of the
faculty," because we are the sole representative voice of the faculty at
Western. The Academic Council is a combined voice of the administration
and the faculty, and then only when speaking of academic matters. So. We are the sole voice of a faculty of nearly six hundred, duly elected and representing various departments or colleges.

I've given you two rather positive definitions of the Senate. Now let's look at some of the defining going on during the year-and-a-half of the first Senate, since many of you are new to this floor, and so may be unaware of our brief history. In the spring of 1977, this body sent its voice-or tried to-to the Board of Regents concerning administrator selection. Our advice to the president was ignored by the president, in favor of his own policy, which apparently was hurriedly contrived and just as hurriedly passed by the Board of Regents.

The President of Western Kentucky University thus defined us as a body whose carefully thought-out advice upon a matter of grave significance to this entire university could be ignored. Thus: definition of Faculty Senate: "can-be-ignored!" It gives me a sort of invisible feeling.

But we were not always ignored or rejected during the First Senate. Our advice upon electing the Faculty Regent was made official policy. The matter of the reduction of the Faculty Regent's teaching load was not ignored, or our advice was not: it was simply rejected, and the President wrote the Vice President, who wrote to then-chair Phil Constans explaining why. Our elaborate salary report--done by the
Parks committee—was happily accepted as a useful instrument by the administration. Our advice that the computer records on faculty were often inaccurate and that there should be yearly updates by the affected individuals was accepted as sound and was made official policy.

Thus, the definition of that First Faculty Senate becomes softened somewhat from "can-be-ignored" to "can-sometimes-be-ignored," or perhaps to "can-sometimes-do-sensible-things."

So much for our official definition, then, on paper and in the responses of the administration. What about our own self-definition?

As you know, we are currently undertaking a faculty evaluation of the administration. In this instance, the Senate chose to define itself as a body who could undertake such an evaluation, with or without the cooperation of the administration, although we sought that cooperation.

The results of that bit of self-definition may be ignored, but I will be very surprised if it is.

Let me suggest that how I—as an individual example—define myself to myself is as important as what I eat! What use a healthy body with a miserable mind? If I see myself as undeserving, as meaningless, as powerless to affect and effect my own destiny, then it matters not at all how others see me: how I define myself to myself is all that matters. And if this is true of the individual human, then it is true of the collective
morale of bodies made us of humans—bodies like this Senate. If we think well of ourselves as a body, then we are well; if ill, then the body is ill.

Touching upon how the Senate can define itself—to itself, to the faculty, and to the administration, I'd like to give some brief personal history.

Since we had never had a Senate before the fall of '76, when I was elected, the question began forming in my mind, "Who am I, what have I become, now that I'm the Senator from English?" I began to realize that if I, sitting in the Senate, was unsure, then certainly the members of my department were even more unsure. I would then have to create a definition, to name for my department just what the Senate is and does.

So I kept my department informed about every step that the First Senate took. I sent memos, I emphasized the positive, while I did not hide the negative. I kept before the English Department the name "Senate, Senate, Senate," ad nauseum. ... But it had an effect. Gradually my colleagues began thanking me for the memoranda, saying that for virtually the first time they felt that they knew what was going on. They would stop me and ask, "Tom, what's the Senate doing about..." or "Could the Senate look into..."—whatever. And so I got fed back to me that "senate... senate... senate." The English Department gradually
formed, and so did I, a definition of the new Senate: a body that existed, that met, that did things, or that might 'look into things'!

The two--my own and my colleagues'--definition reinforced each other, became stronger in my mind and in the minds of members of my department. We began to believe.

Well. There are some among us who do not believe in a brightly lighted definition, or name, of what this Senate is and what it may become. Such disbelief is shown in the wretched attendance record of some few Senators, and in some poor committee performance.

I am naive, I know. I ask myself, "How can individual Senators--folk who have been defined by the Vice President's office as being campus leaders--fail to see that a body of 60 representing 600, and each of those 60 a campus leader, must itself--the body, the Senate, I mean--be a campus leader?"

The Senate then is a lot of campus leaders, working in union for the common good. As the sole voice of the faculty it is the, repeat the, campus faculty leader. That fact makes me proud; I think it should make you proud. It makes me believe in our potential to help lead this university, for leading is what leaders do.

And I will close with this cautionary note: it is apparent to me that my fortunes--and yours, each of you--falls with the fall of
Western's fortunes, as long as I, and you, are here. Perhaps those fortunes do not rise in quite such a direct ratio, yet, but be assured they will all fall together. As chair of this Senate, I mean for the fortunes of the Senate and of Western Kentucky University, to rise, on the chance that mine might rise with them.