Comments from the Chair

Chairperson Joan Krenzin urged senators to keep in touch with their constituents, and to pass their concerns on promptly to the Executive Committee.

She also informed the Senate that questions have been raised concerning the involvement of Department Heads in the new change of grade procedure. This policy was decided on by the Council of Academic Deans, and was not considered to be so major a change as to require consideration by any other body. (Although it was not mentioned during the Senate meeting, there will be further discussion of two pertinent issues: (i) why was the change necessary? and (ii) would it not have been more appropriate for an administrative decision affecting the faculty, as this one does, to have been considered by the Academic Council?)

In response to questions raised concerning spring graduation, she stated that this event had been moved to a Sunday in order to prevent any conflict with the Kentucky Derby.

Remarks from the President

President Zacharias told the Senate that Western is entering a period in which we can be more optimistic than we could last year. He did mention, however, two areas in which financial difficulties require serious concern.

The first, and, at the moment, the most critical issue facing Western is the problem of obtaining financial aid for those of our students who must rely on it. The President said that he is well aware of the impending difficulties, and has been actively involved for several months in attempting to forestall them. Unfortunately, the circumstances (resulting, as they do, from actions at the State and Federal level) are beyond Western's control.

If Congress does not override current legislation, there will be serious financial problems for some of our students, who may find themselves in an emergency situation.

The second problem is a consequence of the costly nature of upkeep of the physical plant. The roof of the North Wing of Thompson Complex needs repairs amounting to a cost of $80,000; the exterior concrete slabs of Grise Hall are falling apart; and two major underground steam lines have deteriorated so seriously as to be in urgent need of repair.

The president stated that Western is providing both outstanding programs and instruction of high quality, with the result that students in the higher ranges of ability are electing to study here.

For the first time, Western has unrestricted funds to make available to faculty and students for a variety of projects. These funds are to be distributed in amounts ranging from $200 to $2,000, and are intended to be spent in "creative efforts to make life better in the classroom," as well as in research. Guidelines concerning these funds have been distributed to all faculty, along with application forms.

The President requested that faculty members who have ideas for fund-raising consult
with the Development Office before soliciting from individuals or foundations. This consultation is necessary in order to avoid destructive interference with negotiations that the Development Office already may be conducting with the same persons.

A great deal of effort is being put into the issue of formula funding. A state-wide Work-Study Committee and a Formula Steering Committee have been meeting regularly. Faculty members who have ideas, questions, or comments on this issue should direct them to the members of Western's Task Force (Faculty Regent William Buckman, Dr. Jerry Rust, Dr. Paul Cook).

Reports from Standing Committees

Executive Committee:

Senator Uveges reported that the Executive Committee has met twice, in combination with the Council of Committee Chairs, since last spring. The purpose of the first meeting was to discuss approaches to formula funding which the Chairperson might present during the public hearings of the CHE subcommittee scheduled for Bowling Green on July 21. The second meeting focused on the year ahead, and on some of the issues and concerns with which the standing committees should be involved.

Academic Affairs Committee:

Senator Schneider presented senators with a two-page report on the results of the "interest survey" taken during the spring semester of 1982. His committee will address the items rated by the results of the survey as being of high priority.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee:

Senator Pauline Jones announced the appointment of the following five senators, representing the departments and colleges listed below:

Jo Ann Harrington (replacing Dorinda Clippinger)........Business Education
Glenn Lohr (replacing Jimmie Price).........................Health and Safety
Lynn Donnelly (replacing Kay Parsley)......................Allied Health
Rita Hessley (replacing Martha Watson)....................Ogden College
John Parker (alternate for John Long).......................Potter College

Committee on University Committees:

Senator Weigel announced the following appointments:

Joan Krenzin.............................................Institutional Self-Study Steering Committee
David Lee..................................................President's Advisory Committee
Thomas Baldwin, Kenneth Cann,............................International Education Committee
Edmund Hegen, and John Pollock

Departmental senators have been asked to circulate questionnaires to all the members of their departments, soliciting information concerning their areas of expertise. This information will enable the committee to carry out its task more efficiently and fairly.

Communications Committee:

Senator Dorman reported that the committee has considered the proposal that it monitor the news media for items mentioning Western, and respond to these items should it seem appropriate. The committee has decided not to do this.

Articles which would be of interest to Western faculty members may be submitted to the Communications Committee, and will be considered for publication in the Newsletter.
The committee would be pleased to receive the names and addresses of any Emeritus Faculty who would like to receive the Newsletter.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee:
Senator Murphy stated that this committee is presently working on three issues:

1. a comparative study of faculty salaries,
2. clarification of matters relating to tenure policies,
3. decisions concerning which faculty teach summer school.

Fiscal Affairs Committee:
Senator Grice announced that this committee is continuing the tasks begun last year. It is investigating the financial implications of the decline in enrollment, and is interested in looking into matters such as the way relative salaries have changed over the last few years, the apparent increase in the number of administrators, and formula funding.

Institutional Goals and Planning Committee:
Senator Alford revealed that this committee is working on the problem of how to challenge Western faculty to do national-level work.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee:
Senator Mason outlined the current tasks of this committee as follows:

1. to study faculty evaluation procedures,
2. to study policies concerning patents and copyrights,
3. to discover what happens to salary money "recaptured" by the University as a result of research grants involving reduced teaching loads,
4. to ascertain the value assigned to outstanding teaching, compared to the values assigned to research and public service, when promotions are being considered,
5. to look into matters affecting the origin of tenure recommendations.

New Business
Senator Pauline Jones presented for a first reading four amendments to the Constitution:

VI BAE 001.1 9/9/82: that the second sentence of the second paragraph of s III E 1 be amended to read, "A quorum for the Executive Committee shall be four of the six members of the committee,"

VI BAE 002.1 9/9/82: that the following addition be made to s III E 1: "The Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary, and the Parliamentarian shall sit ex officio and non-voting,"

VI BAE 003.1 9/9/82: that the following addition be made to s III C 3b: "Election to office shall be by a majority of those present and voting,"

VI BAE 004.1 9/9/82: that the following addition (numbered 6) be made to s III D: "The right to vote shall be vested in the members of the Senate."

Senator Jones also proposed that the Senate temporarily waive the rule prescribing the number of senators a department is allowed to have; this waiver would make it possible to fill a vacancy in the College of Education with the candidate having the next-highest number of votes. The proposal was carried by voice vote, with no opposing votes.
Senator Grice commended the faculty for work done during last year's Phonathon, and reported that students want the faculty to be involved in the Phonathon planned for this year, at least to the extent of stopping in for five or ten minutes and saying HI! He proposed a resolution that the Senate offer its encouragement and actively participate in the Phonathon. The resolution carried by voice vote, with no opposing votes. Departmental senators were requested to communicate this resolution to the members of their departments.

Chairperson Krenzin read a motion, drafted by Senator Finley, to appoint again an ad hoc Political Action Committee, with Senator Robe as its Chairperson and other members appointed by the Chairperson of the Senate in consultation with Senator Robe. The motion carried by voice vote with no opposition.

In order to ascertain the opinion of the Senate on the question of whether the Newsletter should be delivered to all faculty members, including those who do not want it, Senator Dorman moved that the Newsletter be delivered only to those faculty members who indicated that they wished to receive it. This motion sparked the only discussion of the meeting. Among the points made were the following:

(1) each faculty member should have the choice of reading the Newsletter or throwing it away with each individual issue;
(2) it would be unfair to say that faculty members who indicated that they did not want the Newsletter could not have it;
(3) the Newsletter is one of the most important things the Senate does, and, consequently, should be delivered to all faculty;
(4) it would be difficult to deliver the Newsletter to all of those who want it, and only to them.

The motion was resoundingly defeated by voice vote, receiving only one vote in its support. As for the wretched Senator who proposed the motion,

"Snarling with disappointed rage,
Be slunk reluctant to his cage."

Senator Mason moved that the Faculty Senate participate in National Higher Education Week by inviting faculty members to make their classes open to the surrounding community. Each senator would poll his or her department for voluntary participation, and would turn in to Senator Mason the names, dates, times, and meeting places of classes which would be open to the public during the week of October 4-8 (n.b., this is Homecoming Week). This information would be forwarded to the Office of Public Information for distribution through the news media. Due to the temporal constraints obviously present, Senator Mason requested that departmental senators poll their departments for participation by September 16.

Faculty Regent Report

Regent Buckman expressed his appreciation of the extraordinary activity of the Senate at this first meeting of the Fall Semester.

He then discussed various aspects of the problem of distributing funds to the different institutions of higher learning in Kentucky, and the problem of enrollment, which interacts with that of distribution. He pointed out some of the features of the particular funding formula under discussion and drew attention to the effects, characterized as unfair by its critics, of the weighting factors employed in that formula. He affirmed that the universities and colleges of Kentucky should have
equal funding for equal levels of instruction, and expressed his hope that the state will not go over completely to the benchmark approach to funding.

Announcements

Chairperson Krenzin announced that she would like to hear from all senators who are not assigned to committees but would like to be.

The Communications Committee takes this opportunity to announce that it would like to hear from all persons who feel that they are not involved in enough collating and stapling and would like to be involved in more. Appointment of such persons (if they are senators) to the committee can probably be arranged (if they are not senators, they will be given a free Diet Dr. Pepper -- or its equivalent in their own faith -- each time they participate in the assembly of the Newsletter).

SCHEDULE OF SENATE MEETINGS

1982-3 ACADEMIC YEAR:

Thursday, October 14........Ballroom
Thursday, November 11.......Regents' Room
Thursday, December 9........Ballroom
Thursday, January 20........Ballroom
Thursday, February 10........Ballroom
Thursday, March 17.........Ballroom
Thursday, April 14........Ballroom
Thursday, April 26.........Ballroom

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