COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nancy Baird (of the By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee) announced that about half of the departments on campus will be electing senators in February. At-large ballots will be distributed to departments the first week in March.

Rich Weigel (of the Committee on University Committees) announced that surveys will be sent to department senators in the next few weeks. The surveys, to go to all faculty, will be used to obtain the following information: (i) What committees are faculty now members of? (ii) What are the areas of interest or expertise relating to committee work faculty might do?

NEW BUSINESS

Rich Weigel moved, and Chuck Crume seconded, the following motion: The Faculty Senate expresses its appreciation for the time, effort, and dedicated service provided by Mary Ellen Miller as Faculty Regent and by Gene Evans as Senate Chair and extends its best wishes to them in their future endeavors. The Senate approved the motion with a standing ovation, and Regent Evans and former Regent Miller were presented with certificates of appreciation.

REGENT ELECTION CHANGES

Nancy Baird of the By Laws Committee said the committee has proposed guidelines to streamline the regent election procedures. The main points of change are: (i) elections shall be held on one day instead of two, (ii) the first balloting and the run-off election will be held in the same location, (iii) absentee ballots will be easier to obtain.

A motion to approve these changes was made by Senator Baird and seconded by Senator Rose Davis. With no discussion, the changes were approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEADS TO CHAIRS

Linda Allen, Chair of the Institutional Goals and Planning Committee, presented the results of the committee's study of the report from the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Departmental Governance to change from a department head to a department chair system at WKU. Senator Allen said there needs to be some clarification in the Ad Hoc Committee's report; e.g., who will decide on an external appointment, and what will faculty input in such an appointment be? She called attention to the committee's concerns with Section 8 of the report:
   How will College discussions be initiated?
   How will the pay scale be determined?
   What legal action might result from this change?
   Will the faculty vote on the concept of the change, or on the report?

With these concerns in mind, Senator Allen moved that the Senate endorse the Ad Hoc Committee's report. Senator Paul Campbell seconded.

The Senate then heard from Lowell Harrison, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Professor Harrison explained that the committee was appointed in May of 1986. All undergraduate colleges were represented on the committee, which included three department heads. John Petersen, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, participated fully in the deliberations. Professor Harrison said the report was given to Vice President
Robert Haynes in November. Professor Harrison noted four points:

A number of departments already operate under a system similar to having a chair,
There still will be some problems with a new chair system,
The chair approach will call for more faculty involvement,
Further discussion of the report and its possible adoption does not lie within the committee's purview.

He said the committee made the assumption that a department would always begin by looking at internal candidates. If no one was available, for various reasons, the search then would go off campus. The committee thought the faculty needed to be involved in the review and final selection. The final candidate would need approval within the department.

Discussion centered around whether the Senate's vote would be to endorse the concept of having a chair system, or to endorse the Ad Hoc Committee's report. Chair Murphy said the specific changes to the report could be made at the second reading at the March Senate meeting.

EDUCATION MAJORS

Senator Crume moved, and Senator Little seconded, that the minutes incorporate the response of Senator Bob Otto to an item which appeared in the Senate Newsletter of January 11. The response read as follows:

The following response is presented to clarify a misconception presented at the bottom of page one in the Newsletter of January 11, regarding the subject matter course content for education majors:

Secondary education majors must complete departmental major and minor requirements equal to or greater than liberal arts majors in those academic departments. A GPA of 2.5 in the major/minor/education and overall is required, not a 2.0 as per University graduation requirement.

Of the total credits toward graduation, 20% are required in education consisting of

15 hrs. secondary education courses
3 hrs. psychology
10 hrs. student teaching
28 hrs. total education

Therefore, education majors take a small percentage of course work in education and the equivalent course work in subject matter as any liberal arts major.

The motion passed.

Senator Rose Davis moved for adjournment.

The next Senate meeting will be on Thursday, March 19.