FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
October 13, 1988
Garrett Ballroom
3:20 p.m.

Senator Murphy opened the meeting. Those absent without observers were: Gabriel Buntzman, Chuck Crume, John Faine, Keith Gabehart, Reta Hicks, Terry Leeper, Alton Little, Edward T. Martin, James Martin, Bob Tinsley, Terry VanderHeyden, and Peggy Wright.

The minutes of September 8th were amended to read: 1) Senator Weslowski reported that the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee had had its initial meeting, but there were no items of business to be presented at this time. The Senator assured the Senate that they are open for business. 2) Senator Dorman reported on the Communications Committee. 3) Senator Veenker reported on the goals of the Academic Affairs Committee: a) review of the new guidelines for membership of graduate faculty, and b) wanting for completion of the document from the task force on general education.

By-Laws, Amendments and Elections:
Senator Yungbluth reported for Rose Davis. Elections were held and three at-large positions were filled: two from Oden College; Patricia Pearson, Department of Biology, and Sylvia Pulliam, Department of Computer Science; and one from the College of Education, Ruth Meredith, Department of Educational Leadership. (report attached)

Senator Murphy welcomed the new members.

Faculty Status and Welfare:
Senator Bart White announced that the Salary Survey had been distributed. Art Schindhelm, from the Department of Computer Science, was introduced as a faculty member who had spearheaded the completion of this report.

Art Schindhelm stated that he tried to keep the same format that was used in the last few years. There are two parts to the survey: 1. By department, by rank, 9 month equivalent, and percentage decrease and increase, and 2. Independent of department by rank the same quantities are compared. The comparison is of the percent change between 9 month equivalent while the dollar amount difference refers to the contract salary. Therefore it is possible for a person to have a percent increase yet a dollar amount decrease. Please notify the committee if any discrepancies are found.

Senator White addressed the problems of Health Care and Health Insurance to Western's faculty. One member of this committee will serve on the University's Insurance Committee. Two names were submitted to President Meredith, Gene Gallegos from the College of Education, and Bart White.

The committee will focus on: 1. Health insurance concerns 2. TIAA-Cref reconsideration 3. Reasons for faculty leaving 4. Warning that health care coverage was
very likely to rise.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns:
Senator Jim Weslowski reported on several areas of concern:
1. The channels of communications between the faculty and the committee: through departmental senators, through at-large senators of college, 2. Student evaluations of faculty "the alleged evaluation of faculty by students", (attachment) 3. Questions concerning the part-time faculty role: numbers in the part-time teaching load, the impact of part-time faculty, "modest beginnings of data gathering," questionnaires for departmental senators. 4. Elected vs. appointed department administrators.

Institutional Goals and Planning:
Senator Karlene Ball reported that the committee will visit each department of University Service one at a time, starting with Computer Services. The primary concern is that of accessibility. The committee will meet every other Wednesday at 1:00, and anyone who is interested in attending is welcome.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Senate Constitution:
Senator Paul Campbell asked for copies of constitutions from other universities. He is also interested in hearing any concerns about the present Western Kentucky University Senate Constitution.

New Business:
Senator Paul Campbell announced that a COSFL (Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership) election was needed to chose the 5th representative from WKU to the COSFL board. Robert Baum nominated Joan Krenzin who declined. Earl Pearson nominated Ed Dorman who respectfully declined. Ed Dorman nominated Earl Pearson who respectfully declined. Joan Krenzin nominated Tom Moser who respectfully declined. Art Shindelom nominated Sylvia Pulliam who accepted the nomination. The vote was taken and Sylvia Pulliam was elected unanimously.

Announcements:
Ed Dorman announced that the deadline on the Newsletter puzzle had been extended to November 4, it also has been extended to administrators and staff.
Senator Gene Meyers made a comment concerning the puzzle.

President Meredith's remarks:
President Meredith has been presenting WKU to groups all over, "where two or more are gathered," he will speak. President Meredith has been spreading the good news of Western. He is trying to "spruce up" Western's public image. President Meredith discussed his relationship with the
Faculty Senate and he plans to meet regularly with the Executive Committee. He does not wish to regularly attend meetings so that he doesn’t hamper discussions. But he will come and work with the Senate.

In the area of Health Care, President Meredith wants to do all that can be done and to get the best plan possible. President Meredith stated that he would be fiscally responsible for the budget. "I will be a good steward of the money that is in the hands of Western Kentucky University and for which I am responsible."

President Meredith said that he has the Journalism report on his desk in his office. He said that it is a good report but not of top priority at this time. The report will eventually be distributed publicly.

The basketball investigations are making progress and President Meredith hopes they will be completed by November. President Meredith has not yet looked at the issue of Heads vs. Chair, but he plans to.

The Executive office began to set up an Institutional planning mode. A "Master Plan" regarding physical lay-out of the campus is to be drawn up.

President Meredith spoke with Roger Wells, from the Kentucky Department of Finance, concerning the construction of new dorms and a student activities center.

Community colleges are an important link in the student retention effort. Why is Western not attractive to students from community colleges? President Meredith plans to meet with the administration from community colleges on October 19th. Plans to be discussed include the "2 + 2" program and cooperative programs.

There is a growing concern about student advisement. President Meredith is getting lots of feedback on this issue from many groups and individuals. Suggestions or ideas on advisement are welcomed.

President Meredith asked that the Senate members be representative of their area in order to make the Faculty Senate effective.

Questions addressed to Dr. Meredith from the floor:

Q. What is the priority on construction?
   A. 1) There is a bond authority issue for the renovating of residence halls (about 50% of WKU live in dorms), 2) A new, 300 bed residence hall; 3) A student activity center (96% paid by state, 4% good faith money)

Q. What about the repair of equipment, that is falling apart.
   A. There is no money available now. The solution probably will have to be from private money.

Q. Unhealthy buildings and environmental concerns exist in Tait C. Page Hall. What can be done?
   A. Harry Largen has been asked to evaluate problems in Tait C. Page Hall.
Q. I have a question concerning the advisement of students: retention and probation problems.

A. Refer these questions to Dr. Haynes.

Adjourned:

Dorsey Grize moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.