The meeting was called to order by Chair White at 3:30 pm. Senators absent without observers were: Saundra Ardrey, Robert Baum, Ed Counts, Irene Powers, John Quast, Jo Ann Verner. The minutes of the December 17, 1989 meeting were accepted with one change.

Executive Committee Report

Chair White will organize a legislative forum on campus with our local representatives to provide an update on Frankfort and to interchange ideas. The Senate Constitution will go to the Board of Regents in January with the following exception made by the President: the Faculty Senate will have one not two representatives on the University Budget Committee and since the Senate has one representative on the Insurance Committee already, the wording requesting the representative will be dropped. Six faculty members have been nominated for selection on the Task Force For Sexual Assault from which four will be selected by the President. Following the passage of a Senate resolution last month to survey the university climate, the Executive Committee has appointed a committee to begin work. A survey will be developed and mailed to all faculty. A Presidential newsletter is published and sent to faculty. This was a request made to the President by the Executive Committee this past fall and it has been honored.

The Executive Committee has received a copy of a petition being circulated by physical plant employees regarding health insurance. Representatives from this group have requested and been granted time to present the petition to the Senate at this meeting. Joy Gramling presented their position about unhappiness with the university's contribution toward health insurance and supported the Senate's resolution on health insurance. Joined forces would have a greater impact upon the administration's awareness of our mutual concern. Faculty are welcomed to sign the petition along with physical plant employees. A request was made to read the petition. The chair read the following petition:

"Because of rising health insurance costs, take-home pay for the university employees has decreased for the past three years. Since the pay scale at Western is comparatively low and since annual raises do not even keep pace with inflation, we find it increasingly difficult to maintain a decent standard of living for ourselves and our families. We the undersigned, therefore, strongly urge WKU to either shoulder its fair share of the increase in the cost of medical insurance or to compensate its employees in the form of an increase in wages."
Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Senator Rasdall reported that the holiday pay item on the new check stub relates to the fringe benefit payment for Martin Luther King Day. This item will not appear on future stubs. The social security deduction for 1990 has increased from 7.5% to 7.65% and income tax rates for 1990 have caused paychecks to be less in January. She also reported that the Consumer Price Index from November 1988 to November 1989 was 4.7%.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee: Senator Wesolowski reported that the item under new business will be presented for discussion and that it is co-sponsored by this committee and the Executive Committee.

COSFL Report: Senator Pulliam reported that an area of concern for COSFL was relationships with university area legislators. It is important to keep your local legislators informed like a Senate forum which is planned by Western. Our Senate Chair might send the COSFL legislative agenda to our local legislators expressing our Senate support of that platform. Senators were reminded of the need for financial contributions of $10 to COSFL for this legislative session. As passed in a previous Senate meeting, departmental senators were to make copies available to their faculty. A resolution is being prepared by COSFL to the Council on Higher Education urging COSFL participation in the yearly planning and orientation session of CHE.

Faculty Regent's Report: Regent Evans reported that the Board will get the budget in May. The Board will receive the new guidelines for selection and evaluation of department heads at the January 25 meeting. Regent Evans will discuss concerns about the document with the President. Gene expressed his concern that the search committee be an agent of the department, not separate from the department. He will also present faculty concerns to the President regarding the document. Senator Weigel hoped that the Academic Committee of the Board would be made aware of the fact that the Department Head/Chair Task Force Report along with the Senate Report are not reflected in the document and Regent Evans agreed to do that. Senator Krenzin suggested Faculty Senate representation at the Academic Committee and Board meeting. It was agreed to do so. Regent Evans said the document does seem to have more faculty influence in the process than previously exhibited. Chair White stated that the President has been made aware of the Senate’s feeling regarding this topic through numerous discussions.

NEW BUSINESS

The Resolution on Health Insurance was read by the secretary and moved for adoption. A second to the motion was received. This resolution was co-sponsored by the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee along with the Executive Committee. A discussion followed. Senator Steve White and others expressed support for the physical plant employees petition. Senator Wesolowski commented that the Senate resolution makes apparent a
proprietary interest in the university's legal commitment to its employees and also points out the background to this resolution. Also discussed was the possibility of the issue of breach of contract upon the university. A shortened version of the resolution was discussed. Senator Kuhlenschmidt proposed an amendment to the motion by shortening the resolution and moving much of the statement to the background section. Seconded by Senator Wesolowski. The amendment to the motion passed. After further discussion and failed amendments, the amended motion passed as follows:

RESOLUTION

"It is the sense of the Faculty Senate that the University's shift in philosophy is rejected as unacceptable to the faculty."

The background statements to the resolution on health insurance will be forwarded as agreed to before passage.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.