FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
February 15, 1990

The meeting was called to order by Chair White at 3:30 p.m. Senators absent without representation were: Saundra Ardrey, Robert Baum, Gabriel Buntzman, John Faine, Joe Glaser, Gordon Jones, Kenneth Kuehn, Sally Kuhlenschmidt, Earl Pearson, Thomas Syre, Jo Ann Verner. The minutes of the January 18, 1990, meeting were accepted with one correction.

Executive Committee Report

The revised Senate Constitution has been approved by the Board of Regents. The Selection and Evaluation of Department Head document has been approved by the Board of Regents. Gratitude was expressed to Faculty Regent Evans for his effort with the President to include a faculty vote as part of the evaluation process for department heads in the new document. The Senate Chair and physical plant representatives met with the President to deliver the Senate Insurance Resolution and petition of signatures. The President was made aware of the critical concern regarding health insurance. Senator Robert Hansen, Department of Accounting, will be our representative on the newly formed university budget committee which has had an initial meeting. The chair has organized the Legislative Forum which will be held on February 23, 4 pm, 305 DUC. Our local legislators will be on hand for an update on the current session followed by a question period. Senators were asked to inform their faculty of this meeting. Refreshments will be provided by the Senate. The Senate survey on the university climate is ready for distribution and will be mailed next week. Senators Otto and Wesolowski along with past Senator Betty Fulwood were appointed by the Executive Committee to serve on the ad hoc committee. The Senate meeting in March will be on the 15th not the 22nd because of a conflict. During April meetings will be on the 12th and the new Senate will meet on April 24. A report of the Western 21 committee was made by Senator Flynn who chairs that university committee. The first phase of work has been completed by nine of the task forces. This information will be useful for looking at the mission, clientele, and priorities of the university. This should lead to a more focused approach to university budgeting.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Senator Rasdall circulated a listing of all state legislators and their committee assignments. A toll-free number for registering your concerns about legislative proposals is available. We should be receiving a report from the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System regarding funding by the state into the system. Contact should be made to local legislators expressing concern about inadequate funding for the retirement system by the state. 1-800-372-7181

Academic Affairs Committee: Senator Moore discussed the findings of a study on academic probation of students. The review showed that Western has more stringent requirements than other state
universities. Academic standards have increased at Western with a higher high school grade point average and ACT score required. Stronger entering students and fewer academic dismissals may be evidence of the higher entrance requirements. The committee study has no suggestions for change at this time.

By-Laws, Amendments, and Elections Committee: Senator Yungbluth reported that there will be fourteen departmental elections this spring followed by two college at large elections.

NEW BUSINESS

The Resolution on Earth Day 1990 was introduced by Senator Jan Garrett and seconded by Senator Krenzin. A motion was made by Senator Steve White to accept by acclamation. The motion passed. It reads as follows:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT

Faculty Senate XIII of Western Kentucky University joins Congress and the President in recognizing Earth Day 1990, April 22, 1990.

The Senate urges President Meredith and the Board of Regents to join in this recognition on behalf of Western Kentucky University.

The Senate encourages all faculty at Western Kentucky University to participate in this event in some way, appropriate to the disciplines they teach, in their classes during the week preceding or the week following Earth Day.

The Senate encourages other segments of the university community to sponsor or support additional activities aimed at fostering environmentally sustainable practices at every level of society.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.