FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
March 14, 1991

The meeting was called to order by Chair White at 3:35 p.m. The minutes for the January and February meetings were accepted with the spelling corrections mentioned. Senators absent without representation were: John Crenshaw, John Faine, Wade Ferguson, Rita Hessley, William Howard, Gordon Jones, Michael Lasater, Gary McKercher, Raul Padilla, Eric Pennington, Carolyn Stringer, Thomas Syre, Jo Ann Verner.

Presidential Address: At the request of the Executive Committee, President Meredith was asked to address the Senate regarding sensitivity of the university community to minority student issues. The issue is more than the President's and involves faculty. A request was made to the Faculty Senate to assist in the awareness and sensitivity of faculty to minority issues on campus. A friendly hello to students can go along way toward showing our concern for those of a minority. Subject matter in the classroom where minorities have made contributions can be emphasized. These ideas can involve many faculty and can make minorities feel more a part of our campus. The Senate can play an integral part in devising ways to improve sensitivity to minority issues.

Executive Committee Report: The chair read a fictitious faculty contract letter from Snidley Whiplash deploirling the economic plight since coming to Western. The chair attended the CCSEFL state meeting recently and again it looks like Western maybe on the low-end of salary increases among state universities. We have studied the athletic overspending issue for years and yet nothing improves. It is hoped that President Meredith will act favorably on these "bread and butter" issues. Academics must take precedence over athletics.

Fiscal Affairs Committee: Senator Redman commented on the committee's report, Athletic and Other Spending at WKU. For 1989-90, the academic budget was underspent by $700,000 while the athletic budget was overspent by 12% or $300,000. In addition, lower athletic revenues along with overspending caused a $1.6 million athletic deficit which was underwritten by the university's general fund. Monies had to be reallocated from the academic side to the athletic side. The report recommends that athletic overspending be eliminated and educational programs be put first. The most important mission of the university is educating our students.

A second report, Allocation of Funds 1990-91, showed that academic budgets increased 5% while support services increased 19%. Support services over a two year period has received an increase of 4% making up 45% of the total budget while academics has decreased by 4% to 55% of the total budget. Again, there seems to be a reallocation of funds away from academic programs to support services.
The President commented that he would welcome conversations about the reports since he received them yesterday. It has not been possible to reconstruct the reports as written. Senator Redman commented that the committee did consult with Cecil Garmon's office. The offer to dialogue is welcomed.

Faculty Status and Welfare Committee: Senator Kuehn reported that a study of released-time in departments has been done. There is variation within departments as to what constitutes released-time. The committee felt that departmental senators should discuss with heads a listing of activities so faculty can be informed as to their opportunities for professional development and procedures for application. Secondly, the committee is studying other ways to benefit faculty other than salary compensation.

Faculty Regent's Report: Regent Evans reported on a meeting of faculty regents with the Council on Higher Education staff regarding the draft of the next five year strategic plan. The draft highlights the importance of teaching. Teaching is to be recognized as the foremost responsibility of higher education. The fundamental role of regional institutions is high quality undergraduate level teaching. Teaching is to be recognized as the most important scholarly activity. Economic rewards for teaching on a par with research. Assessment is up to individual universities not the CHE. Economic development is to also have an important role.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution for a Tobacco-Free Workplace--Second Reading: Senator Klein distributed additional information regarding the legal aspects. EPA will classify cigarette smoke as a class A carcinogen based on the scientific evidence. Employers will be legally liable for health effects upon employees. The history of lawsuits have upheld the legal claims of the health effects of secondary smoke.

Amendment: To provide one smoking area per building if adequate ventilation exists. Seconded. Passed.

Amendment: To replace the word tobacco-free with "smoke-free". Seconded. Passed.

The resolution as amended passed.

Survey of Faculty Opinion: Should the Senate conduct the survey again this year? Motion made and seconded.

Amendment: Item #11 regarding the president's job performance should be confidential being sent only to the president and the board. Seconded. Defeated.

The motion to conduct the survey passed.
NEW BUSINESS

Resolution on Faculty Salaries: Motion moved and seconded. The chair ruled without any objections to consider the motion with one reading. Motion passed.

Resolution Concerning Part-Time Faculty: Senator Susan James moved approval for first reading as chair of the Professional Responsibilities and Concerns Committee sponsoring the resolution.

Resolution For Budget Analyses Each Year: Proposed by the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Senator Redman, and to be accepted in one reading. Passed:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate charges the Fiscal Affairs Committee with the responsibility to analyze, each year, the university budget in regard to amounts budgeted and expenditures for intercollegiate athletics, the colleges' instruction, college administration and executive management as well as intercollegiate athletic revenues. The Fiscal Affairs Committee each year will present to the Senate a report of their analyses and findings.

Resolution on Recommendations of the Fiscal Affairs Committee on the report "Athletic and Other Spending at WKU"--First Reading. Moved and seconded for first reading.

Adjournment at 5:10 p.m.