CALL TO ORDER
The faculty senate was called to order by Chair Arvin Vos at 3:33 p.m. Vice-President Burch was away attending the Governing Board Retreat along with Regent Mendel. John Barnum, Steve Boilard, Greg Briscoe, Wade Ferguson, Dorsey Grice, Michael Kallstrom, Scott Keifer, Matt Kubasik, Deborah Lively, Suzanne Norwood, John Oaks, Bob Otto, Joel Philhours, Sylvia Pulliam, Jack Rudolph, Rick Shanon, and Chuck Smith were absent without substitution. Joan Krenzin substituted for Carl Kell, Marilyn Casto substituted for Danita Kelly.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES
The minutes of the November 6, 1997 meeting were unavailable and will be considered at the February 5, 1998 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs - Lyn Miller
Senator Miller verbally reported on the findings of the committee with regards to the starting and stopping of the tenure clock. For those arriving with ABD status, the tenure clock starts following the completion of the degree from January 1st or July 1st, whichever is closest to the date of completion. Faculty have three years to complete their degrees from date of hire or their contracts cannot be renewed. Authorized leaves of absence stop the clock automatically. Further, individuals may always negotiate shorter periods of probation at their time of hire. It was the opinion of the committee that current policy is appropriate and had only one recommendation:

“that the WKU Faculty Handbook be revised to include the following as item 4 atop page 20 (where the length requirements for the probationary period are presented):

Individuals with previous experience may negotiate the length of the probationary period at the time of hire."

Bylaws, Amendments, and Elections - Fred Murphy (appointed chair)
Senator Murphy reported that the elections committee will be overseeing elections in 12 departments, of whom eight senators are eligible for re-election.

Faculty Status and Welfare - No Report

Fiscal Affairs - David Keeling
Senator Keeling proposed a study of Faculty Development funds and their distribution with the colleges and also reported that the committee report on part-time faculty salaries will be distributed at the next regular meeting of the senate.

Professional Responsibilities and Concerns - Zack Murrell
Senator Murrell anticipates delivering his committees final report on student ratings of faculty at the next meeting of the senate.

Senate Communications - Rose Davis
Senator Davis announced that items will be needed for next newsletter (e.g., committee reports, general topics of interest).

Executive Committee - Arvin Vos
Chair Vos requested names of Senators to serve on University committees. The Chair also read selected quotes from the Fischer report to those in attendance, and strongly urged Senators to read the copies that were being distributed to each department.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
- COSFL statement on Post-Tenure review was brought to the floor. Motion to approve the statement as written was made by Senator Phelps and seconded by Senator Davis. The chair ruled that this could be handled in one reading. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution from COSFL on Post-Tenure Review:

WHEREAS
A) the review processes currently in place at Kentucky's public universities are multiple in form, including reviews of faculty performance after receiving tenure and
B) most, if not all, public higher education institutions in the State are already implementing or piloting various additional procedures for "post-tenure review" in the sense being suggested in proposed legislation and
C) tenure as currently defined in the statutes is designed to protect academic freedom and not to protect incompetence, refusal to perform duties, or immoral behavior and
D) efforts to adapt or enhance faculty review processes must recognize the varied missions of each institution (as outlined in the recently passed state higher education reforms)

THEREFORE,
The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership of Kentucky (COSFL) recommends that universities be given opportunity to assess their pre- and post-tenure review policies and, if necessary, further adapt faculty performance review and accountability processes to the specific mission of their institutions and the expectations of the higher education reform act. Since the universities have such varied missions, COSFL opposes passage of any new legislation imposing one system of post-tenure review on all public universities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
None.

Motion to adjourn was made by Senator David Keeling and seconded by Senator Chuck Smith. Chair Vos adjourned the senate at 4:42.

Respectfully submitted,
John B. White
Secretary/Treasurer

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