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Faculty Senate Minutes, Oct. 3, 1994

Eastern Kentucky University, Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

October 3, 1994

The Faculty Senate of Eastern Kentucky University met on Monday, October 3, 1994, in the Faculty Dining Room of the Powell Building. Senate Chair Virginia Wright called the second meeting of the 1994-1995 academic year to order at 3:30 p.m.

The following members of the Senate were absent:

C. Dean*	D. Elias*	L. Gaines	C. Gardner*	G. Kleine
R. Hopkins*	D. Quillen*	T. Ricks*	J. Widener	

*Indicates prior notification to the Senate Secretary.

Visitors to the Senate were Mr. James Clark, Office of Planning and Budget; Mr. Chad Williamson, Eastern Progress; and Dr. Ray Mendel, Western Kentucky University Faculty Regent.

Approval of the Minutes

Senator Wright called for additions or corrections to the September 12, 1994 minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Report from the President: Senator Funderburk

President Funderburk reported that the Council on Higher Education would be holding a forum at Eastern's campus on October 13, 1994. This forum will be held to allow concerned faculty and staff an opportunity to discuss issues relating to the performance-based funding model which will be used in fiscal year 1995-96. Representative Harry Moberly, Mr. Jim Gilbert, chair of the Board of Regents, and Mr. Bill Walters of the Kentucky Advocates of Higher Education will speak at the forum.

President Funderburk also reported that he had recently attended in Lexington the third Governor's Conference on Trusteeship, which was coordinated by the Council on Higher Education. The Governor's Conference brought together university board members and trustees from across the commonwealth and individuals from the public and private sectors to discuss issues confronting higher education. The meeting addressed the plight of higher education in a time when state-funded appropriations are decreasing and tuition is increasing.

President Funderburk then asked Mr. James Clark to explain briefly to the Senators how Eastern would be affected by the new performance-based funding model. There being no objections to Mr. Clark's speaking, he elaborated on the criteria which will be used to establish additional funding beyond the base for the 1995-96 fiscal year. The input from the

hearings that are being held across the state, he explained, will be used to establish the new criteria for additional funding in the 1996-98 budget biennium. Mr. Clark then took questions regarding the performance-based funding model.

Report from the Executive Committee: Chair Wright

Senator Wright began her report by announcing the appointment of a four-member advisory committee called the Chair's Advisory Committee on Campus Collegiality. Members of the committee are: Hank Everman, Department of History, chair; Glen Kleine, College of Applied Arts and Technology; Genevieve Clay, Library; and Phyllis Shuttleworth, Model School. The committee's charge is to make recommendations to the Chair regarding activities that could enhance collegiality at Eastern. The first order of business for the committee will be to examine the feasibility of publishing a faculty directory with photographs. Second, this committee will examine the possibility of an "upscale" dining opportunity on campus. The criteria for judging these two issues and subsequent issues will be: (1) the amount of faculty interest and faculty preferences; (2) details on how an idea might be implemented; and (3) the costs.

Senator Wright reported that thirty-four faculty attended Dr. Martha Grise's workshop on parliamentary procedures. Dr. Grise's presentation received high marks for both content and presentation.

Senator Wright then stated that there seemed to be some confusion regarding the change in syllabus policy that passed the Senate in March 1993 and appears in the most recent version of the Faculty/Staff Handbook. The policy states, "the syllabus will describe a mechanism by which the instructor will provide students with written information on their progress in the course at least once prior to the mid-point of the course." Chair Wright stated that the purpose of this change was to assist the students in keeping track of their progress in a course. The policy was designed so that students will have some graded feedback from the instructor before the mid-point of the semester.

Senator Wright requested that faculty members with concerns or suggestions regarding the internal procedures used for the selection of Foundation Professors should share their concerns as soon as possible with the chair or with a member of a new committee appointed by Senator Enzie to examine these procedures.

Senator Wright then reported that the Executive Committee met on September 19, 1994, and had an extensive conversation with Dr. Morris Taylor, former chair of the Senate's Committee on the Oversight of Student Evaluation of Instruction, regarding the purpose and usefulness of this committee. Senator Wright will be appointing several new members and a new chair to the committee and charge them with making a careful review of the committee's purpose.

The committee also discussed having a spring orientation for new Senators and passed

this issue to the Elections Committee for its consideration.

Report from the Faculty Regent: Senator Freed

Senator Freed reported that he had just come from the Governor's Conference on Higher Education Trusteeship. This conference is intended to assist board members to learn more about the complexities of university governance. This purpose inevitably leads to a focus on fiscal issues. One problem, however, in the contemporary climate of performance-based funding, is the definition of "quality of instruction."

The focus at many of these meetings tends to be on adapting to the external pressures that face the university. While this is certainly a vital and important concern, he suggested that there are some ideals and principles which must not be changed regardless of public pressures.

Among these ideals are first, that the university is a place where ideas are discussed, debated, and argued without the inevitable reference to the real world beyond the campus. While a large part of what is taught at Eastern is oriented to career training and development, at least some part of that training must be of a non-practical nature. Many of the techniques necessary to accomplish this are not measurable in quantitative terms.

Second, faculty must be given time to work, teach, serve, and research on their own in a way that is not easily measured. If faculty members are forced to prove that their research and teaching are efficient, the research and teaching will suffer.

In conclusion, Senator Freed urged faculty to spend some time thinking about academic ideals and not allow fiscal concerns to overwhelm important principles of higher education.

Report from the COSFL Representative: Senator Lee-Riffe

Senator Lee-Riffe reported that the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) meeting was held September 17, 1994, at the University of Louisville.

The new chair of COSFL is EKU's Senator Freed and the treasurer is Senator Wright. The next meeting will be October 15, 1994.

At the meeting there was a general discussion of Western Kentucky University's efforts to redefine the duties of faculty who are on the Early Retirement Option. In the future, faculty may be required to do an appropriate amount of non-teaching activity, such as committee work and advising.

The University of Kentucky changed its policy on the payment of tuition by credit card to no longer allow this method of payment. Due to much student consternation, U K is

looking into time payment plans so that students could still have the option of extended payment but with a lower interest rate than is available through credit card companies.

Finally, Senator Lee-Riffe mentioned that just as the Eastern chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) is reactivated, AAUP chapters at other institutions are likewise taking more active roles. Collective bargaining is of interest at the University of Louisville.

Report from the Self-Study: Senator Wisenbaker

Senator Wisenbaker reported that the Principal Committees are meeting regularly now, gathering information for the purpose of establishing whether Eastern meets SACS criteria. Each of the twelve Principal Committees will report regularly to one of three Steering Committee subcommittees which have been set up to make sure every aspect of the University is thoroughly reviewed.

Reports from the Standing Committees

Committee on the Budget: Senator Rink

Senator Rink reported that the next meeting of the Committee on the Budget will be on October 12, 1994.

Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities: Senator Guilfoil

Senator Guilfoil reported that the Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities had met and reviewed a report by the Ad Hoc Study Committee on Ethics in Research and Teaching. After reviewing the report, the Committee proposed a procedure that will allow faculty to make allegations of ethical misconduct against chairs, deans, or vice presidents.

After considerable discussion which questioned the need for such a procedure, the committee agreed to continue to study the issue before bringing a proposal to the Senate Executive Committee.

New Business

Senator Enzie reported that the Council on Deans had developed a proposal to alter the University practice in regard to emergencies, especially when inclement weather requires the start of classes to be delayed. The proposal, which will be voted on at the next meeting, calls for first-period classes to begin at 10:00 a.m. and run for fifty minutes with a ten-minute period between the end of the class and the beginning of the next class. All subsequent classes are to last for fifty minutes with the ten-minute changeover period. This change is proposed so that every class will have an opportunity to meet in the event of an emergency situation. The proposed change affects only the University and does not apply to the Model Laboratory School.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Senate, Senator Enzie moved that the Senate adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Charles C. Hay, III
Faculty Senate Secretary