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The Minutes of the Marshall University Faculty Senate Meeting, December 14, 1995

Marshall University Faculty Senate

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FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

1995-96

December 14, 1995

Present:

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Faculty Senate President Elaine Baker. The minutes of the November 16 meeting were approved as distributed.

Announcements:

Presidential action on Senate recommendations.

President Gilley has approved all Senate recommendations of November 16, 1995, including the one made from the floor with the proposed name of an additional honorary degree recipient.

Lynn Rigsbee was recognized by the chair and thanked for his service on the Senate this semester, filling in for David Woodward who was on sabbatical; Prof. Woodward will return as Senator in January to fill out his elected term.

Baker noted that the Senate office has now moved to the first floor of Old Main and invited all Senators to stop by and see it. Furniture has been provided by Dr. Gilley, and a very nice painting is on loan from Stan Sporney.

Early and/or phased retirement is beginning to be looked at for employees at Marshall. A draft document has been prepared; it is in committee at this point but will eventually be submitted for Senate approval.

As part of the strategic planning process for the next five years, a group is being formed for program evaluation: Lyle Wilcox, chair; members of the Deans' Council; Blaker Bolling, Chair, Academic Planning Committee; Elaine Baker, President, Faculty Senate; Sarah Denman; 3 faculty representatives, and student representatives on Dean's Council. The three faculty

representatives as appointed by Baker and endorsed by the Executive Committee are Maudie Karickhoff, Beverly Marchant, and Michael Little.

Report of the University President:

Karen Mitchell from the Department of Mathematics was specially recognized and commended as an outstanding teacher with an extraordinary devotion to undergraduate education. She was then formally presented the "Case Teacher of the Year Award" for West Virginia by Dr. Gilley. The Senate responded with a standing ovation.

ACF report:

Caroline Perkins referred to the revised draft of system initiatives which were included with the Senate agenda. Some suggestions from last month were incorporated but some substantive parts were not.

Discussion with Dr. Manning:

Dr. Charles Manning, Chancellor, perceives two major forces at work on higher education right now: 1) society's expectations for greater productivity and a higher percentage of citizens with post-secondary education; and 2) focus on instructional technology throughout the educational system. To accomplish this will require a longer-range commitment for funding by the state legislature coupled with the productivity factor for state colleges and universities.

Several questions followed, the first of which was about equipping individual instructors with computers. Dr. Manning replied that that process will be program-driven. As programmatic proposals are made, phased areas will be equipped.

With regard to tuition waivers for families of Marshall employees, the economics of it cannot be contained in this environment.

A question was asked about the equation of TIAA-CREF contributions between the institution and the individual; it comes down to salary increases vs. benefits--salary increases are more popular.

Elaborating more on S.B. 547, Dr. Manning said that our interpretation of what we're doing and what the Legislature thinks we're doing may be completely different. There is a disparity between the Legislature's perception of what's important to them and faculties' perceptions of what they do. There is pressure to make more connection between higher education and K-12. They want high school graduates better prepared and want higher education not to have to devote classes to remedial curriculum. These concerns can be addressed in many different ways; thoughts and suggestions need to be communicated clearly to legislators.

As far as measuring productivity, faculty workloads should be department-based, and not factored for each individual. That way, research and instructional hours can be balanced.

University Calendar Committee:

Caroline Perkins reported that the committee has met twice and that the calendar will be finalized soon. She asked for consensus from the Senate regarding the schedule, particularly in areas that have been variable in the past. The first request was that since the first Saturday class falls on Labor Day weekend, that Saturday classes begin September 7. There was no objection to the Thanksgiving break as scheduled. There was mixed reaction to spring break with some favoring mid-semester and some preferring coordinating with public schools (however there are many variances among public schools from county to county); no consensus. One senator asked

the committee to consider a fall break (2 days in October) in future planning. Caroline will convey the input to the committee.

Committee recommendations:

SR-95-96-(13-15)(CC): To approve the following course additions - ENG 410 and 412; HST 317; and MGT 150. Miller moved and it was seconded to approve. Motion carried.

SR-95-96-(16)(BAPC): To approve that a course overload policy be established and that course overloads be granted by department chairs and division heads. Sporny moved to amend and it was seconded that the word "only" be inserted after "granted." Motion defeated. Turner moved to amend by saying that in the absence of a department or division head, the student would go to the Dean for overloads. Motion died for lack of a second.

Gross moved and it was seconded that we refer this recommendation back to committee to consider the concerns expressed here on the floor of the Senate. Motion carried.

Standing Committee reports:

Physical Facilities - Sporney reported that the exodus from Northcott Hall is taking place. The committee is still working on parking for graduate and teaching assistants.

Research - Castellani stated that the committee has awarded several research grants and have reviewed patent and ethics policies. There were no suggested changes for ethics; several suggestions for the patent policy will be forwarded along. Student Conduct & Welfare - Rotter reported several issues under consideration: 1) Mass gathering policy; 2) Discipline policy; and 3) AIDS policy. When asked about discipline policy, Rotter replied that there are several departments on campus that don't conform to university policies or to those in the student handbook.

University Functions - Merritt-Damron said that topics under discussion are commencement announcements, getting proposals from photographers for commencement, and nominations for honorary degrees.

Agenda requests for future meetings:

--Keith Spears will be addressing the Senate in January.

--Dr. Lyle Wilcox will meet with the Senate in January to discuss allocation of funds to departments and/or colleges. It was requested that in conjunction with that topic, he also discuss summer school scheduling.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Wildman, Secretary

Marshall University Faculty Senate

MINUTES READ:

Elaine Baker, President

Marshall University Faculty Senate

Dr. J. Wade Gilley, President

Marshall University