

Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

Responses to "Faculty Governance: Now or Never?," by Bill Kane, 9/1/96

I salute and second Bill Kane's invocation to all 350+ WCU faculty members both to get informed and to get involved. Getting involved is especially important beyond the department level. Too few people are representing their individual viewpoints (and those of their disciplines and departments) at the college and especially the university levels, regardless of the activity in question. Increased involvement should include participating as respondents to the Faculty Center publications and in such worthwhile Faculty Center endeavors as the Mentoring Program. In particular, faculty seeking tenure and/or promotion should consider that unless they serve outside of their departments and thereby cultivate associations with other faculty, their efforts to gain professional affirmation and advancement within the University are essentially represented only by their paper files. And while tenure and promotion should ideally never be the result of some sort of "buddy" system, my experience suggests that both professional and social contact with faculty outside one's own department (as at the University Club or at various community functions) often play a role in a variety of personnel decisions made at the college and University level.

Jim Nicholl, English

Bill is on the money and I look forward to working with all of you on building a better governance system.

John Bardo, Chancellor