

RESOLUTION

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE FOR FACULTY REGENT

Whereas, KRS 164.321 requires that all comprehensive universities in the Commonwealth shall be governed by a Board of Regents. The Board shall consist of eight (8) members appointed by the Governor, one (1) member of the teaching faculty, one (1) member of the university nonteaching personnel, and one (1) member of the student body of the respective university or college.¹

Whereas this statute additionally sets forth the requirements to serve as faculty regent and the requirements to be eligible to vote for faculty regent. In paragraph (6)(a), it states, “The faculty member shall be a teaching or research member of the faculty of his or her respective university or college of the rank of assistant professor or above. The faculty member shall be elected by secret ballot by all faculty members of his or her university or college of the rank of assistant professor or above. The faculty member shall serve for a term of three (3) years and until his successor is elected and qualified. The faculty member shall be eligible for reelection, but he or she shall not be eligible to continue to serve as a member of the board if he or she ceases being a member of the teaching staff of the university or college. Elections to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for the original election.”²

Whereas, WKU currently employs faculty at the rank of “instructor” who serve in full-time, continuing appointments.

Whereas, WKU intends to extend the definition of faculty in full-time, continuing appointments to ranks other than instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and/or professor.

Whereas under the current statutory definition, faculty in several colleges at WKU are either currently ineligible to vote for faculty regent or will be ineligible in the future when new ranks are identified and defined.

Whereas, all full-time faculty with continuing appointments are entitled to a voice in university governance, and eligibility to participate in the election of faculty regent is central to that process.

BE IT RESOLVED that WKU, by and through its duly authorized agent(s), shall aggressively pursue amendment to KRS 164.321(6)(a) so that all faculty with full-time, continuing appointments at this institution shall be allowed to vote for faculty regent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate shall present this Resolution to the Kentucky Governor, Speaker and President of the Senate.

April, 2009

¹ KRS 164.321(1)(a).

² KRS 164.321(6)(a).