

Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee
Western Kentucky University

Report to the University Senate

Date: April 28, 2014

From: Tucker Davis, Chair

The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee submits the following report for consideration by at the SEC meeting 5/5/14.

I. Action Items

1. Proposed Resolutions

a. Instructor Promotion and Tenure Resolution (Amended resolution)

II. Information Items

1. Field Trip Policy (2 issues have arisen)

a. Potential hardships on faculty

i. Short notice field trips (i.e. agriculture, geology)

1. We are drafting language to allow for a blanket approval form that can be completed at the beginning of each semester
2. Dr. Bonaguro has shared the proposed online form with the committee. It looks good, but we will continue to review these issues.

ii. Liability issues

1. Dr. John All has shared a resolution that was passed by the University Senate in 2005

*Whereas currently University employees are frequently required to travel as part of their employment,
Whereas faculty often lead field trips and study abroad trips outside of the University Campus,
Whereas currently employees are not covered or inadequately covered by the University either personally
or professionally in the case of lawsuits for off campus events and thus are potentially exposed to
excessive financial loss,*

*And whereas the University as an organization can purchase such insurance in the most cost effective
manner,*

*The University Senate resolves that professional liability insurance or its equivalent should be provided to
all faculty and staff whose activities require them to travel off campus as part of their employment. This
policy should provide coverage of at least 3 million dollars per incident and the maximum should increase
to keep pace with inflation and typical liability judgments.*

2. We are/will be seeking information from WKU Human Resources and WKU Counsel regarding the status and outcome of this resolution
3. We are/will be seeking information from WKU Human Resources regarding current liability insurance coverage limits

2. Promotion for instructor ranks

- a. It has been mentioned that this issue is being considered
- b. We are/will be seeking information from administration regarding any documentation or discussions that have taken place referencing this issue.