

**MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATE  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2003  
GARRETT BALLROOM**

Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. **The following members were present:** John All, Darlene Applegate, Jim Berger, Ray Blankenship, Charles Border, Chris Brown, John Bruni, Barbara Burch, Robert Choate, Linda Coakley, Thad Crews II, Robert Dietle, Claus Ernst, Sam Evans, Elmer Gray, Bill Greenwalt, Richard Hackney, Kacy Harris, Michelle Hollis, William Howard, Lois Jircitano, Pam Jukes, Danita Kelley, Cynthia Mason, Connie Mills, Pat Minors, Patricia Minter, John Moore, Russell Moore, Sharon Mutter, Jane Olmsted, Anne Onyekwuluje, Yvonne Petkus, Raymond Poff, Matt Pruitt, Troy Ransdell, Eric Reed, Sherry Reid, Jo-Anne Ryan, Jeffrey Samuels, Roger Scott, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Nelda Sims, Doug Smith, Brian Strow, Judy Walker, Jue Wang, Richard Weigel, Mary Wolinski. **Alternate members present were.** Bob Reber for Robert Jefferson, Larry Snyder for David Lee. **Members absent were:** Katie Alego, Jim Becker, Michael Binder, John Bonaguro, Suzie Cashwell, Debra Crisp, Joe Etienne, Blaine Ferrell, Jeffrey Hackett, Robert Holman, Augustine Ihator, Dan Jackson, Bruce Kessler, Minwoo Lee, Lora Moore, George Musambira, Richard Parker, Keith Phillips, Sherry Powers, Gary Ransdell, Loren Ruff, Sherrie Serros, Fred Siewers, Byron Sleugh, Bill Tseng, Edward Yager, Uta Ziegler.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of August 21, 2003 were approved as editorially corrected.

**University Senate Action Approval**

Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost, and Vice President for Academic Affairs approved, without exception, the actions taken by the University Senate at its August 21, 2003 meeting.

**Report from the Chair**

1. Chair Smith distributed printed nameplates for the University Senate membership to place at their respective tables. He said these would be collected at the end of the meeting and used at future meetings.
2. The Chair said he has been working on a comprehensive list of the University Level Committees, (Committees that have members representing more than one college/unit) and these lists are posted on the University Senate website.
3. Next the Chair said there are vacancies existing on Academic Program Review Committee, (Potter College and Gordon Ford, one each), and the SACS Quality Enhancement Plan Committee has two vacancies that need to be filled. The College of Health and Human Services has a vacancy on the Athletics Committee, and the

University Curriculum Committee has an at-large Vacancy. The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee has two vacancies.

### **Report from the University Faculty Regent**

1. Regent Robert Dietle reported on an article that appeared in the *Herald* concerning a fee imposed for other areas of the University wishing to use Diddle Arena. The Regent said he has made several calls and understands that this policy is being reviewed for reconsideration and will report back to this body when a decision is made.
2. Next Regent Dietle reported on another item appearing in the *Herald* addressing the idea of "The Greek Village." He said that earlier this week he and the other two campus Regents, John Bradley, Pat Jordon, met with Dr. Gene Tice for clarification of the idea that the University would help create the Greek Village. Regent Dietle said it is his understanding that this is still in the planning stages and no definite decision has been made. Dr. Dietle explained the potential plans, possible obstacles, and will report back to the Senate.
3. Regent Dietle said he will meet with President Ransdell next week to cover several items which have arisen, and asked that if any Senator has something they would like for him to address at this meeting with the President to let him know.

### **Report from the Campus Services and Facilities**

Chair Smith introduced John Osborne, Associate Vice President for Campus Services and Facilities, and asked him to address the status of mold remediation efforts in Tate Page and Gordon Wilson Fine Arts Center with the Senate.

Mr. Osborne reported on the past, present and future of the problems that exist in these buildings. He said when they first became aware of the mold issues and the problems this could cause, the first action was to engage an engineering firm to assist in identifying the cause of the problems and to identify the best possible solutions to solve them. In order to do this it was determined early on that this would take more than maintenance dollars, it was going to take capital dollars. The Kentucky Building was also included in the review. Mr. Osborne said these buildings have original 1960/70's systems and equipment that need to be replaced. He said they have created a 6-year capital plan request that would address the most urgent needs. This request was first submitted to the Commonwealth as an emergency allocation request. He said the State sent representatives to review the needs and the engineering report. He said this group was interested and willing, however the response seems unfavorable for the emergency funding. Mr. Osborne said they have submitted a second request, and in the meantime have gone into the maintenance budget and the University Facilities Reserve budget and made some immediate changes that they feel have made some improvements successfully. Mr. Osborne and Mr. Doug Ault of Facilities Management answered questions from the Senators, and assured the body that everything possible will be done with dollars available, and reminded the Senate that General Assembly capital funding looks negative at this point. They remain hopeful that funding will be available in 2004.

## **New Business**

Dr. Brian Strow, Department of Economics, asked the Senate to review adopting a "plus/minus" grading system. Dr. Strow indicated that he would bring this issue back to the Senate as a formal motion at the next meeting. Dr. Strow's web page [www.wku.edu/~brian.strow/plusminus.htm](http://www.wku.edu/~brian.strow/plusminus.htm) outlines this proposal. Chair Smith said he would link the website to the Senate's website as well.

Next Dr. Barbara Burch gave the Senate an update on the University's 2003-04 enrollment, which is up approximately 400 students. Dr. Burch said that discussions are underway with CPE and that the criteria for rewards and productivity are on the table and continually changing and adding new dimensions.

Provost Burch said there is a major study underway in partnership with Mr. Ault in facilities, and John. Osborne regarding utilization of classrooms for academic space. Dr. Burch said this study will assist in responding to the State's report that suggests WKU has more academic classroom space than needed. The study has shown that of the 275 classrooms outlined in the report, the study has already identified that 75 are not classrooms. This will be documented to the State to show we are not "flush" in quality classroom space. Secondly, the study group has been asked to produce recommendations and a budget that would enable us to create quality classrooms. Dr. Burch said this report would be used to assist in planning for classroom renovations. She noted that research and student workspace are being considered in the study.

Next, Dr. Burch said three houses have been purchased for visiting and international faculty, and that these will be managed by International Programs.

The Provost next reported on the President's commitment of looking at ways to provide additional resources to maintain and enhance academic quality in the face of unfunded growth. She said that anyway this is viewed, (e.g., Scope, the people who forecast, the CPE, etc.,) all are saying this will be a very tough budget year. However, on the "upside," it is clear that Kentucky is much better off than many states. She said the President is looking for ways to ensure academic enhancement, including the possibility of a tuition increase. Provost Burch said the President is also very committed to using annual increases to continue to address the question of salaries and bench marking efforts. The Provost said the focus is on what we can do to enhance the quality of teaching and learning on this campus, and for success for our students. In collaboration with the Deans, the Provost said they will be looking at the study being done by Facilities and Academic Affairs to develop a two-three plan to get all the classrooms renovated including labs, to address space issues and student academic support. She said one of the points of pride in the University is the degree to which our student athletes graduate and this is attributed largely to the development of a strong academic support system. The students find ready access to academic support through tutoring, mentoring, and other kinds of support. Also being considered is how to provide additional direct academic support for all students. This includes the matters of more competitive Graduate Assistantships, targeted scholarships (e.g., music and other areas), increase of work-study dollars (so that we can increase the availability of this), and other opportunities for departments and students.

Next, Provost Burch said they are also looking at faculty enhancement providing some capacity to increase the number of full-time faculty. The Provost stated that the ratio of part-time faculty and PT temporary faculty to full-time-tenure track faculty has changed dramatically in many areas. This is not a desirable trend. Dr. Burch said that of all the universities in the state, we are presently at a higher Student Faculty Ratio (19 to 1) than the other universities.

The Provost also said we are recognizing some infrastructure problems and support needed for Instructional Technology, and we are making some effort to partner with IT to correct these issues.

Next, the Provost said they are looking at ways to work with Student Affairs on retention and ways to get students involved in research and creative activities with faculty. That is to say, how we may partner to provide more study abroad opportunities, service learning, civic engagement, leadership development and other "value added" experiences for our students.

Dr. Burch concluded by recognizing that many departments are resorting to rationing paper and office supplies in order to cope with inadequate operating budgets. Finding ways to relieve this need, as well as needs for equipment and professional development is a high priority. All of the above is being driven with the idea that enhancing teaching and learning and thereby, success of students, is our major purpose and key to sustaining academic quality.

### **Announcements**

The Chair said there were no Committee reports, because some have not met, and the agenda of the one that did meet did not go the Executive Committee.

Next, the Chair made the following announcements:

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and the Coalition of Senate Faculty Leadership (COSFL) are co-hosting a Fall Conference entitled "New Academic Challenges to Kentucky Universities." This free conference will be held at the Council on Postsecondary Education on October 18. Featured speakers include Jane Buck, President of the National Organization of AAUP, and Dr. Thomas Layzell, President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

The 2003 Conference of the Kentucky Long Term Policy Research Center is entitled "At the Crossroads: Prospects for Kentucky's Educational Future—Preschool to Postsecondary." This conference will be held on November 18, 2003, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

The above information is posted on the Senate website.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM

Respectively submitted,

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Pat Minors, Secretary

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Lou Stahl, Recorder