

**MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATE  
FEBRUARY 17, 2005  
GARRETT BALLROOM**

Chair Sherrie Serros called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. **The following members were present:** Lawrence Alice, Ferhan Atici, Mustafa Atici, Jim Berger, Ellen Bonaguro, Charles Borders, Barbara Brindle, Christopher Brown, Barbara Burch, Michael Carini, Suzie Cashwell, Robert Choate, Josh Collins, Thad Crews II, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Karin Egloff, Dana Emberton-Tinius, Sam Evans, Brittany Fausey, Jane Fife, Jerry Gotlieb, Elmer Gray, Bill Greenwalt, Anthony Harkins, Kacy Harris, Kirk Heriot, Nezam Iraniparast, Terry Jepson, Danita Kelley, Kaveh Khatir, Wilma King-Jones, Joan Krenzin, Amy Krull, Deborah Lively, Kathleen Matthew, Margaret Maxwell, Connie Mills, Patricia Minors, John Moore, Russell Moore, George Musambira, Sharon Mutter, Les Pesterfield, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Philips, Matt Pruitt, Sylvia Pulliam, Eric Reed, Roger Scott, Sherrie Serros, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Nelda Sims, Robert Sims, Bryon Sleugh, Douglas Smith, Peter St. Pierre, Jim Stone, Brian Strow, Jue Wang, Mary Wolinski, Edward Yager, Uta Ziegler. **Alternates present were:** Katie Algeo for John All, Timothy Evans for Darlene Applegate, Mark Ciampa for Ray Blankenship, Sylvia Gaiko for John Bonaguro, Stuart Burris for Eric Conte, Andy Ernest for Blaine Ferrell, Beth Plummer, Lynn Austin for William Howard, Bob Reber for Robert Jefferson, Laurin Notheisen for Yvonne Petkus. **Members absent were:** Mike Binder, Tim Brotherton, John Bruni, Michelle Hollis, Tim Howard, Dan Jackson, Pamela Jukes, David Lee, Minwoo Lee, Andrew McMichael, David Neal, Ann Onyekwuluje, Elizabeth Paris, Morgan Phelps, Heather Pulliam, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Loren Ruff, Jeffrey Samuels, Mason Stevenson, Stacey Wade, Nedra Wheeler, Richard Wilson.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of January 20, 2005, were approved with the following corrections:  
All references to the Department of Geology will be changed to the Department of Geography and Geology.

**University Senate Action Endorsement**

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Burch, endorsed with exception the actions of the University Senate at its January 20, 2005 meeting. The following is Provost Burch's statement.

“I am holding the BA in Geology. I have not yet approved it, and until I do, it is not appropriate to include it officially in the catalog or other university publications, or to actively market it. I have no problem with letting students know it has been proposed and is pending, but in no way should it be set forth as an approved program until action has been formally taken on it.”

**Report from the Chair**

Chair Sherrie Serros, reported March 31 is the deadline for nominations for CPE faculty representative. At the CoSFL meeting, Jim Applegate gave a review of the CPE Public “Draft” Public Agenda for the 2005-2010. Forums were held during this academic year that were not very well attended and they were not held on local campuses as originally planned. CoSFL passed a motion to have campus forums that are widely publicized and are coordinated with

Faculty Senates. Should Western host a forum on the CPE Public Agenda for 2005-2010, it may require the calling for an additional senate meeting.

At the request of the Executive Committee, Chair Serros contacted Dr. Ransdell and Dr. Selig regarding media coverage of Western's possible change to Division IA Football and requested they host a meeting concerning the vision for athletics and implications of any changes. Chair Serros received the following response from President Ransdell: "Wood and I would be pleased to meet with any group on this matter, but as of now there is nothing to meet about. The media has speculated about this for years. It is a natural discussion given that we are the only 1-AA football programs in America, which is a member of a 1-A football conference. The Sun Belt has been pressuring us to join in all sports for the last few years. We have resisted that move. As of now, there are no variables before us, which would cause us to take a different view. If there is any change in our position, then we will put the appropriate steps in motion –including campus communication."

Because of the number of inquiries Chair Serros has received, she will form an Ad Hoc Committee of the Senate to investigate the academic repercussions, either financial or otherwise, that would result in this change and to report to the Senate at March meeting. The Chair is going to send an email to the Senate memberships asking for people to volunteer that are interested in this issue.

### **Report from the Vice Chair**

Vice Chair Jim Berger reported he sent an email to all department heads and department chairs, asking for departments to hold elections for senatorial representatives for next year. The Vice Chair asked departmental representatives present to follow-up with the email to make sure the departments do hold an election. It is imperative that each and every department choose a representative and an alternate, otherwise that department will not have representation on the Senate.

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

Regent Robert Dietle has received many questions and statements of concern relating the two newspaper articles about our potential move to 1A Football and he strongly supports the Chair's decision to create an Ad Hoc Committee to study the potential impact upon Western.

### **Report from the Provost**

The Provost reported Budget Council deliberations have begun. One of the agenda items brought to the Board of Regents at prior meeting came in the context of recognition in meaningful ways, namely the stipends that come with promotions. As the result of that, a study has been undertaken over the last several months that the Deans and Departments Heads have had a chance to discuss and have submitted to the President and he will be submitting with his support to the Budget Council that we be able to implement next fall a different stipend base for promotions. This has not been approved because it has not been discussed in the Budget Council but the Provost is optimistic the odds are very good. It would basically change the system so that the stipend accompanying promotion would be at 10% of the university median salary of the previous rank. In some instances that is more than double the current stipend. It would be a substantial increase. The plan would create some compression issues so a plan is being established that will be discussed with departments over the next four or five months that would propose that beginning the following year a multi-year plan to try move to the 65% in terms benchmarking salaries. The climate and directions look favorable for being able to do some

things to substantially improve the position on faculty salaries beginning next year with promotions and the year there after with some benchmarking. Such a plan would also require some assurance that performance evaluation criteria and processes also be improved as well.

The Provost also updated the Senate on the submission of the focus reports on SACS and QEP. The departments will have the opportunity to share in what has been learned about the whole processing of credentials and many other things. Departments have responded very well. Plans are to have the QEP on-line so departments can make suggestions.

The Provost shared with the Senate that the SGA sponsored a bus trip to Frankfort (about 55-60 students). The Provost hoped the faculty recognized students did a lot of homework to get ready for the trip and they could have some superb data that you would like to see that speaks to the need for legislative support for funding for higher education and it would be a very good example of political engagement. As a result, the Provost asked the students to think about the implications of what they learned and they are documenting what they learned. If faculty have these students in their classes, the faculty member might want to share with them the pride in the fact that they have done a lot of homework to try to be affective spokesmen for increasing funding for higher education in a very positive way.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **University Curriculum Committee** (Report attached to Agenda)

Senator Margie Maxwell representing Andrew McMichael moved for approval of the consent agenda.

Senator Uta Zeigler asked to amend the consent agenda to include the change to the Major in Computer Science, which had been approved by the UCC at its November 2, 2004 meeting. Senator Maxwell made a motion to amend the consent agenda to add the Major in Computer Science as approved at the November 2, UCC meeting. The motion to amend was seconded. The motion carried.

Chair Serros asked if any Senator would like to move any items from the consent agenda to action agenda. Hearing none, the Chair called for a vote on the consent agenda from the University Curriculum Community as amended, and the motion passed.

Senator Maxwell moved for the revision of an academic policy (as attached to the agenda). Senator Maxwell stated this policy is to clarify the University policy regarding undergraduate use of graduate credits for Certificate Programs.

As a policy put forth by a standing committee, it did not require a second motion. Chair Serros called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed.

### **General Education Committee** (Report attached to Agenda)

Senator Strow moved for approval for the consent agenda of the General Education Committee meetings on January 13, 2005 and February 3, 2005.

Chair Serros asked if any Senator has any item they would like to remove from the consent agenda for General Education and place on the action agenda. Hearing none, the Chair called for a vote on the consent agenda as submitted. The motion passed.

Senator Strow discussed with the Senate that the University Experience 3-year temporary status will expire this year and the General Education Committee will have discussion with Dr. Mark May at the next meeting and will report back to the University Senate on the status of University Experience at the March meeting. If Senators have specific questions they would like to have answered, they should be emailed to Senator Strow.

### **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee**

Senator Wolinski reported on the Faculty Salary Survey that was prepared by a subcommittee of Ferhan Atici, Kacy Harris and Eric Reed, and thanked them for their dedication on this faculty salary survey which is now online at the Senate website.

A resolution concerning insurance covering mental behavioral health was passed by the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee and was presented to the Senate. (Resolution attached to the agenda.) After little discussion, Chair Serros called for a vote on the resolution. The resolution passed.

### **Academic Quality**

Senator Berger reported on the developments of the research project for the +/- grading system. On the issue of freshman rush, it was found that the retention and completion rate is higher for fraternities and sororities than for non-fraternity and sorority members. The recommendation is to leave the policy as it is now, rather than change it and restrict access to fraternities and sororities for freshman.

### **Graduate Council** (Report attached to the agenda)

Dean Gray moved for the approval of the Graduate Council consent agenda. Chair Serros asked if any graduate faculty Senator would like to move any item from the consent agenda to the action agenda. No requests were made. The chair called for a vote from the Senators with graduate faculty status in favor of the consent agenda. The motion passed.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Senator Josh Collins addressed the Senate regarding the letter to the Herald. Senator Collins did not realize he had a letter to the editor in the Herald. He did not intend for it to be published, but he stands by what it said.

Senator Collins announced after completing 3 months of work last semester SGA is ready to do their student survey. SGA is presently corresponding with the University to develop a reasonable method of conducting these surveys. Once more details have been discerned, the SGA will relay those to the University Senate at a later date.

Chair Serros stated the process for printing out the Site Evaluations is going to be taking place in the next couple of weeks and unless the SGA reports back to the Senate within the new couple of weeks, the SGA would not have the ability to add items to the site evaluations. Considerable

discussion concerning the questions and placement of the questions ensued. Senator Collins indicated that the six questions would be placed on a separate sheet.

After much discussion, Senator Gotlieb made a motion that an agreement that no additional questions will be asked without the approval of the Senate. Senator Yager seconded the motion.

Senator Kelly questioned whether we were endorsing the student survey and who gives approval for administering the survey. Chair Serros stated it was her understanding although the Senate is not voting on allowing SGA to administer the survey, but her understanding of the motion is, future alterations should be approved by both the SGA and University Senate.

Senator Gotlieb asked the questions would be on the SGA Survey: They are as follows:

- What is your expected grade in this course?
- My professor was available to meet with me during scheduled hours or was available by appointment?
- The instructor provided feedback in timely manner regarding grades and questions?
- My professor was in the classroom and ready to begin class at the appointed hour?
- My professor answered phone or email questions concerning class assignments or projects?
- I used the recommended textbook for class work.

After further discussion about the motion and its validity, there was a call for the question. Chair Serros called for a vote on the motion. The motion failed.

Senator Reed made a motion that the Senate move that SGA evaluations not be included in the site packages and not be administered on the same day. Motion seconded. A friendly amendment was accepted to state “not be administered in the same week” instead of “on the same day”. After discussion on the motion, Chair Serros called for a vote. The motion passed.

### **Announcements**

Chair Serros announced that the Kentucky State Senate bill regarding the KCTCS Faculty Regent was withdrawn at the Senate.

Senator Brown announced future seminars in the Department of Finance. An email will be sent out and pre-registration due to limited space.

Senator Choate updated the Senate on the Facilities Contract Review Committee. Senator Choate also distributed an agenda from the Facilities Management Pre-Proposal Meeting and the calendar of events.

Senator Collins discussed SGA’s attempt to engage students in the SGA elections. Faculty may be contacted, asking for time to speak in classes. This is extremely worthwhile opportunity and Senator Collins hopes faculty will assist with these requests.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Suzie Cashwell, Secretary

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Lois Hall, Recorder

**NOTE:** The agenda with its attachments for this meeting can be found on the University Senate website: <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/FS/meetings.htm>