

## WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

October 19, 2006

### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 3:45 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Michelle Hollis. A quorum was present.

**The following members were present:** John All, Greg Arbuckle, Mustafa Atici, Johnathon Boles, Marty Boman, Scott Bonham, Charles Borders, Tim Brotherton, Barbara Burch, Stuart Burris, Janice Chadha, Walter Collett, Eddy Cuisinier, Jerry Daday, Judy Davison, Terry Dean, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Freda Embry, Janice Ferguson, Tim Gilbert, Jerry Gotlieb, Deana Groves, Jens Harlander, Anthony Harkins, Kathleen Hennessey, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Heather Johnson, Kaveh Khatir, Debbie Kreitzer, David Lee, John Long, Sherry Lovan, Karen Mason, Terrence McCain, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Thanh Lan Ngugen, Johnston Njoku, Laurin Notheisen, Holly Payne, Katharine Pettit, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Eric Reed, Bud Schlinker, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheeley, Nevil Speer, Peter St. Pierre, Saundra Starks, Judy Walker, Jeff Willis, and Mary Wolinski.

**Alternates present were:** Sylvia Gaiko for John Bonaguro, Richard C. Miller for Barbara Burch, and Shane Spiller for Krist Schell.

**The following members were absent:** Mike Binder, Robert Bowker, Mike Carini, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, James Gary, Joe Hardin, Dominic Lanphier, Scott Lasley, Cynthia Mason, Laura McGee, Andrew McMichael, Timothy Mullin, John Musalia, Dan Myers, Katrina Phelps, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Jeffrey Samuels, Peter Sepanski, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Don Swoboda, William J. Tallon, Samanta Thapa, Tom Tutino, Stacy Wade, Carol Watwood, and Jacqueline Wofford.

### II. Minutes

The Minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

### III. Reports

#### a. Chair

Michelle Hollis, Chair of the Senate, reported that President Ransdell's position on I-A football has not changed since the faculty voted against it. Dr. Ransdell made a presentation and a recommendation to the Executive Committee of The Board of Regents and they voted to accept his recommendation to proceed and move to the I-A level. This will go forth to the full board at their November meeting.

The University Senate website has been updated. Please send corrections to Michelle Hollis. The web address is <http://www.wku.edu/senate>. The University

Committee's page on that website has not been updated and is in the process of being changed.

Anyone who is not currently on the faculty senate listserv should let Michelle Hollis know so this can be updated.

**b. Vice Chair**

The Vice-Chair, John All, reported the results of the faculty survey; the faculty voted against moving to Division I-A football.

**c. Faculty Regent**

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, stated that the Division I-A Football item was voted on during the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents Committee meeting on Monday, October 2. The November 2 meeting in Owensboro will be with the full Board of Regents. Dr. Dietle voiced a desire to have all units of the university treated as a whole by President Ransdell. Dr. Dietle also stated his own personal view of WKU's future as an excellent state undergraduate institution and mentioned that he would like everyone to have valued input in what the future of WKU will be.

**d. Provost**

The Provost, Barbara Burch, was not present. The report was made by Richard C. Miller.

Dr. Miller reported that the Budget Council will begin meeting with the deans on Friday, October 20 to establish parameters for the budget cycle for the upcoming year. Dr. Burch has solicited information and requests from the deans of the colleges as it relates to their priorities, what they consider to be their important needs for the next budget cycle, and she has asked them to share with their faculty her willingness to receive input, comments, and suggestions as to their budgetary priorities for the upcoming budget cycle.

Dr. Miller will meet with the deans about the tenure and promotion guidelines and procedures that each of the colleges has established. He stressed the importance of consistency and respecting the nature of the qualifications that are established by the various colleges and departments as it relates to tenure and promotion guidelines.

The university has required the part-time and full-time faculty to have complete files to make sure they are eligible with SACS to be teaching in their profession. The Provost wants to ensure that everyone has proper credentials to avoid any problems in the future.

**IV. Standing Committee Reports**

**a. University Curriculum Committee**

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, announced that it is a catalog year and that the UCC has several information-only proposals and consent-

items of business on the UCC agenda. There were no items that needed to be moved from consent items to action. After Julie Shadoan moved approval for the agenda, the course proposals passed unanimously as presented without discussion.

**b. General Education**

Patricia Minter, Chair of the General Education Committee, made a motion to pass several items from the October 12th General Education Committee Meeting. After Patricia Minter moved approval for the agenda, the items passed unanimously without discussion.

**c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities**

Nevil Speer, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, reported that the executive committee met ten days ago and had some discussion about the written comments from last year's faculty survey. About 1/4 of the comments in the survey were related to the workload ambiguity on campus and faculty voicing concerns about workload. Dr. Burch suggested that Nevil Speer meet with Bob Cobb in institutional research because he is in the process of implementing a brand-new program for us; this meeting took place last Friday. Bob has made great efforts to quantify what each individual does. He has asked department heads to carefully document how each faculty member contributes to the university mission on a semester-to-semester basis. We are beginning to implement a system where we look at this information in an academic year. The census date that was negotiated with CPE to capture this information is next week on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Department heads are expected to assess faculty members in where they do or don't get credit for the extra things that we do. Bob Cobb and Dr. Burch are trying to get rid of the ambiguity in workload and want to give credit for everything that each individual contributes to the university mission. Nevil Speer invited Bob Cobb to come to the Senate meeting to make a presentation and discuss this endeavor. He announced that Bob Cobb has done several test-runs in working with several deans and feels that he will be documenting what the faculty members do well. If anyone has concerns, they can go to their department chair and ask how we are being evaluated and what are some things that we are expected to do. This system provides more detail to what each individual is contributing to the mission and opens the door for more communication between the faculty member and department chair. The form, which is broken into 16 units, has not changed, but it is being documented more carefully now. There are faculty members who are exceeding 16 and others who are doing less; responsibilities for each academic year are now being looked at with more detail and more precision. Nevil Speer feels the system is moving in the right direction and referred any questions one might have to Dr. Cobb or Dr. Burch or the individual Department Chair. Dr. Miller says the project is a work in progress that involves the accumulation of data that allows the department chair and dean to make the most effective and efficient use of their financial and human resources. It factors in student credit hours generated, release time for research purposes and other projects, and release time for administrative purposes. The project is not complete but Bob is sharing the information with Nevil, the administration and administrative leaders for feedback. He wants to make effective use of the data and use it for planning for

future resources that deans and department chairs feel that they need. Dr. Dietle mentioned that he would like Dr. Cobb to come to the Senate meeting next tiem. Nevil feels that it is an intricate process and that Bob will need until December or January to have the results; he suggested having Bob come to the meeting in December or January. There was no further discussion on this topic.

**d. Committee on Academic Quality**

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Quality, Andrew McMichael, was not present. No report was presented.

**e. Graduate Council**

Tim Gilbert, the Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for support and approval of the three Graduate Council agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

**V. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**VI. New Business**

There was no new business.

**VII. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion by Nevil Speer “that the meeting adjourn” was carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary