

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

September 21, 2006

I. **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, September 21, 2006, at 3:45 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Michelle Hollis. A quorum was present.

The following members were present: Greg Arbuckle, Mustafa Atici, Johnathon Boles, Marty Boman, Scott Bonham, Charles Borders, Tim Brotherton, Barbara Burch, Stuart Burris, Mike Carini, Janice Chadha, Eddy Cuisinier, Jerry Daday, Judy Davison, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Freda Embry, Janice Ferguson, Joe Hardin, Jens Harlander, Anthony Harkins, Kathleen Hennessey, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Heather Johnson, Kaveh Khatir, Debbie Kreitzer, Dominic Lanphier, Scott Lasley, John Long, Sherry Lovan, Cynthia Mason, Karen Mason, Terrence McCain, Laura McGee, Andrew McMichael, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Dan Myers, Thanh Lan Ngugen, Laurin Notheisen, Holly Payne, Katharine Pettit, Katrina Phelps, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Gary Ransdell, Eric Reed, Peter Sepanski, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheeley, Nevil Speer, Stacy Wade, Sandra Starks, William J. Tallon, Judy Walker, Carol Watwood, Jacqueline Wofford, and Mary Wolinski.

Alternates present were: Terry Dean for Lynn Austin, Sylvia Gaiko for John Bonaguro, and Shiu Yue Mak for Deana Groves,

The following members were absent: John All, Mike Binder, Robert Bowker, Walter Collett, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, James Gary, Jerry Gotlieb, David Lee, Timothy Mullin, John Musalia, Johnston Njoku, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Jeffrey Samuels, Krist Schell, Bud Schlinker, Peter St. Pierre, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Don Swoboda, Samanta Thapa, Tom Tutino, Jeff Willis, and Richard Wilson

II. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the April 20, 2006 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. **Graduate Council Committee Report (deviation from agenda)**

Tim Gilbert, the Chair of the Graduate Council, presented the following items for University Senate consideration:

One-time only Course: WOMN 501.

Revised Courses: EXED 523, GEOG 532, IECE 523, IECE 525, SWRK 575, ADED 597, MATH 542, MATH 511, MATH 512, and MATH 514.

Revised Programs: Ref # 149, 144, 156, 147, and 085.

Created Programs: Adult Education, and MA Mathematics.

Revised Catalog Course Listing: MATH 501.

The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

IV. I-A Football Discussion (Dr Ransdell)

Dr. Ransdell illustrated several points in favor of WKU moving from Division I-AA Football to Division I-A Football with the goal gaining University Senate feedback, input, discussion, and insights. He presented numerous reasons why this discussion has to be conducted this fall, along with an informational packet.

Following this presentation, faculty concerns centered around the following: (1) increasing our faculty pool might be set back by this; (2) desiring to plan academically and not athletically; (3) faculty input is not really going to be considered before presenting this to the board; (4) a hasty decision-making process; (5) this is a luxury and not a necessity or a priority for our two most important constituents (faculty and students); (6) not having the fan base to meet the requirements about filling the stands; (7) not wanting to cut back on library serials and other academic initiatives with the given budget shortfall.

A proposition was made that a faculty referendum be made in each Dean's office by Thursday, September 29, 2006. Faculty members will have the opportunity to review the information that Dr. Ransdell presented and will vote either "yes" or "no" on the following item: "Given the information you currently have, would you endorse a move to Division I-A football?"

V. Reports

a. Chair

Michelle Hollis, Chair of the Senate, voiced the need to appoint committee members in the Professional Education Council, one at large for the Curriculum Committee, two for Faculty Welfare, two for Academic Quality, and possibly one or two for the Budget Council. Interested parties or those with recommendations should send an email to michelle.hollis@wku.edu.

Dr. Burch requested that the Senate Executive Committee revisit the description of the Faculty Ombudsman Resolution, feeling that it described Dr. Miller's position. The committee felt that Dr. Miller would not be an unbiased representation and sent it back to Dr. Burch. Anyone with questions should contact Dr. Burch.

The Policy on Consensual Relations, which was already approved to go into the administrative handbook, will also go into the faculty handbook. The Executive Committee felt that this document was written in an administrative way and requested that Dr. Burch and the University Council look at it again and consider writing it in a more faculty-friendly matter prior to being put in the faculty handbook.

It is possible that the Plus-Minus Report will not happen this year until we get the data back from the Committee on Academic Quality.

Frieda Eggleton brought forth a catalog term document as an information only item, and some members of the committee had problems with how it was presented to the committee and the proposal was sent back for further study.

There were several changes made to the faculty tenure and promotion guidelines as a result of the ad-hoc committee that was chaired by Dr. Peterson. The document was brought forth and approved by the Council on Academic Deans. It has now been submitted to the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee for further revisit.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, John All, was not present. No report was presented.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, stated his position on the Division I-A Football item that will be voted on during the Board of Regents Committee meeting on October 2 and urged those who wish to talk to him about it do so prior to this meeting. The November meeting will be with the full Board of Regents.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, reported that the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach, which is in its fourth year, is in a position of good financial return. It was created to stand on its own (not from existing university budget and resources) and regenerate its resources based on the work the faculty does through distance learning, continuing education, and other outreach initiatives. The money was supposed to come back to the academic units at the end of the fourth year in the seven figures. Because the unit is healthy enough and there has been a high degree of participation through the department, there will be an initial distribution of a half-million dollars right now. 80% will go to the academic units and 20% will go to the Presidents. Of the 80%, 10% is set aside for Provost's Initiatives. The remaining will be distributed as follows: 50% to college departments and 50% to each dean. Dr. Burch expects future distributions to be even healthier and congratulated the faculty on their efforts.

There are increasing directions from the State and Council on Post-Secondary Staff that will slow down processes and add to work loads. All new program proposals (in-band or out of band) will have to be developed in an extensive format (twice as much as is normally asked for, 45-day postings, and they will have to be released from the council before going to our own board). We are fighting this because it takes much of the authority for determination (what's best for our campus) from our own Board of Regents and our own processes.

Enrollment targets will be shared.

A meeting was requested at the state level for the Doctoral Program. Dr. Burch is optimistic that in spite of some hurdles, the first Doctoral Program will be on the agenda this time next year for the Council for Post-Secondary Approval.

If the Senate does not want to approve the Policy on Consensual Relations for the Faculty Handbook, it is all right because it was passed as an administrative policy. If

there is a way that the Senate would like to have it modified prior to its inclusion in the handbook, Dr. Burch is open to suggestions. However, it is important that there be some kind of policy in place.

Dr. Burch stated that she would like an avenue between April and September to connect with the Senate and Faculty Governance and suggested that we figure out how this could become possible.

The academic quality money that was given for two years was money to help re-staff due to the 25% growth in student population. Most of this money went to enhance staffing and to build back operating dollars. Dr. Burch stated that we have the best ratio of full-time to part-time faculty than we have had in at least eleven years. WKU has 79-80% full-time faculty, which is very good compared to peer institutions. We will continue to work to balance this from department to department. We have healthy ratios. Our average teaching load is 12-12. Some have an average teaching load of 9.5-9.6, so there are many variations in our teaching load.

Up until now through either fees or special allocations, we have kept up with inflation in the library, which runs about 10% per year. Last year a problem was anticipated and money was requested. The Library sent out a precautionary note because of an October deadline on reordering. The memo essentially said that due to inflation, we were short the money and asked people to review what they would cut if in fact we had to cut. Dr. Burch stated that we are not going to make this cut and is committed to finding a way to “ride it out” this year and assured the Senate that she will ask for a priority to be given to library holdings with the Budget Council on a regular inflationary basis.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

The University Curriculum Committee has not met yet. No report was presented.

b. General Education

Meetings will be held the first Thursday of every month except for October. Agenda items are due electronically one week prior to the meeting and can be submitted to patricia.minter@wku.edu.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

No report was presented. The committee has met once; they elected a chair and a vice chair and will be taking up the issue reviewing tenure and promotion guidelines.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented other than the Committee on Academic Quality will be meeting the fourth Thursday of every month (the week after the Senate meeting).

e. Graduate Council

The Graduate Council was discussed earlier (see section III of the minutes).

VII. Old Business

There was no old business at the termination of last year's Senate.

VIII. New Business

Senator Mary Wolinski presented a resolution on the Reduction of Library Serials. The University Senate strongly opposes the cut in the Libraries' serials and urges that there be an inflationary factor built into the budget to cover the rising cost of serials. Furthermore, the Senate deplors the repeated Library shortfalls, which undermine the academic mission of the University. The main motion with amendment was passed unanimously.

IX. Announcements

Provost Barbara Burch introduced Dr. Richard C. Miller, the new Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost's Office in the area of Academic Personnel and Policy.

X. Adjournment

A motion by Andrew McMichael "that the meeting adjourn" was carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary