

## WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

January 18, 2007

### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 3:45 P.M. in the Mass Media and Technology Hall by Chair Michelle Hollis. A quorum was present.

**The following members were present:** Mustafa Atici, Johnathon Boles, Marty Boman, Scott Bonham, Charles Borders, Tim Brotherton, Barbara Burch, Stuart Burris, Mike Carini, Janice Chadha, Walter Collett, Eddy Cuisinier, Judy Davison, Terry Dean, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Janice Ferguson, Tim Gilbert, Deana Groves, Anthony Harkins, Joe Hardin, Kathleen Hennessey, Michelle Hollis, Kaveh Khatir, Dominic Lanphier, Scott Lasley, Sherry Lovan, Cynthia Mason, Karen Mason, Laura McGee, Richard C. Miller, Roger Murphy, Johnston Njoku, Laurin Notheisen, Katharine Pettit, Katrina Phelps, Eric Reed, Angela Robertson, Bud Schlinker, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheeley, Peter St. Pierre, Sandra Starks, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Samanta Thapa, Michelle Trawick, Judy Walker, Carol Watwood, Jeff Willis, Jacqueline Wofford, and Mary Wolinski.

**Alternates present were:** Denise Gravitt for Greg Arbuckle, Sylvia Gaiko for John Bonaguro, Ed Bohlander for Jerry Daday, Linda N. Coakley for Freda Embry, Tim Evans for Kate Hudepohl, Jan Garrett for John Long, Beth Plummer, for Patricia Minter, Christy Spurlock for Timothy Mullin, Shane Spiller for Krist Schell, and Randall L. Kinnersly for Stacy Wade,.

**The following members were absent:** John All, Mike Binder, Robert Bowker, Jeff Butterfield, Nancy English, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, James Gary, Jerry Gotlieb, Jens Harlander, Heather Johnson, Debbie Kreitzer, David Lee, Terrence McCain, John Musalia, Dan Myers, Thanh Lan Ngugen, Holly Payne, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Jeffrey Samuels, Peter Sepanski, Nevil Speer, Don Swoboda, William J. Tallon, and Tom Tutino,

### II. Minutes

The Minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

### III. Reports

#### a. Chair

Michelle Hollis, Chair of the Senate, reported that The Annual Report Committee is in the process of being formed. This committee will create a report that is a public document that is a collation and synthesis of faculty and staff's ideas, opinions, and suggestions, and recommendations on important issues and debates. This will be a chance for faculty to participate more fully and contribute in a more concrete manner to the campus community's conversations about the university's overall goals,

direction, development, and management. The report will be submitted to Administrators, the Board of Regents, and SGA. Thus far, there are representatives from Potter College, Ogden College, Bowling Green Community College, and the Library. Committee members are still needed from Gordon Ford College of Business, The College of Education, and the College of Health and Human Services. Anyone wishing to serve or who knows of someone within their college who wants to serve, please send Michelle Hollis an email.

The faculty handbook committee will start meeting this semester, most likely in a few weeks. The committee will make revisions to the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the faculty handbook. Dr. Miller stated in a meeting with Michelle Hollis that the faculty handbook will be undergoing major revisions. On the committee, there will be seven senators (one from each college and the library), seven faculty members that are non-senators, at least one adjunct part-time faculty member, and two administrators. Mary Wolinski stated that this committee is a good idea, but there are two different processes in regards to making resolutions to faculty welfare and responsibilities and incorporating them into the handbook. Resolutions can be passed to this committee, and this would be very efficient. Dr. Miller will call the first meeting; a chair will be elected at the first meeting and future meetings will be planned. Senators interested in serving for their college should send Michelle Hollis an email, and they should discuss this with other members of their college because seven non-senator faculty representatives are also needed on this committee. Dr. Miller assured the Senate that this committee is not intended to go beyond the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities committee. It will make revisions that will go to the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee prior to going to the Executive Committee and the Senate.

There are two new at-large senators from the Gordon Ford College of Business, Michelle Trawick and Jeff Butterfield. Jeff will serve on the General Education Committee and Michelle will serve on the UCC Committee.

Betsy Shoenfelt was recommended to serve another term on the Benefits Committee as the Senate-appointed representative and Tony Glisson and President Ransdell approved this recommendation, so she will serve another term.

On the University Athletics Committee, there were three people whose terms ended. Two of the three asked to serve another term and Michelle Hollis recommended that they serve another term. The third person did not ask to serve another term. A few names were submitted to President Ransdell by Michelle Hollis and he chose Ron Mitchell. Ron came from Coastal Carolina University where he served on their equivalent of our Athletics Committee and he served on that committee when they were investigating adding football and also served when they were investigating NCAA review.

In November, Michelle Hollis met with James Brown, the Chair of the University Athletics Committee. He explained the history of the committee and what it stands

for. The Executive Committee was given a copy of the UAC's bylaws and a list of its current membership. Members of the UAC attended the Executive Committee meeting on December 4. To briefly summarize the meeting, there were obvious communication issues and as a result, anyone who serves on a university committee as a representative of the Senate will be asked to submit a monthly report of these meetings to Michelle Hollis, who will communicate this to the Executive Committee and then they will come forth to the Senate. This will help to keep everyone up to date on everything that is going on. Michelle Hollis stated that she thought there was a failure on the part of some members of the Athletics Committee to thoroughly research what was going on with the I-A Football. Some had knowledge of Eric Reed's survey from the I-A Ad-Hoc Committee but failed to mention it to other colleagues serving on the Athletics Committee. This information might have been vital in their decision-making process for the move to I-A football.

It was also learned at the Executive Committee meeting that the previous motion to recall the membership of the Athletics Committee was not meant to be a recall, but was intended to tell this committee that the no longer endorsed those recommendations. Michelle Hollis emailed members of the Executive Committee to inform them that we no longer wanted to recall the membership; some discrepancies in this process existed because it the recall is already tabled to be done. Michelle Hollis cautioned the Senate that if we continue with this recall, it might be difficult to find faculty to serve on any committees because they fear that they will be recalled if they don't vote a certain way or do a certain thing. This is not the message that she wants to send and feels that it would be degrading to fellow faculty members. She hopes that the faculty will continue to be united on whatever the issue is. Because it is against Parliamentary procedure, we must vote on the motion that was presented in November, but Michelle Hollis wanted the Senate to know her position on it.

While the Senate does not have the power to recall members of the Athletics Committee, Dr. Ransdell previously said that he will accept any names that we put forth. Since then, Dr. Ransdell has informed Michelle Hollis that he will not accept a recall.

**b. Vice Chair**

The Vice-Chair, John All, was not present. There was no report.

**c. Faculty Regent**

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, reminded the Senate that the Board of Regents meets next Friday, January 26, from 8:30-2:30, in the Cornelius Martin Regents room of the Mass Media and Technology Building. Faculty members who have the interest and the time should try to attend.

**d. Provost**

The Provost, Barbara Burch, reported that the Winter Term has been increasingly successful; there were 1,912 students as of the last report (this is a 20% growth since last year). Whatever revenues exceed cost go back into the redistribution plan,

prorated back to the colleges.

She also reported that the budget is on the slow track. In past years, state-wide pressures have required us to speed it up. This year, we do not have those pressures, so it is going slower than usual. If things go as they appear, it looks as if we might get some dollars that would begin to address some possible market adjustments. Some have picked up discussions between deans and department heads about a focused plan for the university to address growth targets and graduation targets. Up to this point, WKU has made a decision that every university in the state is facing a similar challenge, and it would be better to be very thoughtful and focused on our targets for growth and go about it in a way that there will be assurance that there will be resources to fund the growth and graduation effort. This is the direction that WKU is going in. More will be said about it at the departmental and college level. Dr. Burch wanted to assure the Senate that we are not doing anything to proceed toward doing more without some absolute reassurance of resources, and it is looking positive that this will be forthcoming.

The library is scheduled for physical renovation and expansion around 2010-2012. The Ogden College Faculty has given an excellent report about its library needs. A team of people will be brought in during the Spring and each college will be asked to take a penetrating look at what their library needs are that we will not be able to address based on budgets and try to place that in a context of a more holistic plan. The President has committed to library funding and support will be one of the four priorities over the next several years. The sooner we can present what these needs are based on programmatic needs, the sooner we will be able to do something about that.

This is the time of year where tenure/promotion is finished up. Those have been completed and forwarded to the deans and Dr. Burch has forwarded that report to the President. She commented that with the increase in stipend for promotion, we are probably getting three times as much in dollars this year as we would have two years ago to underwrite those promotions. She stated that this is good, and she does understand that it creates compression, but it creates leverage to deal with the compression.

#### **IV. Standing Committee Reports**

##### **a. University Curriculum Committee**

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of the November and December consent agenda. A friendly amendment was made to the November Report for the Ogden Agenda. It was a revision of a program; Technology and Management (it should be 575 instead of 517) and was requested by Frieda Eggleton. For December, everything should stand as presented in the report. Julie Shadoan moved for approval of those reports.

The course proposals passed unanimously as presented without discussion.

##### **b. General Education**

Patricia Minter, Chair of the General Education Committee, was not present. There was no report.

**c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities**

Nevil Speer, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, was not present. There was no report.

**d. Committee on Academic Quality**

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Quality, Andrew McMichael, stated that there is no report to submit, but that they will be bringing forward the report of the plus-minus survey at the next meeting.

**e. Graduate Council**

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

**V. Old Business**

Regarding the Athletics Committee motion that was tabled in November, there is no official wording of the motion, but it was basically to recall the membership of the UAC. It was tabled, so it is time to bring it back up again. Eric Reed made a motion that this motion be tabled indefinitely and it was seconded. The motion was tabled indefinitely by unanimous vote.

**VI. New Business**

Everyone should have gotten a copy of the Consensual Relations policy/draft that went into the Administrative Handbook. There was much debate within the Executive Committee about what to include or not include, and what is on the website is what the Executive Committee came up with. Before we discussed it or voted on it, there was a typo in the second line of the first paragraph. It should say “for exploitation and/or discouraged” instead of “is discouraged”. Discussion by Tony Harkins said it should be “relations between faculty members and students with whom they have a relationship”. To clarify, Michelle asked him if he meant “sexual relations between faculty members and students” and he said yes. He offered this as a friendly amendment. There were no objections to this; it would make the first sentence read: “Sexual relations between faculty members students with whom...” Another suggestion for a friendly amendment by Andrew McMichael was made to strike the word “also”. Furthermore, he felt it should read “Sexual relations between faculty members and students with whom they have an academic or evaluative relationship”. There were no objections to this. This draft, “Sexual relations between faculty members and students with whom they have an academic or evaluative relationship...”, was voted on and passed unanimously to be placed into the faculty handbook as amended.

Another new business item by Andrew McMichael was brought forth. A resolution was passed around that was introduced on the floor. Professor Ransdell has been

working very hard on the KTRS issue. We have been debating the KTRS/ORP issue for quite a long time. This was a resolution that was aimed at our Governor, who recently asked for some helpful suggestions on how to spend the apparent State budget surplus. Andrew McMichael offered this resolution to give the Governor a suggestion to use the budget surplus to shore up the perennially underfunded KTRS system, which is running tens and hundreds of millions of dollars in the red. It threatens the retirement systems of not just the KTRS people at universities, but also K-12 teachers, and ORP retirees who have to pay into KTRS. The budget deficit that KTRS has is destabilizing for retirement systems for thousands and thousands of people in this Commonwealth. He offers this resolution as a way for the Governor to think of a way to do with the extra money that the state seems to have at this time. Andrew made a motion for approval and the motion was seconded by Denise Gravitt. Robert Dietle mentioned that discussion from other universities on the listserv about similar resolutions has taken place; he urged the Senate to support this because it is a problem that will never be fixed unless incremental action takes place now. No further discussion took place. The resolution was voted on and the resolution passed unanimously as presented.

There was a question regarding whether or not there was additional information on the ORP retirement agreement (beyond what went out in President Ransdell's email). Dr. Burch said that she was not aware of anything.

**VII. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion by a Senator to adjourn the meeting was seconded. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary