



UNIVERSITY SENATE

Thursday, April 15, 2010

3:45 p.m. – Faculty House

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU Senate was called to order on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 3:45 p.m. in the Faculty House by Chair Paul Markham. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Janet Applin, Greg Arbuckle, Melanie Autin, Bruce Battles, Lauren Bland, Kim Botner, Barbara Dorothea Browder, Barbara Burch, Barbara Bush, Aaron Celestian, Pitt Derryberry, Mark Doggett, Uma Doraiswamy, Scott Droege, Jill Duba, Molly Dunkum, Nikolai Endres, Douglas Fugate, Andrea Grapko, Anthony Harkins, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Kate Hudepohl, Molly Kerby, Randy Kinnersley, Joan Krenzin, Alex Lebedinsky, Qi Li, Kelly Madole, Paul Markham, Mac McKerral, Vicki Metzgar, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Holly Payne, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Beth Plummer, Lisa Proctor, Kelly Reames, Mark Schafer, Gary Schallert, Kevin Smiley, Nevil Speer, Christy Spurlock, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Tadayuki Suzuki, Adrian Switzer, Megan Thompson, Dave Vickery, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Dawn Garrett Wright

Alternates present were:

Erika Brady for Darlene Applegate, Dana Sullivan for Eileen Arnold, Mary Wolinski for Mark Berry, Vladimir Dobrokhotoov for Scott Bonham, Colton Jessie for Stuart Kenderes, John Musalia for Kumiko Nemoto, Di Wu for Richard Schugart, Julie Shadoan for Francesca Sunkin

The following members were absent:

Kristina Arnold, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Richard Bowker, Kelly Burch-Regan, Audrey Cornell, Melanie Duke, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Dennis George, David Lee, Jim Lindsey, Nathan Love, Michael McIntyre, Steve Nagy, Johnston Njoku, Ivan Novikov, Les Pesterfield, Mark Pickard, Sherry Powers, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Roger Scott, Mark Staynings, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Samanta Thapa, Justin Thurman, Kenneth Whitley, David Zimmer

II. Approve March 2010 Minutes

The March 18, 2010 Senate Minutes were approved as posted.

III. Reports:

A. Chair – Paul Markham

Chair Paul Markham announced that the report from the ad hoc committee formed by the SEC to examine SEC procedural issues will come before Senate at the May meeting.

Chair Markham announced that the ad hoc formed by UCC to examine processes related to curriculum has expanded its focus to include broader issues of faculty governance. This change was approved by Chair Markham, the ad hoc committee and UCC Chair Beth Plummer.

B. Vice Chair – Holly Payne

Vice-Chair Holly Payne extended congratulations to the newly elected at-large senators present at the meeting. She noted that the election process was relatively smooth and thanked Brandi Fowler in IT who undertook all of the programming and set-up for the on-line election.

Vice-Chair Payne noted that, contrary to her announcement at the last Senate meeting, elections for the Faculty Grievance Committee would not occur until Fall 2010. She announced that elections for the University Academic Complaint Committee would occur at the May Senate meeting.

Chair Markham thanked Vice-Chair Payne for her work in facilitating electronic at-large senator elections.

C. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education (COSFL)

Representative – Molly Kerby

No report.

D. Advisory

1. Faculty Regent – Patti Minter

Regent Patti Minter announced that the next board meeting would be held Thursday, April 22, 2010.

Regent Minter stated that the April 2, 2010 approval of benefits for other qualified dependents at WKU is a good example that governance does matter. It's easy to get discouraged because change can be slow and sometimes resolutions don't go anywhere, however, patience is frequently rewarded. It took five years, but it did finally happen thanks to a coalition between faculty, staff and students working in a myriad of ways to bring it about. Three days after the April 2nd approval Murray State voted overwhelmingly to ask their university to pursue similar benefits. She thanked everyone who was part of the coalition working to secure other qualified dependent benefits at WKU.

2. Provost – Barbara Burch

Dr. Barbara Burch noted that the Chief Academic Officers have not met with the CPE for a few months. The agenda for the meeting next week deals with commonalities in curriculum, placement, assessments, accountability and general education across the system. During a conference call last week the question raised was what organization should be in place to ensure a common admission placement program. The CAOs redirected the question by asking if they could wait to see what new mandates may arise. The CAOs are hoping not to be pushed into more standardization.

Provost Burch also announced that there are a number of searches under way.

The WKU Administration will be working with the deans and department heads to distribute academic quality and academic productivity money. We are fortunate to get some of the dollars coming from enrollment growth this fall.

There is no new information yet about potential budget cuts beyond the certainty that they will happen.

Provost Burch announced that Dr. Dean Kahler is leaving his position at WKU. He will remain on the WKU campus as the Navitas director. Dale Brown, the former Warren County School System Superintendent now employed in the WKU Education Leadership doctoral program, will serve as his interim replacement.

3. **SGA President** – Kevin Smiley

SGA President Kevin Smiley shared the following items:

- The organizational aid deadline is tomorrow (April 16th)
- SGA is showing the film Planet Earth to celebrate Earth Day
- SGA worked with Dean Binder to renovate the Helm Library basement to make it more student-friendly
- SGA passed a bill to allocate \$1,000.00 to buy new music stands for the Music Department

SGA President Smiley mirrored Regent Minter's excitement about the passage of other qualified dependent benefits.

SGA President Smiley introduced SGA President-elect Colton Jessie and invited him to address the Senate.

SGA President Smiley bid the Senate farewell and said it was a "cool body to watch."

IV. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Graduate Council (see attached report) – Nevil Speer

Graduate Council Chair Nevil Speer moved approval of the GC report. It was approved as posted.

B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (see attached report) – Beth Plummer

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Chair Beth Plummer asked to pull to the action agenda: Systems Management, ref. #729 (pp.68-71 in the UCC report).

UCC Chair Plummer then moved approval of the remaining UCC report. UCC report approved as posted, with the exception of the item moved to the action agenda.

UCC Chair Plummer stated that regarding the action item, Systems Management, ref. #729, Senator Applegate had asked that additional rationale for the changes be included in the proposal. UCC Chair Plummer, acting on behalf of the proponents, stated that the following additions were made to the bottom of each of the following sections noted below:

- under Section 2. Identification of the Proposed Program Changes, the following was added:

Omit CIT302.

- under Section 4. Rationale for Proposed Program Change, the following were added:

CIT 302 is being omitted as it has proven to be too technical for most SM majors.

CIS 243, 320, 321 are being added to expand student course options.

Action item approved as amended.

C. General Education Committee (no report) – Rich Weigel

No report.

D. Faculty Welfare & Professional Responsibilities (report from Jim Fulkerson)

Faculty Welfare & Professional Responsibilities Co-Chair Jim Fulkerson commended faculty and staff for their participation in the tobacco survey, which is now complete; 408 faculty and 2,800 students participated.

FWPR Chair also announced that the Faculty Welfare Survey starts today.

E. Academic Quality (report from Tony Harkins)

Academic Quality Chair Tony Harkins, providing some follow-up on the SITEs issue raised at the last meeting, stated that he is still waiting to hear from Dr. Miller about CADs involvement. AQ Chair Harkins expects to have additional information at the next Senate meeting.

V. Old Business:

1. Benefits Committee response to Ad-hoc Committee report on insurance reserve

Fund

Chair Markham reminded senators that at the last Senate meeting ad-hoc committee chair Dr. Alex Lebedinsky presented the report of his committee about the insurance reserve fund. The Benefits Committee was asked to write a response, which is posted as part of today's agenda. In addition, both Tony Glisson and Jim Cummings are present at the meeting today to respond to any questions or comments. Comments in response to the open floor included:

- Senator Mac McKerral, member of the ad-hoc committee, reiterated concern expressed in the ad-hoc committee's report about Benefits Committee membership and rotation; the committee is top-heavy in terms of administrators and finance-qualified faculty who have offered to serve have been not been taken up on their offer
- Tony Glisson replied that the committee is open to incorporating more faculty members; continuity and history are important but the committee is open to new members; however, he does not perceive a need to change the structure in terms of the numbers of faculty and staff
- Senator Vicki Metzgar, vis-à-vis the five-year fight to include benefits for other qualified dependents, it appeared that the committee was heavily weighted in favor of the administration, so the composition of the committee does matter
- Senator Alex Lebedinsky stated that the Benefits Committee is comprised of 15 members, seven of whom are administrators, five are faculty, three are staff; financial expertise should be the primary concern of membership on the committee; in addition, there should be a clear evaluation process of how financial decisions are made, and accountability and transparency in the entire process
- Jim Cummings added a point of clarification in terms of the authority of the Benefits Committee and what he thinks is the responsibility of the administration; the administration has the responsibility and the primary authority in investing reserve funds including health fund reserves, which is part of the University's unrestricted net assets; he believes that reserves must be managed by Finance and Administration, though he cannot cite it, he believes it is statutory and cannot be changed
- SGA President Smiley stated, based on the comments in the report and comments today, that faculty members should be added to the committee; go ahead with that today

- Regent Minter added that President Ransdell makes all of these appointments; the Benefits Committee does not have the power to do that, although they used to until 2007; the way it is today, any appeals should be directed to President Ransdell
- Chair Markham suggested that, with the approval of the Senate, he will work with Senator Lebedinsky, Tony Glisson, and Jim Cummings to work up recommendations to present to President Ransdell; the Senate concurs and Chair Markham stated that he will do that and report back
- Tony Glisson added that in terms of the investment of the fund and operation of the plan we've had a pretty good run; in addition, the Benefits Committee is hardly ever divided along staff and faculty lines

VI. New Business

No items introduced.

Motion to adjourn at 4:31.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Hudepohl, Secretary