



UNIVERSITY SENATE
Thursday, October 21, 2010
3:45 p.m. – Faculty House

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU Senate was called to order on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 3:45 p.m. in the Faculty House by Chair Kelly Madole. A quorum was present.

The following members were present: Darlene Applegate, Greg Arbuckle, Eileen Arnold, Kristina Arnold, Lauren Bland, Barbara Bush, Margaret Gripshoner, Pitt Derryberry, Robert Dietle, Vladimir Dobrokhoto, Uma Doraiswaymy, Scott Droege, Melanie Duke, Marc Eagle, Karin Egloff, Gordon Emslie, Nikolai Endres, Sam Evans, Jim Fulkerson, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Sonya House, Jan Hunt-Shepherd, Molly Kerby, Mikhail Khennner, Randy Kinnersley, Debra Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Alex Lebedinsky, David Lee, Nathan Love, Kelly Madole, Michael McIntyre, Mac McKerral, Vicki Metzgar, Andrew Mienaltowski, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Ivan Novikov, Holly Payne, Keith Phillips, Eric Reed, Mark Schafer, Gary Schallert, Richard Schugart, Mark Staynings, Martin Stone, Samanta Thapa, Megan Thompson, Carol Watwood, Richard, Weigel, Maribeth Wilson, Mary Wolinski

SGA: Colton Jessie

Alternates present were: Andrew Ernest (for Blaine Ferrell), Jane Fife (for Yvonne Petkus), Patricia Deso?? (for Dana Sullivan), Unintelligible (for Travis Taylor) The following members were absent: Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Erika Brady, Jill Duba, Blaine Ferrell, Nathan Fisher, Dennis Goerge, Andrea Grapko, Roger Murphy, Steve Nagy, Kumiko Nemoto, Jane Olmsted, Pam Petty, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Angela Robertson, Vernon Sheeley, Michael E Smith, Christy Spurlock, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Francesca Sunkin, Adrian Switzer, Donald Swoboda, Dawn G. Wright, Di Wu, David Zimmer

II. Approve September, 2010 Minutes

September 2010 Senate minutes approved as posted.

III. Reports:

1. Chair – Kelly Madole

- Importance of the University Senator in serving as the point of information exchange
- A new blog was developed on the Senate webpage
- Someone is needed as a replacement on the Benefits Committee (replacing Julie Shadoan).

2. Vice Chair – Molly Kerby - No report

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

Representative – Molly Kerby – No report

4. Advisory

a. Faculty Regent – Patti Minter

- Academics and the work we create was at the forefront of discussion at summer retreat
- Bond Debt is a continued concern
- Listening tour. It is our opportunity/responsibility to talk about our ideas and who and what we want to be going forward.
- We need to think carefully on what the new money is spent on (what we need and what we want). We (the university) need to have the wisdom to know the difference.
- Benefits

b. Provost – Gordon Emslie

- Previous recommendations presented at last Senate meeting have been approved.
- Listening tour is underway.
- Met with general education task-force. They are creating a gen-ed model that allows our students to experience opportunities they may not have elsewhere.
- Policy on policies: Way of consolidating what we have and some general practices with no written policies.
- Three track model – These are draft policies right now. All academic policies will be shared with at least the CAD as well as the Senate
- Staffing plan –\$1.5 million of absolute priorities. Existing money is about \$1.1 million.
- Learned from listening tour a request to reduce teaching loads. A suggestion to do that is through graduate students helping in some format. Colton and Emily attended the CAD to present their views on this topic from an undergraduate perspective. This will be further discussed at the next Deans Council meeting.
- Revised appointment letters (that come from Deans and not HR) and the format they should take will happen at the Deans Council's next meeting

c. SGA President – Colton Jessie

- Successful presentation to the Dean's Council meeting to provide ideas and concerns of having graduate students teaching undergraduates
- Scholarships – new study away program. Awarded 4 \$100 scholarships for winter term.
- 99th campus clean up was a huge success.
- New website is available and more user friendly
- Working on: Down with decision makers program
- This Tuesday: Campus Safety walk starting around 6pm
- Have been providing free test materials to students in the last year, scantrons using 100% recyclable materials.

IV. Visitors

Gordon Baylis, Vice President for Research

- Research (research, scholarship, creative activities, professional outreach, doing things in the community and anything else that has a positive impact apart from teaching) should be strengthened.

- New policies
 - Policy on policies.
 - Two new “flavors” of faculty: Research track of faculty (people entirely supported on soft money / only research – research assistant professors and so on); and the teaching only track: great teachers who don’t want to conduct research. These are draft policies.
- The best way to get a hold of him is through his assistant Tory.
- Discussion followed. Main questions and concerns included:
 - What is the timeline of the draft policies?
 - Stature of new faculty tracks
 - Role of teaching and research
 - Change of university mission
 - Compensation of new faculty tracks
 - Movement between tracks

V. Standing Committee Reports:

1. **Graduate Council** (see attached report) – Nevil Speer
 Chair Nevil Speer moved approval of the GC report. The report was approved as posted.
 - An editorial change was made to the MAE for Elementary Education, MAE Middle Grades Education, and MAE Secondary Education. Admission requirements reads, “WKU graduate automatic admission.” The word “automatic” in each of these three respective programs, needs to be removed.
2. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee** (see attached report) –
 Proxy Pit Derryberry moved approval of the UCC report. The report was approved as posted.
3. **General Education Committee** (see attached report) – Rich Weigel
 Chair Rich Weigel moved approval of the GEC report. The report was approved as posted.
 - The General Education Committee involved in screening the reports that we are sending forward to Frankfurt on state learning outcomes and how our general education courses correlate with those outcomes.
4. **Faculty Welfare & Professional Responsibilities** –Eric Reed
 - One information item:
 - Two items that were matters brought up in 2006 that were resolutions passed by the Senate, but without official action having been taken by Provost’s Office. Action will be taken on these two resolutions –
 - 1) Change to faculty grievance procedure (initiate complaint at next level)
 - 2) Alter tenure and promotion guidelines to accommodate family care responsibilities during the probationary period.
 - Policies have never been approved. (Approval does not require Senate action; is an information item). Dr. Emslie requested Eric provide a recommendation to him of these two items.
5. **Academic Quality** – Kristina Arnold. No report.

VI. University Committee Reports

1. Athletics Committee -Michael McIntyre – No report
2. Benefits Committee - Betsy Shoenfeld – Provided a report on variable contribution plans with regards to WKU insurance.
 - Rationale for moving to the variable funding:
 - a) Provide more support for those full-time employees in the lowest pay bracket who families but cannot afford Economy Family Plan health insurance.
 - b) Transparency in funding
 - Did not move to this funding this year.
 - Two plans were submitted (one variable, and one like the plan we have now with the same premium structure). President Ransdell chose the premium structure plan.
 - Open enrollment is November 8-10.
 - Employee wellness position is open and on hold. Looking at incentives to encourage faculty to work with employee wellness.

VII. Unfinished Business:

1. Ad-hoc committee report on SEC and curricular procedures (see attached) Darlene Applegate Motion- To postpone definitely until the next meeting. Committee needs more time to review. Motion passes.

VIII. New Business:

1. Charter Revisions (first reading)
 - a) Define college units that have a Senator for greater clarity with University College changes
 - b) Clarification of number of senators
 - c) Clarification that recommendations are sent to Provost, specifically, not Office of the Provost
 - d) Explain procedures for establishing pool for Faculty Grievance and Continuance
- Motion to accept these charter revisions.
-Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Secretary