



DRAFT MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
Senate Executive Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012
3:15 p.m. – WAB 239

I. Call to Order

The regular session of the WKU Senate Executive Committee was called to order on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 3:15 p.m. in the Wetherby Administration Building by Vice-Chair Jennifer Hanley. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Kirk Atkinson, Charles Borders, Cory Dodds, Amanda Drost, Gordon Emslie, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Ric Keaster, Debbie Kreitzer, Richard Miller, Patricia Minter, Beverly Siegrist, Rich Weigel

II. Approve August Special Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved as posted

III. Reports:

A. Chair: No report

B. Vice-Chair: will chair this meeting

C. Secretary: No report

D. Committee Chairs

1. **Academic Quality Committee** (Guy Jordan, Interim Chair)
 - Still seeking new chair for Academic Quality
2. **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee**
 - No report
3. **General Education Curriculum Committee** (Amanda Drost, Chair)
 - Will meet with Colonnade Implementation Committee soon
4. **Graduate Council** (Kirk Atkinson, alt.)
 - See accompanying reports
 - Revision: one course pulled (ENVE 525, Educating for Sustainability)
 - SEC approved report
5. **University Curriculum Committee**
 - No report

E. Advisory Reports

1. Faculty Regent (Regent Minter)

- Board of Regents Budget Meeting (June 22)
 - 5-percent tuition increase overall, and full-time students will now pay the same fee for distance classes that part-time students pay
 - Concern: higher tuition and fees may result in lower enrollment
 - Decline in state support for public institutions funding down 6.4 percent; Faculty Regent encourages everyone to contact legislators directly
 - Link to minutes BOR:
http://wku.edu/regents/documents/bor_minutes_06_22_12_approved.pdf
- Bi-Term Proposal: Provost Emslie met with Faculty Regent Minter and Student Regent Dodds to discuss; highly productive meeting

2. Academic Affairs (Provost Emslie)

- Enrollment
 - So far increased tuition and fees don't seem to be impacting enrollment
 - Enrollment in summer classes up
 - Retention is an important concern
 - Numbers too changeable for any real conclusions
 - Overall just 34 undergrads short of last year
- Bi-term program—Provost Emslie would like to meet with Academic Quality Committee about this program
 - Vice-Chair notes that this should be assigned through SEC
- Online SITE evaluation
 - Will try optional extra mid-term evaluation using existing SITE questions, but deliver online
 - Instructor administers online evaluation, then may choose whether or not to submit to Department Head
 - Question to Provost: Can we mandate student participation in evaluations?
 - Response: Using what incentive? Can't withhold grades permanently; students have paid for credits
 - Question to Provost: What if faculty don't use the midterm, what will happen to them?
 - Nothing will happen
 - Comment: Concern that departments that rely solely on SITE evaluations for faculty assessment will pressure faculty members
 - Comment to Provost: Should we just change the questions and the delivery method at the same time, rather than create confusion again in the future?
 - Response: Provost believes it is best to just change mode of delivery but not questions, then do the questions later to isolate variables
 - Academic Quality chair reminded meeting of some of the results of the review carried out by AQ last semester — indicated that participation in online evaluations will dip initially, but will recover
- Provost Emslie, Questions to SEC:
 - Faculty handbook Committee: When will it meet?
 - Response: Faculty Senate is still sorting this out
 - When is the Colonnade Implementation Committee meeting?
 - Response: Committee is formed but hasn't met
 - Provost: need to move forward; has implications for recruiting

- Will there be a Faculty Senate vote on the Workload policy?
 - Response: will check with Faculty Senate Chair
- HB265: calls for establishment of Commonwealth College Program
 - Provost interested in the sense of the senate on this issue

IV. New Business:

1. Proposal: Concurrent Degrees (see documents)

- Comments:
 - Looks like we're just coming in line with other higher education institutions in Kentucky
 - Provost Emslie described issues faced by students pursuing multiple degrees, which caused many to exceed six years of study
- Assigned to Academic Quality Committee for review

2. Policy: Honorary Doctorates (see documents)

- Question: Why limit to four honorary degrees per year?
- Provost Emslie: originally wanted two per year, so one person wouldn't have to give speeches at more than 3 commencements, but they do not have to be given out at commencements
- Question: what entity awards the degree? University? Colleges?
- Provost: University awards degree but Dean of College can do hooding
- Comment: This is just codifying procedures currently in place, more or less
- SEC approves for Faculty Senate vote

3. Nominations from GFCB - University Athletics Committee: Dr. Brian Goff, University Distinguished Prof. of Economics; Dr. Patricia Todd, Assoc. Prof. of Marketing; Dr. Dennis Wilson, Assoc. Prof. of Economics; and Dr. Paula Potter, Assoc. Prof. of Management

- Vice-Chair...send to Senate for vote, and ask candidates for 100-150-word introduction/justification
- *Note from chair: These names go directly to the president and he will choose. The Senate does not vote. These are SEC recommendations to the president.*

4. Nomination for At-Large Committee Appointment: Melanie Asriel, psychology instructor, Glasgow regional campus, FWPRC

- Chair appoints Asriel

5. Colonnade Implementation Committee – At-Large representative: Dr. Amy Krull, Sociology, and Dr. Ellen Bonaguro, Academic Advising

- Nominations will be forwarded to Faculty Senate Chair

6. SEC Meeting Time: Proposal to change meeting time

- After discussion motion was withdrawn

V. Information Items:

- **Response: Senate Resolution on an Appropriate Emphasis for Academics**
 - Chair will assign to Faculty Welfare Committee for response
 - Note from Chair: Assigned to Academic Quality*

VI. Other announcements

- **Vice Provost Richard Miller:** seeking nominations from Deans for Student Complaint Committees—will go up for vote at Faculty Senate

Motion to adjourn passed

Respectfully submitted by John Gottfried, Secretary