

University Legislative Advisory Committee candidates for Senate appointment:

1. Eric Bain-Selbo – Philosophy and Religion
2. Craig Heckman – Public Health
3. Patricia Minter – History
4. Lynette Smith – Nursing

Please vote for only one candidate. Statements of interest are included on subsequent pages.

December 3, 2013

To: Margaret Crowder
From: Eric Bain-Selbo
Re: Legislative Advisory Committee

I am writing to offer to serve on the newly established Legislative Advisory Committee. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and would be honored to do so.

I have been a scholar of higher education for some time, as reflected in my research and my professional activity. Each of my three books touch on important aspects of higher education. I have given numerous presentations that focus on the challenges and purposes of higher education---including presentations at the American Democracy Project meetings (American Association of State Colleges and Universities) and annual meetings of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. At the 2014 AACU meeting in January, I will be giving a presentation on the intrinsic value of a liberal arts education and will be co-chairing a seminar on the deep moral questions at the heart of the mission of higher education. Even when not presenting, I have been a regular attendee at ADP (AASCU) and AACU meetings.

Since 2001, I have been a member of the Society for Values in Higher Education---an organization that promotes inquiry about the values of higher education and encourages the intentional integration into curricula and classes the values that are central to a more just and vibrant democracy. Over the years I have served SVHE in a number of capacities, most recently as its Executive Director. In that capacity I was able to negotiate the move of the national office to WKU and spearheaded a number of new initiatives.

I also am committed to the preservation and enhancement of effective teaching and research. I am a member of the American Association of University Professors, and I am delighted to be part of the revitalization of the chapter here at WKU. I consider myself, first and foremost, a faculty member.

As someone from a modest background who graduated from an affordable public university, I am aware of the transformative power that public higher education can play in the lives of our students. As we all know, that power can be supported and enhanced by legislative action or it can be hindered and debilitated by legislative action. My goal on this committee is to contribute to the effort to make the legislative process as conducive as possible to student success and faculty effectiveness.

Sincerely,
Eric Bain-Selbo
Professor and Department Head
Philosophy and Religion
Western Kentucky University

December 1, 2013

Margaret E. Crowder, Ed.D.
Department of Geography
Western Kentucky University

Dear Dr. Crowder:

Your note regarding the Legislative Advisory Committee came to my attention and I am interested in serving on that committee.

I have been a part time faculty member at Western for 13 years, teaching undergraduates in the Fall, (HCA 441- legal principles of health care administration), and graduate students in the Spring, (HCA 551- health care jurisprudence). I realized that the faculty Senate's charter does not recognize part time faculty within the definition of faculty. Although this may be an impediment to serving on one of the standing committees created by the charter, it should not be an impediment to serving on this committee. In fact I think the Vice President Taylor's has specifically asked that a broader cross section of campus interests be considered in the composition of this important committee. I would suggest that the Vice President's goal can be met by reaching into the large pool of adjunct faculty members.

By training I am a lawyer, having obtained my Juris Doctorate in 1976. In 1990 I moved to Kentucky to assume the role of assistant administrator of the Graves Gilbert Clinic. Prior to coming here I was actively engaged in the traditional practice of law. During that time I was a regularly engaged in reviewing legislative matters for clients and was registered in Ohio as a lobbyist for one of those clients.

I continue to have a strong interest in legislative matters. My current position with the Graves Gilbert Clinic and my current teaching position both require that I remain current on legislative issues. I am frequently called upon to provide analysis of both bills that are pending, as well as those bills that have already been passed.

I believe I can be of value to the faculty and the University at large. I would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully,

Craig Heckman
Craig.heckman@wku.edu
270-780-0547

Patricia Minter (nominated by Eric Reed):

I have allowed my name to be forwarded for consideration as the University Senate representative to the newly created Legislative Advisory Committee. This is an important position, and I have extensive experience in various aspects of governance at both the university and state levels which would enable me to represent faculty interests well. I served as the first chair of the University Senate in 2000-2001, and in that capacity I became a member of COSFL (Coalition of State Faculty Leadership), a group of faculty senate chairs, officers, and faculty regents from the eight state universities in Kentucky. I have been an active member of COSFL ever since, and this brought me into the contact with other faculty leaders as well as with CPE leadership. As COSFL leaders, we are frequently asked to provide input into legislative initiatives or “hot topics,” as well as crafting occasional resolutions or responses to legislative inquiries. Many legislative issues come up very quickly and require rapid response and broad consensus among our institutions—I have participated in this rapid response and lobbying process through COSFL on major legislative actions affecting faculty. Two examples of my participation in rapid response and consensus building are 1) explaining and defending academic freedom issues related to federal and state legislation on textbook purchases and ordering, and 2) working with provosts, deans, and senate leaders from across the state on a major bill that impacted transfer credits from KCTCS and other state universities. In both cases, while the legislation ultimately passed, both bills were amended as a result of our collaborative work to make them more faculty- and WKU-friendly than originally drafted. In sum, I am well acquainted with legislative issues involving higher education in Kentucky, well-positioned in several advocacy groups, and experienced in working with a team of administrators, regents, and faculty leaders to craft rapid responses built upon consensus and mutual best interests.

As Faculty Regent, I have built a good working relationship with my counterparts across the state as well as with WKU Vice-President for Public Affairs Robbin Taylor, who chairs this new advisory committee. I have enjoyed my interactions with our local delegations in the General Assembly, and have worked through Vice-President Taylor when requested to convey the university’s concerns to them. I have also assisted President Ransdell, upon his request, with faculty advocacy on several CPE issues (most notably tuition). I am experienced in rapid response and in advocating for WKU’s best interests while articulating faculty concerns. Finally, as an advisory member of the Senate, I will be able to convey to you immediately any issues about which you need to know and to quickly get your input as needed since this new committee is a rapid-response body, not a deliberative one. I will represent our interests well.

Lynette Smith, Ph.D., PMHNP, FNP
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Margaret E. Crowder, Ed.D.
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RE: Letter of Interest for University Legislative Advisory Committee

Dear Dr. Crowder;

I am interested in seeking the University Senate appointment for the newly formed University Legislative Advisory Committee. I understand that this committee position involves reviewing timely legislation, which may have potential impact on the university and related issues. I am interested in the legislative process and I am willing to meet frequently with the committee to review and discuss new and active bills. If chosen, my expertise as a family nurse practitioner (FNP) and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP) will provide the advisory committee with perspectives related to healthcare and education. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynette Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'S'.

Warmest regards;

Dr. Lynette Smith, Ph.D.