

University Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 10, 2014 -- 3:15 p.m.
Weatherby Conference Room

Call to Order:

- Chair Margaret Crowder called the Executive Committee meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 3:15 pm in the Weatherby Conference Room. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:**
Heidi Álvarez, Jill Brown, Margaret Crowder, Tucker Davis, Gordon Emslie, Lloren Foster, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Ric Keaster, Alison Langdon, Patricia Minter, Mark Reeves.
- **Guests Present:**
Molly Dunkum, Molly Kirby for Ashley Chance Fox, Beth Plummer (Graduate Council), Larry Snyder.
- **Absent:**
Angela Jerome, Beverly Siegrist.

A. Approve January Minutes

- A motion to approve the December minutes by P. Minter was seconded by A. Langdon.

B. Reports:

1. Chair – Margaret Crowder

- Chair Crowder put forth two names (one name plus an alternate) for the pool for Dr. Miller's tenure/promotion committee. The names put forth, which were pulled in front of Crowder's department chair, were Scott Stroot (member) and Tony Harkins (alternate).
- From the last meeting, the Provost has not signed full approval for the Grad Faculty Policy. B. Plummer said that the Grad Council appeals process could be followed according to the Faculty Handbook because it is appropriate to any personnel matter. She feels it is OK to review it but does not think it should hinder the signing of it. The Provost stated that he signed it, accepted it, and will pursue approval from CAD and AC. B. Plummer asked how the Executive Committee feels about this issue. The SEC stated that they would like the Provost to explain his position. B. Plummer said the first issue of the appeals process would use the appeals process in the handbook. The Provost said it is a number policy and clarified his reasons. B. Plummer stated that the Graduate Council as a whole feels it should go back to the Department if a status is being reconsidered. The Provost said he wants it to apply to retain vs. being denied. The will look at it on a regular basis as a proactive renewal process. The Provost does not want graduate faculty status to be part of a tenure review. B. Plummer stated that for 5-6 years, we have been agreement, and we do not question credentials of our colleagues. The Provost stated that we are not

removing status, but we are not renewing them. B. Plummer suggested leaving it in the hands of the department. The current policy would require a negative action by the department head to remove. The annual review is not done in consultation with the department; “in consultation with the academic unit”. The Dean signs off on annual evaluations. The Provosts said that these questions have come up: the faculty member can (1) agree not to teach the classes; (2) appeal; or (3) wait to apply again. B. Plummer stated that the Graduate Council does not want to micromanage the process. The Graduate Council agreed to this, sent it through, and the Senate has accepted it. The Provost wants to leave this pending. The SEC feels that if we send it back to the Graduate Council that nothing will change. The issue about negative action has already been discussed. Mark Reeves made a motion to send the policy back to the Graduate Council for comments. The motion was seconded by J. Hanley.

- The second item from the UCC report from last time was the Computer Information Technology (CIT) program. The Provost did not approve this section of the UCC report because the proposal was inefficient in several ways. Chair Crowder sent it to Ashley Chance-Fox.

2. Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley

- For the At-Large Election, up to three nominations from one department can be put forth. The qualifications are listed on page three of the senate charter. Hanley stated that she has not received many nominations and that she wants to give names to the Deans by the end of March as per the Charter. She stated that she wants her inbox to be flooded. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Hanley or Margaret Crowder. The elections will be Feb. 26, 27, 28, and results will be announced by March 1.

3. Secretary - Heidi Alvarez (no report)

4. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter

- The Board of Regents met January 24 and voted 9-1 on Head Coach Jeff Brohm's contract (with one person missing), which led to a discussion. She asked for follow-up on a flawed data set. She asked what the total payroll for athletics staff was. \$1.6 million for assistant and head coaches is almost all of Potter College's total budget. The Petrino money will go toward raises. The Faculty Regent stated that there is no transparency for ticket revenues and how salaries are funded. We don't know how it is funded or where the money comes from. Minter would like a report to the Board in the form of a memo about this, and she looks forward to a report from Todd prior to the March 28 meeting. April 18 is the full board meeting.
- At the January 24th meeting, the Provost and Dr. Meredith reported on enrollment.
- Regent Minter is on a legislative committee (Molly is also on this committee) that reviews bills and contacts others in areas of interest.
- In reference to the pending bill about using computer language as a substitute for foreign language, Minter stated that she liked the Provost's argument against it and thinks it is good that we are having dialogue and are getting our ideas out about it.
- Of the \$310 million in renovations, nothing is yet approved. \$48 million for the renovation of Thompson Central is not approved yet. Minter thinks it is all quite fluid.

5. Provost – Gordon Emslie

- The Provost stated that students have a foreign language requirement for the colonnade plan but with the computer language policy, they will come to college without it.
- The Provost commented on the New York Times article calling for a revamp of the tenure system; regular faculty with teaching and research and faculty who teach only.
- He will talk about the Graduate Faculty Policy.

C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council (Beth Plummer):

- Beth Plummer made a motion to endorse the January 16th Graduate Council agenda items on the University Senate Agenda as posted. The Graduate Council items were approved unanimously by the Graduate Faculty.

2. University Curriculum Committee (Molly Kirby for Ashley Chance Fox):

- Molly Kirby made a motion to endorse the January UCC items with several alterations as posted for Senate consideration. Several alterations include: GEOG 451 and GEOL 311, which were on the Old Business Portion of the UCC agenda, had implementation dates of fall 2013, and was changed to Fall 2014; JOUR 325 is listed on the report under Information Item III (revise prerequisites/corequisites); however, the proposal was to revise the catalog course listing. A proposal to suspend BCOM 376 was on PCAL Consent but was left off the report previously submitted. It has been added. Two programs to be suspended (414 Mass Communication; 725 Mass Communication) are listed under "Suspend a Course," were added under a separate section entitled "Suspend a Program." Item VI (revise a program) under Consent Item Report. The last five programs on the list do not have program reference numbers; the reference numbers were added to be consistent with the other program listings in this section. Item VIII (Create a New Certificate Program) under Consent Item Report; the approved title of the certificate is "Aging Specialist" (not Specialist in Aging). There was no discussion. The motion was seconded by A. Langdon. The UCC items with amendments were approved unanimously and the amended UCC report will be sent to Senate for consideration.
- For the Colonnade Program, international student (non-native speakers) will take either English 100, English 300, or another approved writing in the disciplines (WD) course such as COMM 145 and additional coursework in Explorations. A friendly amendment was suggested to clarify whether the intent was to apply to international students or to non-native speakers (this policy should apply to non-native English speakers). A. Langdon made a motion to send the revision "non-native English speakers" back to the committee to edit the language. The motion was seconded by L. Foster.
- Catalog Term: The Colonnade goes "live" in Fall 2014. Currently enrolled students who change major and keep the "old" gen ed program will have to have the Dean sign off on it. They have until Fall 2019 to complete the "old" requirements unless they change to the new colonnade. The item was approved unanimously and will be sent forward to Senate. The Provost asked what "admitted" means; it means first semester enrolled: if admitted in March 2014, the first semester enrolled is August. L. Foster made a motion to change "admitted" to first period enrolled." The friendly amendment includes "first enrolled" and changing "admission" to "enrolled". The

friendly amendment passed unanimously. The deadline for getting this to Senate is this Wednesday, so it will be sent out Thursday.

3. Academic Quality: No report

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility:

- The Board of Regents approval for the faculty handbook links highlight “best practices” within the state. Legally it is the best way to do it. A motion to approve the Faculty Welfare Resolution for Board of Regents Approval by L. Foster was seconded by J. Hanley. The motion carried and passed unanimously and will be sent on to the Senate.
- L. Foster made a motion for approval of the Resolution on Faculty Compensation. After C. Ernst visited the Faculty Welfare meeting, the committee researched other institutions and tried to find out basic data. The costs are high, state-insured universities are lower, and self-insured kept costs low. The committee concluded that we want to stay self-insured but that they are concerned that the reserves are low. The resolution states that (A) the university needs to contribute more toward benefits; and (B) this is linked to the 2012 Action Plan 1.2: increase salaries to meet benchmark medians. The committee wants the university to prioritize this issue. No 2nd required; passed unanimously.

5. General Education: No Report

D. Old Business (none)

E. New Business:

- The Faculty Governance Document is now the SEC’s document; it went through faculty forums with spotty attendance and was posted on Blackboard with 0 comments and 26 users enrolled in the Blackboard organizational site. In short, there has been nominal interest in the faculty governance document. The editing committee is only there for minor changes to the document. Substantive changes to the document are needed. 75% of the faculty have to vote on it to go anywhere. A. Langdon made a motion to table this document indefinitely. The motion was 2nded by J. Hanley. Good discussion has come of the document, good ideas are there in pieces for future use (ie. Good ideas that can be used for later include (1) Senate Budget Committee, (2) no term limits). If it is archived, the helpful pieces can be used in the future. R. Keaster called the question. Motion to table the Faculty Governance Document indefinitely was passed unanimously.
- The Provost requested names for the Budget Advisory Committee (In total, four requested advisory committees will be created and include (1) KEYS, (2) Faculty Reward and Compensation, (3) Space, and (4) Budget). Formation of the budget committee was a priority in terms of time; the other three committees are yet to be formed. The SEC voted on names to be sent forward to the Provost. Lists of each applicant are posted online. M. Crowder clarified the voting process. The Provost stated that he does not want the committee to be comprised solely of “administrative” faculty; he wants “faculty faculty” to serve on the committee as well. (There were three on the list who are “administrative”. Three colleges out of the six are represented. The Provost wants to add to this list. He wants faculty help

in making these choices (he does not want only administrators). The SEC's preliminary vote will put forward 2+6, with an agreement that there is a need to have all colleges represented. The Provost inquired about K. Madole, who had expressed interest to him to serve on an advisory committee. Crowder clarified that the people on the list are the ones who expressed an interest in serving on this particular committee. K. Madole did not send a packet for this committee. The Provost asked how the committee wants to proceed. Regent Minter asked that given whoever this body [SEC] elects, would the consent of the SEC be considered for the 3 colleges not represented on this list. The Provost said that we will need 4 additional spots (in consideration of the library). He also requested no multiple names from a single department. The committee will need to meet by the end of February, and the Provost would like to fill the committee before then. We might have to fully fund KERS retirement. The SEC meets March 10; the vote for the additional 4 spots will be completed via email for consent approval. So the vote will be for 12 total, with 8 being from the Feb. 10 list (6+2), and 4 others that we will vote for consent in the next 3 days. The SEC then voted, to choose 6 of the lower 9 on the list. The SEC voted and in addition to Indudeep Chhachhi (Finance) and Eric Reed (History) put forth the following 6 names: (1) Eric Bain-Selbo (Philosophy & Religion; Dept. Head); (2) Claus Ernst (Mathematics); (3) Guy Jordan (Art History); (4) David Keeling (Geography & Geology, Dept. Head); (5) Harold Little (Accounting); (6) Michelle Trawick (Economics, Assoc. Dean GFCB). Tom Hunley (English) was selected as an alternate by the committee in the event that someone in the above list became unable to serve.

F. Information items: (none)

A motion to adjourn by A. Langdon was seconded by M. Reeves. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Álvarez
Secretary