

University Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 7, 2014 – 12:00 p.m.
Weatherby Conference Room

Call to Order:

Chair Margaret Crowder called the Executive Committee meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Friday, March 7, 2014 at 12:00 pm in the Weatherby Conference Room. A quorum was present.

- **Members Present:**

Jill Brown, Margaret Crowder, Tucker Davis, Gordon Emslie, Ashley Chance Fox, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Ric Keaster, Alison Langdon, Patricia Minter, Beth Plummer, Mark Reeves, Beverly Siegrist

- **Guests Present:**

Janet Applin, Rick Grieve, Lance Hahn,

- **Absent:**

Heidi Álvarez Angela Jerome

A. Approve February Minutes

- A motion to approve the February minutes by M. Reeves was seconded by A. Langdon

B. Reports

1. Chair

- Graduate Council report will be moved to the end of the meeting
- Most of Chair's comments will come up as we deal with the agenda items

2. Vice Chair

- At large elections completed; very happy with the results
- Thanks to Provost Emslie for handling University snow days so well this week, particularly as related to branch campuses

3. Secretary:

- Heidi Alvarez unable to attend; John Gottfried will take minutes

4. Committee Chairs

a. **Academic Quality Committee: (Report Posted)**

- Allison Langdon made a motion to endorse the Academic Quality Committee report of February 24, 2014.
- Report focused on continuing discussion of SITES evaluation
- Notes that response rates for online evaluations are actually higher than were response rates for paper evaluations

- Question from Senate chair, should we include citation describing response rate?
- Responses: probably not, maybe include on release announcement
- Committee continues to review “university-wide” items on SITEs; some items may not be appropriate
- Will draft recommendations at next meeting
- Motion passed unanimously; report goes forward to full senate

b. **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee: (Report Posted)**

- Tucker Davis made a motion to approve the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee report of February 3, 2014
- Includes proposed policy on non-sectarian prayer (suggest a policy adapted from Clemson University)
 - Provost Emslie suggested the possibility of sending policy to university council for development as a university-wide policy
 - Question: should this proposal come out of faculty senate at all?
 - Responses: Yes, because the issue was brought up by a faculty member; also, university-wide policies may arise from many sources
 - Tucker Davis made a motion to produce policy and move forward to senate; second Mark Reeves; approved unanimously

c. General Education Curriculum Committee: No Report

d. **Graduate Council: (Report Posted)**

- Beth Plummer made a motion to endorse the Graduate Council report; approved unanimously and will be forwarded to full senate
- Revised Operating Papers: University Policy for Designation of Graduate faculty
 - Changes in policy to answer Provost’s comments on previous version related to the appeals process
 - Discussion of nature of non-renewal of graduate faculty—is this a matter of continuance?
 - Comment: then this would require a modification of faculty handbook,
 - Senate Chair: the Faculty Senate has voted on this report, and we await the end result. We have finished our work with this report, however, and I think we should move on with our agenda.
 - Committee chair: we cannot move forward until the policy is signed by the Provost
 - Provost: the word “appeal” is not part of this policy

- Senate chair: can we refer this issue to faculty handbook committee, and add the wording that would make this acceptable to the Provost?
- Provost: the problem relates to sending disagreements from the faculty department and the college Dean to a university-wide graduate body
- Comment: the graduate council would not be making determination on qualifications, which are made in the department and the college, but the graduate council would review the process to determine that the decision was not “arbitrary or capricious.”
- Lacking approval of the Provost, policy proposal was withdrawn

e. **University Curriculum Committee: (Report Posted)**

- Ashley Chance Fox made a motion to endorse the curriculum items of the UCC report
 - Some items need minor revisions
 - There was not time to refine items due to the early date of the SEC meeting this month
 - Items will be amended for presentation to faculty senate
 - Approved unanimously pending amendments
- Ashley Chance Fox made a motion to endorse the policy items of the UCC report
 - Question: what is the purpose of these changes [to “latin honors”]?
 - Provost—changes relate to dual enrollment, originated with CAD; changes concern the number of residency hours required for Latin honors
 - Approved unanimously to go to full senate

f. **Colonnade Implementation Committee: Policy item**

- **Proposal to revise an Academic Policy, Foreign Language requirements - Revision (Posted)**
- Motion made to endorse policy item from 2/11/2014
- Foreign Language requirement revisions
- Approved unanimously, will be forwarded to full senate

5. Advisory Reports

a. **Faculty Regent**

- January Board of Regents meeting
- Regent Minter had previously requested financial data on the campus football program; states that she received preliminary data, but the data produces as many questions as answers

- Regent Minter and other representatives attended South Central Kentucky night with General Assembly. Overall, reaction from legislators indicates that they would like to help, but they are concerned about tight budget, funding. No one is sure how this will come out.
- House bill 333 concerns the age at which a person could go into transitional retirement—will have more to report on this.
- Board of Regents will meet on March 28.
- This meeting will include evaluation of WKU President; results will be delivered in April.

b. Academic Affairs (Provost Emslie)

- Snow days: Provost Emslie noted that there is no easy answer to determining snow days. He depends on input from others to make the best possible decisions. Despite precautions and campus closures this week there will still be injuries.
- Budget committee met Wednesday, March 5:
 - Provost handed out some budget figures, and the committee began to discuss a few major issues
 - Committee will meet again next week to begin more detailed examination of priorities
 - Provost Emslie pointed out that many financial issues require careful consideration. Example: WKU is spending more money for scholarships—part of the reason for this, however, is WKU's increasing success in recruiting more highly qualified students, a greater percentage of whom meet the requirements for scholarships. The increased cost indicates, therefore, that we are doing a better job of meeting broader university objectives.
- Change of Major policy has been approved (time limit on changes)

C. Old Business:

D. New Business:

E. Information Items:

1. WKU General Counsel, Deborah Wilkins, will attend the April 17th meeting of the University Senate to discuss issues related to IT policies and requests for electronic discovery

Motion to adjourn by John Gottfried, second by Jennifer Hanley, meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by John Gottfried, revised and resubmitted April 8, 2014