

**MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
NOVEMBER 20, 2003
GARRETT BALLROOM**

Chair Doug Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

The following members were present: John All, Darlene Applegate, Jim Berger, Ray Blankenship, Charles Borders, Christopher Brown, John Bruni, Barbara Burch, Robert Choate, Linda Coakley, Joshua Collins, Thad Crews II, Debra Crisp, Robert Dietle, Claus Ernst, Bill Greenwalt, Richard Hackney, Kacy Harris, Michelle Hollis, Hollan Holm, Robert Holman, William Howard, Lois Jircitano, Pamela Jukes, Danita Kelley, Cynthia Mason, Connie Mills, Patricia Minter, Keith Philips, John Moore, Russell Moore, Sharon Mutter, Anne Onyekwuluje, Richard Parker, Yvonne Petkus, Raymond Poff, Matt Pruitt, Troy Ransdell, Eric Reed, Jo-Anne Ryan, Jeffrey Samuels, Roger Scott, Sherrie Serros, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Fred Siewers, Byron Sleugh, Douglas Smith, Brian Strow, Richard Weigel, Mary Wolinski, Uta Ziegler. **Alternate members present were:** Robert Smith for Jim Becker, Andrew Ernest for Blaine Ferrell, James LeTourneau for Wilma King Jones, Larry Caillouet for George Musambira, Andrew McMichael for Jane Olmsted, Rose Davis for Nelda Sims, Roger Murphy for Edward Yager. **Members absent without alternate representation were:** Katie Algeo, Michael Binder, John Bonaguro, Suzie Cashwell, Richard Dressler, Sam Evans, Elmer Gray, Jeffrey Hackett, Dan Jackson, Robert Jefferson, Bruce Kessler, David Lee, Minwoo Lee, Pat Minors, Lora Moore, Sherry Powers, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Loren Ruff, Bill Tseng, Judy Walker, Jue Wang.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of October 16, 2003 were approved as presented.

University Academic Complaint Committee

Vice Chair Jim Berger said ballots for the University Academic Complaint Committee have been prepared and distributed to Senators attending this meeting. The ballot lists the names of five faculty and two students who were nominated by the present University Academic Complaint Committee and approved by the University Senate Executive Committee. Senator Berger asked that Senators vote for two faculty representatives and one student representative. The two faculty nominees who receive the highest number of votes will serve as members of the University Academic Complaint Committee; the third- and fourth-place finishers will serve as alternates. The student with the highest number of votes will serve as a member of the University Academic Complaint Committee; the second-place finisher will serve as an alternate.

University Senate Action Approval

Dr. Barbara Burch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, approved, without exception, the actions taken by the University Senate at its meeting on October 16, 2003.

Report from the Chair

1. Chair Smith responded to the large group of students who met in front of the Garrett Conference Center Ballroom to protest the plus/minus grading system proposal that is on the University Senate agenda today for a second reading. Chair Smith thanked the students for their concerns. He said that at its November 10 meeting the University Senate Executive Committee discussed this matter at great length and agreed to create an **Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality** to review, among other issues, the potential adoption of a plus/minus grading system at WKU. Chair Smith said part of the reason the plus/minus grading system and other new ideas have been advanced in the past few months is the change in the overall academic climate at Western since President Gary Ransdell took over. According to Smith, “This is part of the spirit that’s helping us move toward being the comprehensive university that we set our sights on five years ago.” Voting members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality will consist of six Senators, one from each college, one representative from the Graduate Council, and two representatives from the Student Government Association. There will be three non-voting members representing the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Registrar’s Office, and Student Advising and Retention Office. This committee will explore ways to improve the academic quality at Western. The issues they will consider include but are not limited to changes in the grading system, changes in the drop/add/withdraw policy, changes in the advising system, and ways to improve the academic culture at WKU. The Chair said the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality would in no way take away the right of the Senate, if the body so choose, to vote on the proposal to adopt a plus/minus grading system today under the Old Business segment of the meeting. If that proposal is approved today, Chair Smith said there will be issues such as implementation that the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality can address. Chair Smith reiterated that he is not stopping this body from speaking its voice on any issue if it so chooses today, noting “It’s not my job or my right to stifle debate or change.” The Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality will report to the University Senate no later than the March 2004 meeting. The Chair asked that each college caucus at the end of this meeting to elect a representative to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. Chair Smith asked Senators to consider making this Committee a standing committee of the Senate.
2. Chair Smith said that any Senator or group can submit proposals to revise the University Senate Charter to the University Senate Executive Committee. Though the University Senate Executive Committee cannot stop a Charter revision proposal from coming forward to the full Senate, the Committee will prepare the proposals for University Senate consideration. Charter revisions require 2/3 majority vote of the University Senate for approval.
3. Next, the Chair said certain members of the University Library faculty were omitted from the faculty salary survey. The survey is being amended, though copies for each department will not be reprinted due to the cost.

Report from the Faculty Regent

Regent Dietle said the idea for an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality developed from a conversations among the Senate Chair, President Ransdell, Dr. Burch, and the University Senate Executive Committee. The debate over the proposal to change to a plus/minus grading system revealed no effect in attitudes towards education, both for faculty and student. However, consideration of the proposal actually revealed many more academic issue that require attention. Creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality has come at an opportune time with the President's initiative to raise funds for academics through a tuition increase. Regent Dietle said he hopes that the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality will be able to make some report or recommendations, and he invited Senators who have ideas or suggestions to participate in the process.

Report from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

1. The Provost congratulated the University Senate Executive Committee for the professional and intelligent way of considering the issues of plus/minus grading and academic quality. She showed her appreciation to the students for their participation in today's events and for expressing their interest in the issues. Provost Burch said she thought the proposal to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality was a very thoughtful one.
2. The Provost reported that tomorrow and next Tuesday, the Deans will be meeting to study various issues related to implementation of President Ransdell's academic initiative, including distribution of new faculty lines and new funds. She plans to report on their deliberations at the next University Senate meeting. She said that decisions will be based on submission about the faculty commission distribution, those have to be done in a matter of days. She noted that virtually all faculty will look forward to some increased offerings and special development dollars; guidelines for applying for such funds will be forthcoming. Revenues will also be used to fund initiatives that will enhance opportunities for students success. The President and the Board of Regents are both very eager for us to take advantage of the new revenue, beginning as early as January.
3. The Provost said she plans to give an analysis of the pros and cons on the January calendar proposal at the next University Senate meeting.
4. The Provost discussed initiatives to renovate classrooms and other instructional spaces. The goal is to begin the first round of renovations early in the spring semester. Colleges will determine priorities of where to begin and what the intent is in renovating academic spaces.

Standing Committee Reports

A. Report from the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

Chair Mary Wolinski gave the following report for information.

Procard

Len Kogut, the University Controller, appeared before the Committee to explain the ramifications of the new Procard for reimbursal of faculty travel expenses. The use of this card to pay for faculty travel expenses is not mandatory. Often it is not feasible, as when paying registration fees or being reimbursed for only part of one's airfare or hotel costs. Faculty can still file a travel voucher and be reimbursed for travel expenses just as they have in the past. Questions and problems should be directed to Holly Milam, 5-4260.

Appeals Procedure for Faculty Non-Continuance

The Committee discussed for the first time the problems concerning the appeals process in cases of non-continuance of tenure-track faculty. The Provost had asked the Committee to make recommendations for revising the process as laid out in the Faculty Handbook.

Faculty Work Loads

The Committee is considering various aspects of faculty work load in regard to time allotted to teaching, research, and service

B. Report from the General Education Committee

Chair Patricia Minter moved approval of the following Consent Agenda from the General Education Committee.

Chair Smith asked if any Senator would like to move any item from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda. No such requests were made.

Creation of new course:

HIST 175 University Experience: History and Social Studies

Addition to Category A:

CHIN 102 Elementary Chinese II

Addition to Category B-II:

AMS 222 Principles of Architectural Theory [approval for Spring 2004 only]

The motion carried.

C. Report from the University Curriculum Committee

Chair Darlene Applegate moved approval of the Consent Agenda from the October 23, 2003 meeting of the University Curriculum Committee, removing the proposal to create AGRI 175 University Experience: Agriculture since corrections to the proposal have not been made.

Chair Smith asked if any senator would like to remove any item from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda. No such requests were made.

Proposals marked with asterisks were action items of the University Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

I. One-Time-Only Course Offering [for information only]

PSY 435/G Moral Development and Education (Spring 2004)

II. Creation of New Course *

DMT 226 Fashion Illustration

POTTER COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

I. One-Time-Only Course Offerings [for information only]

ANTH 384 Anthropology and Colonialism (Spring 2004)

FLK 471 Architecture in America (Spring 2004)

PHIL 329 Concepts of God, Good & Evil (Spring 2004)

DANC 322 Special Topics, Pointe (Spring 2004)

DANC 323 Special Topics, Men's Technique (Spring 2004)

II. Creation of New Courses *

MUS 090 Fundamentals of Music Theory

III. Revision of Programs *

Ref. No. 514 BFA Visual Arts, Fine Arts Option [add two courses to restricted electives]

Ref. No. 509 AB Studio Art [add two courses to restricted electives]

OGDEN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

I. One-Time-Only Course Offerings [for information only]

CE 451	Water and Wastewater Treatment (Spring 2004)
ME 499	Special Topics (Spring 2004)
PHYS 107	Physics of Science Fiction(Spring 2004)
PHYS 435	Biophysics (Spring 2004)
GEOG 469	Geography of British Isles (Summer 2004)

II. Creation of New Courses *

CS 175	University Experience: Computer Science
GEOG 175	University Experience: Geography and Geology
PHYS 175	University Experience for Physics Majors
CE 383	Structural Steel Design
CE 384	Reinforced Concrete Design
CE 412	Foundation Engineering

GORDON FORD COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

I. Course Revisions

FIN 441	Small Business Finance [title]
FIN 499	Senior Assessment in Finance [grading system]
FIN 440	Cooperative Education in Finance [title, grading system] *

II. Revision of Programs *

Ref. No. 664	Finance Major, Financial Management Option [replace restricted electives]
Ref. No. 664	Finance Major, Financial Planning Option [replace restricted electives]

GRADUATE COUNCIL

I. One-Time-Only Course Offerings [for information only]

FLK 471G	Architecture In America (Spring 2004)
GEOG 469G	Geography of British Isles (Summer 2004)

II. Course Revisions *

GEOG 416G	Remote Sensing: Principles and Applications to Environment and Planning [prerequisites, catalog course listing]
-----------	---

GEOG 430G Cultural Geography [prerequisites, catalog course listing]
GEOG 444G Environmental Ethics in Geography [prerequisites, catalog course listing]
GEOG 555 Global Environmental Change [prerequisites, catalog course listing]

III. Creation of New Course *

PHIL 426G Philosophy and Old Age

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

I. Revision of Academic Policy *

Undergraduate Culminating Experience

The Chair called for a vote on the undergraduate portion of the motion. The motion carried.

Next, Chair Smith called for Graduate Faculty only to vote on the graduate portion of the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Smith opened the floor for discussion on the second reading of the plus/minus grading proposal.

Danita Kelley moved to amend the proposal so that C and C- both be graded as a 2.0. The motion was seconded.

Considerable discussion incurred. Several questions arose, one concerning whether or not the Senate was satisfied that, or had there been an approval that, fundamentally a change in grading system is necessary and desirable. At this point, Senator Kelley withdrew her proposal to amend.

Senator Bill Greenwalt moved that all items on the floor be referred to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. The motion was seconded.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on referring the plus/minus grading proposal to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. Lengthy discussions, both pro and con, ensued. (All debate is recorded and on file in the Office for the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.)

Senator Joshua Collins moved to table the Greenwalt motion temporarily so that a non-binding straw poll on changing the grading system could be taken. The motion to postpone temporarily was seconded. The motion to table temporarily passed 35 to 21 with one abstention.

Chair Smith called for the straw poll vote. A secret ballot for the straw poll was requested, and ballots were distributed. A 34-22 majority of Senators opposed changing the current grading system.

Chair Smith reopened discussion on the Greenwalt motion to refer the plus/minus grading proposal to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. After lengthy debate, Senator Patricia Minter moved to end discussion. The motion to end discussion was seconded.

Chair Smith called for a vote on the motion to refer the plus/minus grading proposal to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. The motion was approved by a vote of 44 Yes to 7 No.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Lois Jircitano presented the following resolution and moved approval.

PROPOSED UNIVERSITY SENATE RESOLUTION UNIVERSITY FUND FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Whereas: Western Kentucky University (WKU) has increased tuition by \$200 per student beginning January 2004; and

Whereas: A number of WKU students will experience adverse financial impact to prevent their continued attendance and completion of program requirements in the spring semester 2004; and

Whereas: The Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research (EDLR) by resolution has endorsed the creation of a fund for the purpose of providing support to eligible students with demonstrated need, to be selected by a screening committee on the basis of substantiated need; and

Whereas: The EDLR is requesting that the Faculty Senate support the creation of a fund to execute the requirements of the solicitation, collection and distribution of funds voluntarily contributed by administration, faculty and professional staff;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

The Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate does by this resolution signify their endorsement and support of the EDLR resolution to establish a University Fund for the purposes and activities as described

The motion was seconded.

Senator Uta Ziegler moved to amend the Resolution by changing the wording "Faculty Senate" to "University Senate." She also moved to amend the last paragraph to read: "The Western Kentucky University Senate does by this resolution signify their support for the creation of a fund

to relieve the financial impact of the tuition increase on students for the Spring semester 2004.”
The motion to amend was seconded. The motion to amend was approved.

The Resolution now read as follows:

PROPOSED UNIVERSITY SENATE RESOLUTION
UNIVERSITY FUND FOR STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Whereas: Western Kentucky University (WKU) has increased tuition by \$200 per student beginning January 2004; and

Whereas: A number of WKU students will experience adverse financial impact to prevent their continued attendance and completion of program requirements in the spring semester 2004; and

Whereas: The Department of Educational Administration, Leadership and Research (EDLR) by resolution has endorsed the creation of a fund for the purpose of providing support to eligible students with demonstrated need, to be selected by a screening committee on the basis of substantiated need; and

Whereas: The EDLR is requesting that the University Senate support the creation of a fund to execute the requirements of the solicitation, collection and distribution of funds voluntarily contributed by administration, faculty and professional staff;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

The Western Kentucky University Senate does by this resolution signify their support for the creation of a fund to relieve increased tuition costs for eligible students in the spring semester.

The motion was seconded. The motion as amended carried.

OTHER

The Chair asked that each college caucus and elect representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality. He also asked that Senators return their ballots for the University Academic Complaint Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Applegate for Patricia Minors

Lou Stahl, Recorder

The results of the University Complaint Committee election are as follows:

Faculty Representatives: Matthew Pruitt
 Patty Randolph

Faculty Alternates: Karen Hackney
 Stephen Stone

Student Representative: Alecea Davis

Student Alternate: Hollan Holm