

**MINUTES  
UNIVERSITY SENATE  
OCTOBER 21, 2004  
THERESA GERARD AUDITORIUM GARRETT CONFERENCE CENTER**

Chair Sherrie Serros called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. **The following members were present:** Lawrence Alice, John All, Darlene Applegate, Ferhan Atici, Mustafa Atici, James Berger, Ray Blankenship, Ellen Bonaguro, Charles Borders, Barbara Brindle, Tim Brotherton, John Bruni, Robert Choate, Josh Collins, Eric Conte, Thad Crews II, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Dana Emberton-Tinius, Jane Fife, Malia Formes, Jerry Gotlieb, Bill Greenwalt, Anthony Harkins, Tim Howard, William Howard, Pamela Jukes, Danita Kelley, Kaveh Khatir, Joan Krenzin, Amy Krull, Minwoo Lee, Kathleen Matthew, Marge Maxwell, Andrew McMichael, Connie Mills, Patricia Minors, John Moore, Russell Moore, George Musambira, Sharon Mutter, David Neal, Anne Onyekwuluje, Yvonne Petkus, Morgan Phelps, Matt Pruitt, Heather Pulliam, Eric Reed, Jeffrey Samuels, Sherrie Serros, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Nelda Sims, Douglas Smith, Peter St. Pierre, Mason Stevenson, Jim Stone, Brian Strow, Stacey Wade, Mary Wolinski, Uta Ziegler. **Alternates present were:** Ed Wolfe for Christopher Brown, John Petersen for Barbara Burch, Susan Wesley for Suzie Cashwell, Sharon Hartz for Sam Evans, Andrew Ernest for Blaine Ferrell, Michael Carini for Richard Hackney, Judy Walker for Kacy Harris, James Barksdale for Nezam Iraniparast, Robert Reber for Robert Jefferson, Rachel Kinder for Terry Jepson, Jim LeTourneau for Wilma King-Jones, James Gary for Sylvia Pulliam, Raja Bhattacharya for Robert Sims, Janice Ferguson for Nedra Wheeler. **Members absent were:** Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Karin Egloff, Elmer Gray, Kirk Heriot, Michelle Hollis, Dan Jackson, Soleiman Kiasatpour, David Lee, Deborah Lively, Elizabeth Paris, Les Pesterfield, Keith Philips, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Loren Ruff, Roger Scott, Byron Sleugh, Jue Wang, Edward Yager.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of September 16, 2004 were approved as amended. Senator Uta Ziegler called attention to an omission in Item #2 of the Graduate Council Policy Actions (bottom of page 11 & top of page 12 of the minutes). The following last sentence was missing: This regulation will apply to all students who are admitted to a graduate program at WKU in fall 2004 or later.

**University Senate Action Endorsement**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Burch, endorsed without exception the actions of the University Senate at its September 16, 2004 meeting.

**NOTE:** Provost Burch is continuing to withhold her endorsement of the March 18, 2004 meeting, pending implementation issues of the Plus/Minus grading proposal.

Chair Serros said she would like to rearrange the agenda to accommodate a time schedule for the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**University Curriculum Committee** (Proposal distributed with the agenda for this meeting)

Chair Andrew McMichael presented the undergraduate University Curriculum Committee's Consent Agenda, and moved approval.

Chair Serros asked if any Senator would like to move any item from the consent agenda to an action agenda. Senator John Bruni requested that Item 3, of the College of Health and Human Services report be removed from consent to action. (Family and Consumer Science Program Revision, Reference Number 563.) (See UCC Report attached to today's agenda, or go to the Senate Website to review)

Next Chair Serros called for a vote on the **remaining portion of the undergraduate consent agenda**.

The motion carried.

Next Chair Serros opened the floor for discussion of the Family and Consumer Science Program, Reference Number 563.

Senator Bruni moved that the program be returned to the College of Health and Human Services for further review the program's diversity and cultural needs as well as it being a non-certifiable program.

The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Chair called for a vote to return the program.

The motion failed.

Next Chair Serros called for a vote to approve the Program revision for Family and Consumer Sciences, Reference 563

The motion carried.

Next, Chair Serros asked if anyone would like to remove any item from the **Graduate Consent agenda to action**. No such requests were made.

Next Chair Serros called for a vote on the Graduate Consent agenda, and asked that only graduate faculty vote.

The motion carried.

Next, Senator McMichael moved approval of the following Charter Amendment. Chair Serros noted that this amendment would be a two reading proposal.

**It is not the role or responsibility of the University Curriculum Committee to edit proposals for grammar and formatting rather than content during UCC. The members and chairs of the college curriculum committees shall be responsible for ensuring that proposals are free from grammatical errors and follow the formats and guidelines established by the UCC. If further editing should be required, the chair of the UCC shall have authority to edit proposals and at the same time gather from UCC members' grammatical and formatting corrections prior to the meeting and then advise proponents to how to fix their proposals. Proposals that require substantial editing may be returned to the proponent at the discretion of the UCC chair.**

The motion was seconded.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Chair noted that the proposal has had its first reading.

#### **Report from the Chair**

Chair Serros noted that nameplates were distributed at this meeting and asked that each Senator return them after the meeting. Further noted was that graduate faculty had a small uppercase G printed below the name. When graduate faculty votes are needed, then graduate faculty has a means of identifying themselves.

Next, the Chair announced that the October COSFL meeting was cancelled and announced that the Board of Regents will meet Friday, October 29, 2004 in MMTH and noted that the agenda for that meeting should be forthcoming.

#### **Report from the Vice Chair**

Vice Chair Jim Berger, announced four new members of the Senate, Kathleen Matthew, (CEBS,) Thad Crews II, Kirk Heriot, Minwoo Lee (GFCB). Next Senator Berger asked that the Gordon Ford College of Business caucus after today's meeting and elect members to the five standing committees.

(Next Chair Serros noted that there is no report from the Provost, Faculty Regent, General Education and The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committees.)

#### **Report from the Academic Quality Committee**

Chair Douglas Smith announced that the Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month. He said that the Committee met with Bob Cobb, representative from Academic Affairs, about the Plus/Minus Grading Proposal. Senator Smith discussed the revised proposal and moved approval of the following proposal to amend the motion to recommend utilization of Plus/Minus Grading System.

**Whereas, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is unwilling to pass the University Senate's Motion to Recommend Utilization of Plus/Minus Grading System as long as plusses and minuses appear on student transcripts.**

**Therefore be it resolved that the Academic Quality Committee proposes that the University Senate amend the Motion to Recommend Utilization of Plus/Minus Grading System so that the first sentence reads:**

**Therefore be it resolved that the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Quality recommend to the University Senate to keep current grading system, but place plusses and minuses, from A+ to C-, on TOPNET but not on the transcript. The plusses and minuses will not affect the student's Grade Point Average or Quality Points.**

The motion carried.

Next, Senator Smith said he was called by the Student Government Association to attend a meeting, which the Registrar and the Provost also attended. This meeting concerned "Student Honor Code" and the time frame in which the Senate would discuss this. Chair Serros said that this has been previously discussed.

### **Graduate Council Report**

Chair Serros said that this reported was included in the UCC report

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Benefit's Committee**

Committee members, Dr. Claus Ernst and Dr. Patricia Minter reported on the status of the Health Insurance Program at WKU for 2005. Dr. Ernst noted that the premium rates for faculty and staff for 2005 would basically remain the same, noting that the only rate increase would be for the employee/spouse tier. Other tier rates will remain flat.

(A more detailed report is on the University Senate web site, as well as in an email sent to faculty/staff all this week by President Ransdell.)

Next, Dr. Minter thanked the Senate for expressing their voice, which helped in getting results on the issue of funding the Wellness Coordinator's position that was discussed at the September Senate meeting. She stated that largely because of the voice the Senators raised, President Ransdell sent a memo to the Benefits Committee stating that any type of "soft monies" will not fund the Coordinator's position but instead directed Ann Mead, Chief Financial Officer to look for other places where this position can be funded by hard monies through University operating budget.

Next, Senator Douglas Smith brought forth the following resolution, concerning the separation of the University Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council, making the Graduate Council a sub-committee of the Senate.

Senator Smith moved approval of a proposal to change Section IV, Letter B, Number 5 of the University Senate Charter to read:

**5. Each committee, except the Executive Committee, shall elect its own chair. The chairs of all standing committees shall be members of the Senate, with the exception of the Graduate Council.**

The motion was seconded.

The Chair noted that this proposal has had its first reading.

Gordon Ford College of Business senators were asked to remain to caucus for standing committee representation.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patricia Minors, Interim Secretary

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Lou Stahl, Recorder