

**MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
MARCH 17, 2005
GARRETT BALLROOM**

Chair Sherrie Serros called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. **The following members were present:** John All, Ferhan Atici, Ray Blankenship, Ellen Bonaguro, Charles Borders, Christopher Brown, Barbara Brindle, Tim Brotherton, Barbara Burch, Michael Carini, Josh Collins, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Karin Egloff, Dana Emberton-Tinius, Brittany Fausey, Blaine Ferrell, Malia Formes, Elmer Gray, Bill Greenwalt, Nezam Iraniparast, Terry Jepson, Pamela Jukes, Danita Kelley, Kaveh Khatir, Joan Krenzin, Amy Krull, Margaret Maxwell, Andrew McMichael, Connie Mills, Patricia Minors, Russell Moore, George Musambira, Sharon Mutter, David Neal, Anne Onyekwuluje, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Phillips, Matt Pruitt, Heather Pulliam, Jeffrey Samuels, Sherrie Serros, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Nelda Sims, Robert Sims, Peter St. Pierre, Brian Strow, Stacey Wade, Jue Wang, Nedra Wheeler, Mary Wolinski, Edward Yager. **Alternates present were:** JAK Njoku for Darlene Applegate, John Reis for Robert Choate, Stuart Burris for Eric Conte, Jeff Willis for Thad Crews II, Judy Walker for Kacy Harris, Leo Simpson for Kirk Heriot, Richard Keyser for Eric Reed, Paul Woosley for Byron Sleugh, Abigail Lovan for Mason Stevenson. **Members absent were:** Lawrence Alice, Mustafa Atici, James Berger, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, John Bruni, Suzie Cashwell, Sam Evans, Jane Fife, Jerry Gotlieb, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Tim Howard, William Howard, Dan Jackson, Robert Jefferson, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Wilma King-Jones, David Lee, Minwoo Lee, Deborah Lively, Kathleen Matthew, John Moore, Elizabeth Paris, Les Pesterfield, Morgan Phelps, Sylvia Pulliam, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Loren Ruff, Roger Scott, Douglas Smith, Jim Stone, Richard Wilson, Uta Ziegler.

Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of February 17, 2005, were approved with editorial corrections:

University Senate Action Endorsement

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Burch, endorsed the February minutes with editorial corrections. Dr. Burch added that she is no longer holding the BA in Geology, from the January minutes, and has approved the degree with the following understanding with Dr. Keeling, Department Head and Dean. Ferrell.

“If the department wishes to insert the stipulation, in the Catalog that will in fact, require changes in the requirement that will override the requirements in the catalog (once the differentiating between degrees criteria is established this semester,) then I am willing to approve its entry. I won’t approve it without the footnote regarding **pending subject to approval of degree differentiation requirements.**”

Report from the Chair

Chair Sherrie Serros, reported that our resolution at the February meeting concerning SGA evaluations of faculty was not well accepted by SGA, in fact SGA intends to bring this matter to the attention of the BOR. If there is an agenda item on the BOR agenda, the President will need to review the issues at hand. I intend to keep the senate informed.

Next, Chair Serros said at least one faculty member has expressed concern to the Executive Committee over the change to on-line schedule bulletin. She said she has contacted the registrar

about this concern. She said print versions are available for faculty and advisors, and that students may print a pdf-version if desired. The Registrar said this change mainly affects students and SGA was consulted, as were the Department Heads and Council of Deans before this decision was made. The Registrar pointed out that when only a print version was available, over 2500 changes were made between the times the bulletin went to press and when it was distributed and the on-line version reflects changes as they are made. The registration guide portion continues to be available in print version for all students and faculty.

Senator Andrew McMichael said in light of the SGA wanting to take their “site evaluation proposal” directly to the Board of Regents, and the fact that this will set precedence that would allow anyone who is unhappy with the way University Governance is working to simply go forward to the BOR, he presented and moved approval the following resolution, condemning the attempt by any group or individuals to circumvent the established process for university governance:

“The University Senate strongly condemns any attempts to circumvent the established university governance procedures by getting members of the Administration or the Regents to override Senate Actions.”

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

Chair Serros said she has looked at the Board of Regents Bylaws and it is her understanding that only the President of the University can invite others to speak at a BOR meeting. She said if, in fact, the SGA goes to the BOR she will request that the President invite Senate representatives to speak on behalf of the Senate. Regent Dietle said even though an invitation from the President may not be extended, it would be useful to have two representatives from the Senate present for information.

Senator Josh Collins said as a result of previous meetings, SGA has reached a point that they feel that this matter can best be resolved by the BOR. He expressed their appreciation to those who have helped, and they respect the time the university has given to this issue, however Senator Collins was very adamant that the SGA feels that progress can no longer be made without a decision from the Board.

After considerable discussion, the Chair called for a vote on the Resolution.

The motion carried.

Report from the Vice Chair

None

Report from the Faculty Regent

Regent Robert Dietle said the Committees of the Board of Regents are scheduled to meet on Friday, April 8, 2005. The Board will meet on April 29. The Regent invited the Senate to attend. The meeting time will be sent to “Faculty All”

Report from the Provost

The Provost reported Budget Council meetings have concluded, and by in large the decisions that appear to be prevailing in terms of Frankfort decisions have left us with a “pretty decent budget.” Provost Burch said for those who are affected by capitol projects, it is not clear when those will be started, January or July, but most likely in January. She said local intuitional

decisions on the budget, are being reviewed to be sure everything is in place with the salary process along with the merit pool, which is a base 4% pool with an additional amount of money that can be used in terms of various adjustments. All in all the provost said this is a good budget, we're not at benchmark, but we do exceed the majority of the institutions in the country, so from that standpoint, Burch reiterated it is a good budget and also that the promotion-tenure piece went through which means we will implement the 10% plan increase from the rank from which the promotion moves. (if moving from assistant to associate, etc.) Dr. Burch said she was sure the President would share the entire budget distribution, within the next few weeks.

Next the Provost, speaking towards the SGA evaluation proposal, said it is her hope, that the proposal will NOT go before the BOR, for a number of reasons, one being it is not the kind of thing that is in the interest of, or should be brought before the Board of Regents. The Provost said it is her intent and the SGA Leadership has agreed, that there will be several members of SGA Leadership, members of the Senate Leadership and two Deans that she is asking to meet and reach a resolution. She said she feels it would be an embarrassment to all of us for students and faculty alike to go to the BOR and read out those questions, and make it appear that with all the intellectual resources we have on this campus that we cannot find some acceptable way to resolve this issue.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Curriculum Committee (Report attached to Agenda)

Senator Andrew McMichael moved for approval of the consent agenda.

Chair Serros asked if any Senator would like to move any items from the consent agenda to action agenda. Hearing none, the Chair called for a vote on the consent agenda from the University Curriculum Community

The motion carried.

General Education Committee (Report attached to Agenda)

Senator Strow moved for approval for the consent agenda of the General Education Committee Since there is only one item; Chair Serros asked if any Senator opposed adding FIN 261 to Category C. Hearing none, she called for a vote.

The motion carried.

Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

Senator Wolinski reported they have formed a sub-committee to look into the issue of liability insurance for faculty members who teach off-campus. She said Senator John All would chair this committee along with Patti Minter, Beth Plummer, Bill Greenwalt and Pam Jukes.

Academic Quality

None.

Graduate Council (Report attached to the agenda)

Dean Gray moved for the approval of the Graduate Council consent agenda. Chairs Serros asked if any graduate faculty Senator would like to move any item from the consent agenda to the action agenda. No requests were made. The chair called for a vote from the Senators with graduate faculty status to vote. The motion carried.

Old Business

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Division IA Football

Senator Eric Reed, who chairs this committee was not in attendance, and asked the Chair to report the following: Other members of the Committee are: Andrew McMichael, Jim LeTourneau, Rick Shannon, Michelle Hollis, Sharon Mutter, Arvin Vos, Richard Gelderman, and James Brown.

The Committee has met twice. They have begun collecting data on the financial and academic consequences of going to Div. 1-A football, including case studies of schools that have moved up AA to A as well as schools that have moved down A to AA. They plan to complete a report over the summer and issue it to the Senate in September. They have discussed the University's plans on this issue with President Ransdell, who stated that there is no firm plans yet to promote ourselves to Div. 1-A because we haven't yet received any offers from the MAC or other conferences to do so.

New Business

Senator John All moved approval of the following Resolution:

“Whereas currently University employees are frequently required to travel as part of their employment,
Whereas faculty often lead field trips and study abroad trips outside of the University Campus,
Whereas currently employees are not covered or inadequately covered by the University either personally or professionally in the case of lawsuits for off campus events and thus are potentially exposed to excessive financial loss,
And, whereas the University as an organization can purchase such insurance in the most cost-effective manner,
The University Senate resolves that professional liability insurance or its equivalent should be provided to all faculty and staff whose activities require them to travel off campus as part of their employment. This policy should provide coverage of at least 3 million dollars per incident and the maximum should increase to keep pace with inflation and typical liability judgments.

Chair Serros opened the floor for discussion.

Provost Barbara Burch, said as a note of clarification, there is a good deal of misunderstanding whether or not faculty and employees who are traveling on University business are covered. The fact is, they are, and she will request that a campus-wide email will be sent confirming this.

Senator Barbara Brindle moved to refer the resolution back to Committee. The motion was seconded. The motion to refer back to the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee carried.

Chair Serros asked if there was any more new business to come before the meeting.

Senator Andrew McMichael asked as a point of clarification, regarding the SGA Resolution which was made at the beginning of the meeting; if the committee which Provost Burch will appoint meets to try and resolve the SGA concerns, and if the Committee comes up with an agreement, will that agreement have to come back to the Senate for approval? Chair Serros, said she has no authority to make decisions on proposals coming from Committees or the SGA, but she assumes it will come back before Senate. Senator Collins asked that the resolution that

Senator McMichael made at the beginning of the meeting be forwarded to the SGA. Chair Serros said this would be done first thing tomorrow.

Chair Serros said she has contacted all the departments who have not completed their membership elections. She stressed the necessity to have this done immediately.

Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Cashwell, Secretary

Lou Stahl, Recorder

NOTE: The agenda with its attachments for this meeting can be found on the University Senate website: <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/FS/meetings.htm>