



UNIVERSITY SENATE

***THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009
3:45 p.m./WKU FACULTY HOUSE***

A. Senate Minutes, March 19, 2009

*Dr. Burch endorsed without exception the actions of the University Senate at its March 19, 2009, meeting.

B. Officer Reports/Other:

1. Chair
2. Vice-Chair
3. Faculty Regent
4. Provost

C. Standing Committee/Graduate Council Reports:

1. Graduate Council (See Report)
2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (See Report)
3. General Education Committee (See Report)
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility
5. Academic Quality

D. Old Business:

WKU Faculty Handbook: Removed by SEC from second reading status, returned to Handbook Committee

Proposed Changes to WKU Faculty Ranks: Reviewed by Faculty Welfare and Academic Quality, questions/comments forwarded to Doug McElroy

University Academic Complaint Committee/Charter revision language*

E. New Business:

Resolution: Tenure at WKU

Resolution: Modification of KRS 164.321 re: eligibility to vote for faculty regent

Election of officers, 2009-2010

College Caucus for committee assignments, 2009-2010

NOTE: There will be a May meeting unless otherwise notified: Thursday, May 7, 2009, @ 3:45, Faculty House.

*One-half of the membership of the University Academic Complaint Committee (two faculty and two faculty alternates and one student and one student alternate) is elected by the University Senate. The pool of candidates will be made up of the regular (not alternate) faculty and student members of the individual college academic complaint committees. The University Senate will vote for four candidates from the faculty pool and two candidates from the student pool. The two faculty members and the student receiving the highest number of votes will serve as the members of the University Academic Complaint Committee, and the two faculty members and student receiving the next highest votes will be elected as the alternates. The term of service for these members shall be one year, January to January.

MINUTES

March 19, 2009:

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

March 19, 2009

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 3:50 P.M. in the Faculty House by Chair Julie Shadoan. A quorum was present.

The following members were present: Cathy Abel, Janet Applin, Kristina Arnold, Melanie Autin, Scott Bonham, Barbara Brindle, Dorothea Browder, Barbara Burch, Pitt Derryberry, Mark Doggett, Sam Evans, Tim Evans, Michele Fiala, Douglas Fugate, Andrea Grapko, Denise Gravitt, Kate Hudepohl, Tom Hunley, Joan Krenzin, David Lee, Nathan Love, Paul Markham, Kathleen Matthew, Michael McIntyre, Patricia Minter, Sharon Mutter, Dan Myers, Steve Nagy, Johnston Njoku, Holly Payne, Keith Phillips, Mark Pickard, Heidi Pintner, Beth Plummer, Lisa Proctor, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Jeffrey Samuels, Mark Schafer, Roger Scott, Julie Shadoan, Heather Strobe, Louis Strolger, Francesca Sunkin, Luella Teuton, Samanta Thapa, Christopher Wagner, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, and Zhonghang Xia.

Alternates present were: Vernon Sheeley for Kelly Burch-Regan, Nedra Atwell for Audrey Cornell, Barbara Bush for Terry Dean, Liz Sturgeon for Dawn Garrett, Daniel Shaw for Skylar Jordan, Kristi Branham for Molly Kerby, Jim Flynn for Jane Olmsted, Tabitha Daniel for Rico Tyler, Lynn Austin for Kenneth Whitley, and Brittany-Ann Wick for _____.

The following members were absent: Mark Berry, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Kim Botner, Richard Bowker, Stuart Burris, Uma Doraiswamy, Molly Dunkum, Andrew Eclov, CiCi Edwards, Ahmed Emam, Blaine Ferrell, Reagan Gilley, Kim Green, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Debbie Kreitzer, Aaron Kindsvatter, Qi Li, Jim Lindsey, Timothy Mullin, Roger Murphy, Rachel Neal, Ken Payne, Les Pesterfield, Yvonne Petkus, Sherry Powers, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Vanessa Scott, Kayla Shelton, Nevil Speer, Shane Spiller, Sandra Starks, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Stacy Wade, Paul Woosley, and David Zimmer.

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the February 19, 2009 meeting were endorsed by Dr. Burch and approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. Reports

a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, announced that the President's Task Force, which is still in executive session, is closer to getting a written recommendation. Shadoan is expecting one more revision.

On the KCTCS tenure issue, no formal resolution will come forth, but one is being drafted and will come forth next month. WKU will be vocal on their position on this.

The Kentucky Senate decided not to do anything with House Bill 226 (Textbook Bill); it went through the house, but the Senate did not address it.

The new rank document went through the Executive Committee and it was returned to the Faculty Welfare and Academic Quality Committees and it may come forth in April.

The suggested revision to the Kentucky statute that involves the Regent election will be voted on under new business for consideration. If it passes, the new terms of voting for Faculty Regent will go in the Senate Charter and the Faculty Handbook.

The summary of the COSFL meetings will be posted by Kate Hudepohl, who will attend meetings with Molly Kirby, Michelle Hollis, and Andrew McMichael.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, reported that March is departmental senator representative election month. Only nine departments have reported so far. If your department has not reported yet, please do so this month. Each senator needs to have the department chair put it on the agenda to elect new departmental senator to serve starting in August for the next two years.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, stated that the KCTCS issue is important although we are not currently affected by it. Minter urged the faculty to educate people on why tenure is important at a university and to explain why a university should not be run like a corporation.

Kelly Reames, Eric Reed, and Patricia Minter met with the university bookstore, and noted that keeping the university bookstore is important in serving the faculty and students the best.

The President will talk next week about the budget and compensation.

Signs are being put up on campus from \$1/2 million of one-time money. Minter reiterated that priorities are not in line. She urged the faculty to voice their opinion about this and other matters via formal resolutions or talking to the Herald. The

Chronicle of Higher Education says we should be putting our money into the people in times of economic hardship.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, thanked the faculty members who have contributed to the doctoral program. She stated that the SACS visit went well and the unofficial report was positive, though we still need to identify the criteria for faculty.

Regarding the Senate bill, the changes in P-12 is the first part; the second part pertains to universities finding ways to reduce the number of students who are not college ready and articulating what students need to do if they are not college ready.

The traditional mace carrier will be the second-oldest faculty member, Mary Ellen Miller.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Beth Plummer, the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented the UCC Agenda. Discussion centered around the Military Leadership program and the appropriateness about the admission into the program. Mark Powell clarified that they are trying to establish a bachelors in Military Leadership versus Military Science and Leadership. They are looking for more non-traditional students and people who are currently professional military workers from the two big posts. The UCC Agenda was approved unanimously.

b. General Education

Richard Weigel, the Chair of the General Education Committee, made a motion for approval of the General Education Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously without discussion.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

Kelly Reames, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, put forth a resolution requesting accounting of WKU's health insurance account because we want to know how much money has been lost. The Resolution, "We request that the Benefits Committee give to the senate a specific accounting of WKU's health insurance surplus account, including the starting and current balance of the account, the money taken for lapsed faculty benefits in last year's midterm budget cut, and a current-to-date accounting of the money that has been lost since the fund has been moved into an endowment account," was approved unanimously without discussion.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented.

e. Graduate Council

Sherry Powers, the Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for approval of the Graduate Council Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously without discussion.

V. Old Business

The first reading of the Faculty Handbook took place. Some commentary was sent via email and some took place during the Senate meeting. Senator Samuels and Senator Mutter suggested some revisions, but because of time constraints, additional suggestions will be sent via email. Following this first reading, the Handbook Committee will reconvene one last time this month and it will come forth in April for a second reading and vote. Shadoan asked that we urge our colleagues to read it (it is posted on the Senate website and was also sent on a faculty-all email). Job descriptions for recent creations will be added to the list, as will the comments that are received between now and the April meeting. The committee will look at the revised document on blackboard and will then reconvene as necessary via subcommittees. This month, the document will need to go through the Handbook Committee, Faculty Welfare, the Executive Committee, and the Senate. Anyone who wants to address it should do so now. Dan Myers publicly thanked the Handbook Committee for their hard work.

VI. New Business

There were two resolutions from the Faculty Welfare Committee that were related to charter revisions. The first suggested revision, in which the departmental senator language would reflect exactly the at-large senator language (so that there is a formal election required for each) passed unanimously without discussion. The second resolution, which sought to include reference to schools (as well as departments and divisions) as part of the classifications here on campus, also passed unanimously without discussion.

The Resolution to change faculty rank in the Charter and/or the Faculty Handbook for purposes of voting in the Faculty Regent election failed after a discussion that centered around not seeing how we can change an explicit state law, and that it is problematic to redefine faculty rank at will. This went to the Executive Committee and it did not pass unanimously, so it was put forth for

discussion on the Senate floor. The Senators were opposed to the wording in this resolution, so it did not pass. Something else will be drafted for voting on this issue in the April meeting.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion by Dan Myers “that the meeting adjourn” was carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary