



UNIVERSITY SENATE

***THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009
3:45 p.m./WKU FACULTY HOUSE***

I. Minutes: December 11, 2008

II. Reports:

- a. Chair**
- b. Vice-Chair**
- c. Faculty Regent**
- d. Provost**

III. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Graduate Council (See Report)**
- b. UCC (None)**
- c. General Education (None)**
- d. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities (None)**
- e. Committee on Academic Quality (None)**

IV. Old Business:

Resolution: University Academic Complaint Committee

V. New Business:

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

December 11, 2008

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 3:55 P.M. in the Faculty House by Chair Julie Shadoan. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Cathy Abel, Kristina Arnold, Mark Berry, Kim Botner, Dorothea Browder, Barbara Burch, Kelly Burch-Regan, Stuart Burris, Audrey Cornell, Terry Dean, Pitt Derryberry, Mark Doggett, Tim Evans, Michele Fiala, Douglas Fugate, Dawn Garrett, Denise Gravitt, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Tom Hunley, Molly Kerby, Joan Krenzin, Nathan Love, Paul Markham, Kathleen Matthew, Michael McIntyre, Patricia Minter, Dan Myers, Steve Nagy, Johnston Njoku, Jane Olmsted, Yvonne Petkkus, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Beth Plummer, Lisa Proctor, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Sherry Powers, Jeffrey Samuels, Mark Schafer, Julie Shadoan, Nevil Speer, Heather Strobe, Francesca Sunkin, Luella Teuton, Rico Tyler, Stacy Wade, Christopher Wagner, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Kenneth Whitley, and David Zimmer.

Alternates present were:

Nedra Atwell for Janet Applin, Vivian Hurt for Sandra Starks.

The following members were absent:

Melanie Autin, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Richard Bowker, Barbara Brindell, Uma Doraiswamy, Molly Dunkum, Andrew Eclov, CiCi Edwards, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Reagan Gilley, Andrea Grapko, Kim Green, Debbie Kreitzer, Aaron Kindsvatter, David Lee, Qi Li, Timothy Mullin, Roger Murphy, Sharon Mutter, Rachel Neal, Ken Payne, Les Pesterfield, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Roger Scott, Kayla Shelton, Shane Spiller, Louis Strolger, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Samanta Thapa, Paul Woosley, and Zhonghang Xia.

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. Reports

a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, reported that she approached Robbin Taylor again about revising the state statute to include instructors in voting. Taylor has assured Shadoan that this issue will be taken to a vote.

At the Council Leadership meeting, Patti Minter and Julie Shadoan met with the Chair. Letters are being drafted for our review to CPE.

A Senate ad-hoc committee will be formed to discuss budgetary concerns.

Shadoan stated that she will communicate progress of the task-force on academic quality, curriculum, and developmental programming. She said there is a small window for a big task and asked the President to meet with the committee and get the main points across. The three main goals are academic quality, access, and financial prudence. There is a 1-page report due on January 7th to address academic standards, enrollment progress, and housing policies. There will be public forums for those not on the task force.

There has been a proposal from IT to revamp communication issues on campus. Dr. Kirchmeyer has asked the Senate to participate in the log that has been created, or to share their opinions with Julie Shadoan. The Executive Committee asked many questions, and other issues have been raised on the WKU Voice. Kirchmeyer's proposal is not up for a vote, just for feedback.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, tabled her report to the end of the meeting.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, met with President Ransdell to address Senate concerns. She applauds him for pulling out of doubling the enrollment numbers by 2020 and she hopes that other university presidents will join him.

Ransdell was surprised that we were upset about the campus-wide shutdown over break. Minter shared some of the faculty comments with President Ransdell, stressing that it devalues what we do and many were insulted that we are "taking time off". The absence of support staff for research and lab work was another concern. Minter requested that the temperature be raised and President Ransdell compromised at 65 degrees. Minter made it a point to tell President Ransdell that the faculty need to be consulted on the front side of decisions, not the end.

Minter urged the Senate to post to Kirchmeyer's log, stating that she is troubled that the WKU Voice is being shut down. She feels it is the most powerful tool that we have, stating that the voice is helpful in making points and giving supporting information when it is needed. The WKU Voice is fast communication for hot issues; the blog could take two hours to come up and it also might be censored. Minter stated that she wants to keep the doors for communication open, especially with the oncoming budget issues. She wants the faculty to use their ability for free speech.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, stated that the Governor's conference asked higher education institutions to submit suggest cuts, with a chance to finalize them later.

The tone is positive and suggests the platform to go forward to high education will be friendlier (2% for higher ed), but we will still have to wait and see. He understands and gets the message of how important higher education is and wants to make it a priority. There is a \$456 million shortfall (2% for higher ed, also for public schools and financial aid). This money comes from spending cuts and the use of a rainy day fund.

The holiday closing is expected to affect 60-70 international students who could be isolated for three weeks without food service and limited transportation. Dr. Burch suggested that some faculty might want to consider hosting these students.

Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Beth Plummer, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, made a motion for support and approval of the University Curriculum Committee agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

The December 16th UCC meeting is canceled because the university will be closed during that time.

b. General Education

Richard Weigel, Chair of the General Education Committee, made a motion for support and approval of the General Education agenda items for University Senate consideration. There was a change in Com 145, and Pilates will be added in the Physical Education area. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

No report was presented.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented.

e. Graduate Council

Sherry Powers, the Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for support and approval of the Graduate Council agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

IV. Old Business

Denise Gravitt made a motion for approval of the Senate charter revisions as presented. Discussion included a question by Dr. Burch as to whether or not there was a change in the approval process. Julie Shadoan added the language. The revisions were voted on, approved, and the revisions to the charter passed unanimously.

V. New Business

The Vice Chair presented a new resolution concerning the Academic Complaint Committee in case the new student committee is not elected before Christmas break, the standing committee would stay on. The resolution was seconded and was approved unanimously with no discussion.

Vice Chair Gravitt explained what the committee does and explained how the voting process works. She explained the concerns by the Executive Committee about how skewed results were based on attendance at the meeting. Kristina Arnold wanted to make sure that students on the ballot had agreed to serve on this committee. Dan Myers suggested tabling the election until January or February. The motion to table was seconded. The motion to table was voted on and failed, with 18 in favor of tabling and 30 against tabling the vote. The ballot was passed out. Michelle Hollis explained that people did not show up to the meeting and that is why the representation is skewed. Jeff Samuels suggested opening it up to the entire campus. Richard Miller said this would require a change in the Faculty Handbook. He added that the decision of this committee is final. Samuels said it is hard to vote on a student that we know nothing about and suggested that more information about the students be provided prior to voting. Nedra Atwell agreed with Samuels and made a motion to table the ballot until we have more information to make an informed decision. 29 voted in favor of postponing the vote, 18 were against, and 4 abstained. The motion to postpone the vote passed. Shadoan told the Senate that she asked for more information about the students last year and it was not submitted. Matt Pruitt said that most of the committee deals with students who have questions about grades. Shadoan said if there is a policy change, it needs to be in the Faculty Handbook. Tony Harkins suggested not tabling until we have had a chance to discuss the issue because it stifles discussion. Dr. Miller said there is no provision in the Faculty Handbook for the Senate to nominate from the floor. In two cases that the committee had to convene, it was directly related to a student's academic career, and the committee is very important. Shadoan solicited input for a revision to the Faculty Handbook. Samuels asked what information we want to know. Kristina Arnold suggested having a statement from those who nominate them. As Chair of the Committee, Dr. Miller will email the current members of the committee and will solicit information from them. Shadoan suggested convening the Handbook Committee to discuss this.

VI. Announcements

There is a January 15th Senate meeting at the Faculty House (3:45 P.M.).

VII. Adjournment

A motion "that the meeting adjourn" was carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Pintner, Secretary