



## ***UNIVERSITY SENATE***

***THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009  
3:45 p.m./WKU FACULTY HOUSE***

**A. Senate Minutes, April 16, 2009**

**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 (See Resolution on Domestic Partner Benefits)
5. Academic Quality

**D. Old Business:**

Report from Benefits Committee re: Insurance Reserve Fund

**E. New Business:**

Resolution: Board of Regents Agenda Posting

## **WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES**

April 16, 2009

### **I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 3:50 P.M. in the Faculty House by Vice-Chair Denise Gravitt. A quorum was present.

#### **The following members were present:**

Mark Berry, Scott Bonham, Kim Botner, Barbara Brindle, Barbara Burch, Kelly Burch-Regan, Mark Doggett, Douglas Fugate, Andrea Grapko, Denise Gravitt, Kim Green, Anthony Harkins, Joan Krenzin, Jim Lindsey, Paul Markham, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Sharon Mutter, Dan Myers, Rachel Neal, Jane Olmsted, Holly Payne, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Beth Plummer, Lisa Proctor, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Jeffrey Samuels, Shane Spiller, Heather Strode, Louis Strolger, Francesca Sunkin, Samanta Thapa.

#### **The following alternates were present:**

Nedra Atwell for Janet Applin, Becky Tabor for Terry Dean, Mary Wolinski for Michele Fiala, Megan Thompson for Michelle Hollis, Darlene Applegate for Kate Hudepohl, Suellyn Lathrop for Timothy Mullin, Nedra Atwell for Sherry Powers, Dale Smith for Sandra Starks, Tadayuki Suzuki for Luella Teuton, Vicki Metzgar for Rico Tyler.

#### **The following members were absent:**

Kristina Arnold, Melanie Autin, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Richard Bowker, Dorothea Browder, Stuart Burris, Audrey Cornell, Pitt Derryberry, Uma Doraiswamy, Molly Dunkum, Andrew Eclov, CiCi Edwards, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Tim Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Dawn Garrett, Reagan Gilley, Tom Hunley, Skylar Jordan, Molly Kerby, Debbie Kreitzer, Aaron Kindsvatter, David Lee, Qi Li, Nathan Love, Kathleen Matthew, Michael McIntyre, Steve Nagy, Johnston Njoku, Ken Payne, Les Pesterfield, Yvonne Petkus, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Mark Schafer, Roger Scott, Vanessa Scott, Julie Shadoan, Kayla Shelton, Nevil Speer, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Stacy Wade, Christopher Wagner.

#### **The following newly-elected members were present:**

Darlene Applegate (Folk & Anthro), Gregory K. Arbuckle (AMS), Eileen Arnold (Social Work), Aaron Celestian (Geog. & Geology), Scott Droeger (Management), Melanie Duke (Health), Randy Kinnersley (Accounting), Qi Li (computer science), Kelly Madole (Psychology), Vicki Metzger (C & I), Kumiko Nemoto (Sociology), Gary Schallert (Music), Richard Schugurt (Math and CS), Liz Sturgeon (Nursing), Takayuki Suzuki (SIP), Adrian Switzer (Philosophy & Religion), and Megan Thompson (Academic Support).

## **II. Minutes**

The Minutes of the March 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, was absent. The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, gave the Chair's report in her place. Gravitt reminded the 2008-2009 senators that unless otherwise notified, there is a University Senate meeting scheduled for May 7 at 3:45. New senators for 2009-2010 do not need to attend unless they want to.

Regarding COSFL, there has been some traffic on the listserv as to whether the action of KCTCS relating to the vote on tenure could be challenged legally. Some faculty have suggested contacting counsel for the AAUP, others have suggested contacting the Attorney General for an opinion. There has also been some discussion regarding the statutory reference to "just cause" relating to whether a tenured faculty can be fired. Apparently, "just cause" is defined differently by various post-secondary institutions. Our handbook definition includes a "financial exigency" cause.

The WKU Faculty Handbook 18<sup>th</sup> ed. Draft has been returned to the Handbook Committee for further revision, particularly relating to the section dealing with promotion and tenure criteria. It has been suggested that the Committee review criteria as published by NKU as part of the process. The Committee is in the process of scheduling a meeting. It is anticipated that as part of this new review process, the Committee will take a look at WKU's attempt to define "just cause".

The faculty rank document has been reviewed by Fac. Welfare and Ac. Quality. Both committees returned the document to the SEC with extensive questions, comments. These will be forwarded to Doug McElroy, who originally sent the rank document to the Handbook committee.

The President's Task Force has published its recommendations and has completed three forums: Council of Academic Deans (all Deans present or represented), South Campus (approximately 31 faculty/staff attended) and Main Campus (approximately 29 faculty/staff attended). It is anticipated that the Task Force will meet again very soon and consider the issues raised at the forums. An April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline has been imposed. Any revisions will be made available as soon as possible.

A discussion then took place as to suggestions on how to spend the money in the Senate budget. Suggestions from the Executive Committee included the purchasing of Senate office equipment/supplies and PD money for Senate officers, COSFL reps and/or senators at large relating to faculty governance. Dr. Burch said the budget as created for specific reasons and she suggested that we look at why the budget was originally created, so Vice Chair Gravitt tabled the discussion.

**b. Vice Chair**

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, reported that March was departmental senator representative election month and there are still six vacant senator posts. If your department has not reported yet, please do so this month; otherwise your department will not be represented next year on the Senate. 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 BOR committees met on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The full meeting is on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Minter invited the Senate to attend.

Minter brought up the email that she sent outlining her major concerns with the current budget situation. Though the President said there were inaccuracies, Minter stood by what she said and an open forum took place. Jim Meyer, the finance committee chair, sent the email to all of the Regents. This started a 35-minute discussion between Minter and Ransdell about the substance of the email and the spirit of the faculty. Minter explained to Ransdell that the landscaping and signs are metaphors for the choices that we make, and that we want more than a charade. Many came to the forum and expressed their points of view. Minter stated that we need to continue getting our points across to defend ourselves and our purpose (what we do, why it is important to, and how it will help our future). Minter stated that false dichotomies are being presented. Minter asked where the money is going from the tuition increase that occurred from 2000-2009. Many staff members resent the faculty for having problems with the one-time bonus, in fear of lay-offs. Minter does not want the faculty and staff to be split. Faculty and staff salaries should not have to rely on tuition increases. Minter wants to get back to what is important at a university. Of the 08-09 budget, 4.1% is our debt service, which is the highest in the state. Minter welcomes faculty input and thanked all who attended the forum. She encouraged them to write publicly (email, posting to voice, etc.).

**d. Provost**

The Provost, Barbara Burch, announced that Denise represented us well in the WKU Awards Ceremony.

Dr. Burch shared the concern and frustration with the handbook, but said that some of the changes are very critical.

She will identify sites for the home of the Senate, which might be a suite at Grise Hall at some point.

Dr. Burch expressed concerns regarding a change of wording of the Senate Charter that could be translated as a change in governance structure. The altered wording appears several times. It reads...."items approved by the Senate are forwarded to the Provost." It did and should read: "items approved by the Senate are recommended to

the Provost."

Only 29-30 people were present at Dean Lee's form on the Task Force Report. In a few years, we will see a significant reduction in the amount of students who are not college ready, due to changes in admissions standards and levels of expectations on college readiness.

The tuition piece (a move to go to all-credit hour) was piloted by Morehead. We were allowed a 4% increase. Students taking more than 18 hours currently pay \$100 per credit hour. This will no longer be the case; it will be \$30 per hour for those who take more than 15 hours. Students sign up for more hours than they are going to take and then drop; Burch hopes that students will be more judicious about what they take.

Next fall, the semester begins the 31<sup>st</sup>. The 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> will be meetings and the Engaging the Spirit Conference.

#### **IV. Standing Committee Reports**

##### **a. University Curriculum Committee**

Beth Plummer, the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented the UCC Agenda. Discussion centered around clarifying the new Academic Withdrawal policy. 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, will administer the committee's survey via survey monkey so that anonymity is not a concern. There will be a 2-month subscription to Survey Monkey, and the hold-up on administering the survey is finding the money to pay the subscription. The survey has been shortened; please encourage your department to fill it out.

##### **d. Committee on Academic Quality**

No report was presented.

##### **e. Graduate Council**

Nedra Atwell, representing 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 new policy for electing members of the Academic Complaint Committee was an added change to the charter. Language will be added to the Vice Chair's book to

get the bios (this will not be in the charter). Matt Pruitt stated that he feels it is strange that this is being done for only this committee.

#### **VI. New Business**

The resolution on tenure, offered in support of actions recently taken by KCTCS Board to eliminate tenure for future hires, was read by Denise Gravitt. Regent Minter spoke in support of this resolution. Gravitt asked for permission to forward the resolution to our legislative representatives, and the senate approved. The resolution passed unanimously following this brief discussion.

The resolution addressing the eligibility to vote for Faculty Regents passed unanimously with a friendly amendment by Sharon Mutter. Dr. Burch suggested that we clarify the resolution for the legislature. Denise Gravitt said that Julie Shadoan will clarify the why and wherefore in a cover letter.

The election of new officers and standing committee caucuses for the 2009-2010 University Senate took place. For 2009-2010, the new Chair will be Paul Markham (University College/Alive Center), the new Vice Chair will be Holly Payne (Potter/Communications), and the new Secretary will be Heather Strobe (Bowling Green Community College/Communications).

#### **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