

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

May 14, 2009

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, May 14, 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, Mark Berry, Scott Bonham, Dorothea Browder, Barbara Burch, Kelly Burch-Regan, Terry Dean, Pitt Derryberry, Cici Edwards, Douglas Fugate, Reagan Gilley, Andrea Grapko, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Molly Kerby, Joan Krenzin, Jim Lindsey, Michael McIntyre, Patricia Minter, Sharon Mutter, Paul Markham, Dan Myers, Jane Olmsted, Holly Payne, Keith Philips, Heidi Pintner, Sherry Powers, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Angela Robertson, Mark Schafer, Roger Scott, Julie Shadoan, Nevil Speer, Heather Strode, Francesca Sunkin, Luella Teuton, Christopher Wagner, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Kenneth Whitley, and Brittany Ann Wick.

The following alternates were present:

Jerebeth Lucas for Andrew Eclov, Elizabeth Kelly for Michele Fiala, Liz Sturgeon for Dawn Garrett, David Bell for Tom Hunley, Christy Spurlock for Timothy Mullin, Angela Jones for Yvonne Petkus, Marc Eagle for Beth Plummer, Adrian Switzer for Jeffrey Samuels, Justin Z for Vanessa Scott, and Steven Gibson for Louis Strolger.

The following members were absent:

Melanie Autin, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Kim Botner, Richard Bowker, Barbara Brindle, Stuart Burris, Audrey Cornell, Uma Doraiswamy, Molly Dunkum, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Tim Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Kim Green, Skylar Jordan, Debbie Kreitzer, Aaron Kindsvatter, Kavid Lee, Qi Li, Nathan Love, Kathleen Matthew, Roger Murphy, Steve Nagy, Rachel Neal, Johnston Njoku, Ken Payne, Les Pesterfield, Mark Pickard, Lisa Proctor, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Mark Schafer, Roger Scott, Kayla Shelton, Shane Spiller, Saundra Starks, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Samanta Thapa, Rico Tyler, Stacy Wade, Paul Woosley, Zhonghang Xia, and David Zimmer.

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the April 16, 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, stated that the ombudsperson narrative was presented; complaints were categorized and summaries were provided.

The budget committee requested an income statement for the insurance fund, and a report was presented.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, presented two spreadsheets, the first providing Senate membership for the coming year (2009-2010) and the second providing committee make-ups for 2009-2010 based on the April meeting.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, stated that the Board of Regents recently met, and they have not yet voted on the budget for 2009-2010. Minter assured the faculty that tenure and promotion are ready to go, as this was voted on and action was taken.

Minter spoke in favor of the BOR Resolution, and stated that she hoped it would pass today.

A budget meeting will take place in late June. Minter urged the Senate to listen to the podcast with regard to the finance and budget committee. The portions to listen to are roughly 2/3 of the way through. She stated that the Daily News accounts of this are accurate, but Minter urged the faculty to listen in context.

Minter stated that the faculty and staff work very hard and do more with less. Collected morale issues have been put forth. Minter will emphasize that we want to keep the people we have invested in.

After nine years on the Benefits Committee, Minter said there was no disclosure that our money was put into a risky fund even though this is not evident in the minutes.

Minter stated that having bonuses out of a budget cut is not a good idea. Many people are bothered that the bonuses are not uniform. Minter made a decision not to pull specific salaries off of the budget even though some of it is bad policy. She is unwilling to risk having something else pulled off, and she wants to make sure the faculty is taken care of in the tenure and promotion bonuses. She feels that tightening the belt is better for morale.

Minter said that she appreciates the help of the faculty and of the SGA representatives.

July 31 is the next full Board of Regents meeting.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, stated that she was not aware that there were concerns about tenure and promotion recommendations sent forward for approval, but

she assured the faculty that those have been forwarded and she anticipates the Board will be supportive of them.

Provost Burch said that she applauds those who are currently working on search committees.

WKU was selected to house the KIIS Study Abroad, effective July 1. Provost Burch said that it compliments our program and it is a good thing.

Dr. Burch said that she gets weekly updates of the anticipated budget cuts and there will be a meeting over the summer. She also stated that some of the reductions that are being taken across the country are worse than ours.

The recruiting and retention efforts of the faculty and staff this year produced positive enrollment growth. This generated new, unbudgeted tuition revenue. The agreement among the President, CFO, and Provost was that much of this money would be used within Academic Affairs to reinforce faculty and staff positions needed to accommodate the growth. \$1.8 million was allocated to Academic affairs. \$800,000 of this amount was applied toward divisional budget cuts. The other \$1 million went into the staffing pool for positions. There was a one-time allocation of \$1 million distributed to the colleges and departments to support the current year's growth.

\$1.36 million in DELO distribution revenues were directed back to the colleges and departments as part of their outreach efforts.

August 21st is the annual Engaging the Spirit Conference. The President's opening session is August 24th.

Dr. Burch said that she appreciates the work of the faculty and is astonished by what the faculty is accomplishing.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Kate Hudepohl, the acting Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented the UCC Agenda. 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, reported that 371 faculty responded to the Faculty Welfare Survey,

which was the best response in the last three surveys. Roughly half of the faculty responded. The results will be out by next week on the Senate webpage.

Kelly Reames presented the Domestic Partner Resolution on behalf of the Faculty Welfare Committee. Ian Whitley, who serves as a member of the Faculty Welfare Committee, spoke against the resolution due to some unanswered questions and because of the results in 2005, stating that he would like a faculty vote on this issue. Jim Lindsey from the Gordon Ford College of Business also spoke against it on behalf of himself and roughly 1/3 of his colleagues in Gordon Ford because of religious views and because Kentucky law does not recognize domestic partners as spouses. Jane Olmsted commended whoever wrote the resolution for its powerful whereas, and stated that it does not hurt those who are legally allowed to get married. Patricia Minter stated that she would vote in favor of the resolution because of civil rights, and stated that a vote in favor of this resolution would bring this resolution to the benefits committee. David Zimmer in Economics stated that he has read a lot about this and it has to do with competitiveness in hiring. Terry Dean stated that the original plan in June 2007 violated the state's constitution. Richard Weigel from History spoke in favor of the resolution, stating that he feels quite frankly that it is the right thing to do. The bill passed overwhelmingly with the SGA and the students feel it is of benefit to the university. A vote to call the question passed. The resolution was voted on and was approved with a vote of 38 in favor of the resolution and 6 opposed to the resolution. The resolution was approved and will go forth to the benefits committee.

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

No old business was discussed.

VI. New Business

The resolution on the Board of Regents Agenda that was posted on the University Senate Website passed unanimously. This resolution will ensure that the Board of Regents' meeting agenda is posted on the website prior to the meeting, along with a notification to the campus that the agenda was posted.

VII. Announcements

Dr. Markham, the incoming Senate Chair for 2009-2010, addressed the senate about who he is, what he is committed to, and why he wants to be the Chair of the Senate. He went over his training and what has motivated him to bring people together for a common good. He stated that faculty involvement is crucial in the

institutional effectiveness and wishes to keep this commitment and carry it forth in any way that he can. He then responded to a question about what his goals are for the university.

Dan Myers thanked Julie Shadoan for her service as University Senate Chair.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion by Dan Myers “that the meeting adjourn” was carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary