



UNIVERSITY SENATE

Thursday, October 15, 2009
3:45 p.m. – Faculty House

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 3:50 pm in the Faculty House by Chair Paul Markham. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Darlene Applegate, Janet Applin, Eileen Arnold, Kristina Arnold, Melanie Autin, Mark Berry, Scott Bonham, Kim Botner, Dorothea Browder, Barbara Bush, Aaron Celestian, Audrey Cornell, Pitt Derryberry, Uma Doraiswamy, Scott Droege, Melanie Duke, Molly Dunkum, Nikolai Endres, Douglas Fugate, Dawn Garrett, Andrea Grapko, Anthony Harkins, Kate Hudepohl, Molly Kerby, Randy Kinnersley, Joan Krenzin, Alex Lebedinsky, David Lee, Qi Li, Nathan Love, Kelly Madole, Paul Markham, Michael McIntyre, Mac McKerral, Vicki Metzgar, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Kumiko Nemoto, Ivan Novikov, Holly Payne, Yvonne Petkus, Heidi Pintner, Lisa Proctor, Kelly Reames, Mark Schafer, Richard Schugart, Nevil Speer, Christy Spurlock, Francesca Sunkin, Tadayuki Suzuki, Adrian Switzer, Megan Thompson, Justin Thurman, Dave Vickery, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Kenneth Whitley

Alternates present were:

Brent Askins for Greg Arbuckle, Richard Miller for Barbara Burch, Don Dimlmeyer for Jill Duba, Karen Mason for Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Colton Jessie for Stuart Kenderes, Julie Shadoan for Beth Plummer, Liza Kelly for Gary Schallert

The following members were absent:

Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Richard Bowker, Kelly Burch-Regan, Mark Doggett, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Johnsoton Njoku, Jim Lindsey, Steve Nagy, Jane Olmsted, Les Pesterfield, Keith Philips, Mark Pickard, Sherry Powers, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Roger Scott, Mark Staynings, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Samanta Thapa, David Zimmer

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the September 17, 2009 meeting were approved with minor editorial corrections:

- 1) Richard Weigel was left off of attendance (he was present)
- 2) and the wording in the Clinical Ranks Proposal was edited to read “...amended proposal passed...” instead of “...original proposal and the amendment passed...”.

III. Reports

A. Chair

Paul Markham, Chair of the Senate, described the sign-in process to new senators. He also explained that senators are allowed to ask questions after reports (advisory and standing committee) and reminded senators to speak into the microphone so their comments will be recorded for purposes of minutes. He also discussed the Senate website and explained that all relevant documents are now accessible and that an rss feed is now available. There is also a new feature, issue/response, that allows senators to post and respond to issues on the website. He reminded senators that the new senate office is in GCC 106B.

Chair Markham then reported that the issue of instituting a campus-wide smoking ban, proposed by Senator Vicki Metzgar at the September 15, 2009 Senate meeting during New Business, was considered during the October Senate Executive Committee meeting and referred to the Faculty Welfare & Professional Responsibilities Committee. That committee will solicit input from Staff Council and the Student Government Association.

In terms of parliamentary procedure, Chair Markham reminded senators that the phrase “call the question” means move to end debate, needs a second, and requires a 2/3 vote of support to go into effect.

Chair Markham informed senators that new business can be brought forward at a meeting even if it is not already listed on the agenda. However, he requested that it be done with a clear end goal in mind (e.g. ask it to be considered by Senate Executive Committee which will then refer it to an appropriate standing committee).

B. Vice Chair

Holly Payne, Vice-Chair of Senate, announced that the standing committee rosters are now filled, and she extended a note of gratitude for all who have agreed to serve.

C. Coalition of Senate Faculty Leadership for Higher Education (COSFL)

Chair Markham explained that the purpose of COSFL is to provide faculty with an official mechanism through which to have input regarding CPE matters. Andrew McMichael, Kate Hudepohl, and Molly Kerby are the WKU representatives to COSFL.

Molly Kerby, Senator and COSFL Secretary, reported that the main conversation at the October meeting related to issues surrounding transferability, the higher education work group, and pay equity.

Senator Kerby noted that the official minutes for the October COSFL meeting are available on the WKU Senate website, and that the next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 in Frankfort at the CPE offices.

D. Advisory

1. SGA President

Kevin Smiley, SGA President, gave a tribute to Ms. Farhat Hamadullah, a WKU junior who was killed in an October traffic accident.

President Smiley also shared information about current SGA activities that include South campus forums, the Western Pride Project, an “issues initiative”, dispersal of organizational aid, and the possibility of sponsoring the Kentucky First internship program in which Kentucky residents who attend Kentucky universities have priority access to internships.

2. Faculty Regent

Patricia Minter, Faculty Regent, informed the Senate that a verbatim transcript of her report has been submitted to Chair Markham and will be available on the Senate website (see website for full report). Some highlights from her report included the following:

- information from Oct. 2, 2009 Regents' committee meeting:
 - o Wood Selig's contract was discussed at the meeting. His new contract includes large bonuses and a substantial increase to his base salary. Regent Minter indicated she has received lots of feedback from faculty who are quite concerned and have expressed to her that this situation is a symbol of inequity.
 - o Regent Minter stated that she's grateful that the faculty and staff received small bonuses, but she feels that everyone needs to share the pain and clearly they are not.
- increased insurance premium rates
 - o As a member of the Benefits Committee, Regent Minter stated that claims collected, draw down in reserve fund, etc. are all accurate. The Benefits Committee voted to draw down another \$1 million to help offset the increase in premium costs. However, without support from the university, we can expect rates to increase again next year. She further stated, in her opinion, that we should not draw down reserve account to zero because it's not safe in the event need money to cover unanticipated costs.

Regent Minter indicated that it was surprising to get more comments from faculty about the new contract for Selig (rather than the increase in health insurance premiums), however, she speculated that perhaps it indicates "the insult on top of the expected injury." In summary, she stated that, "... either employees are in this together or they are not; either we are as important as athletics and building projects or we are not."

3. Provost

Dr. Richard Miller, standing in for Dr. Barbara Burch, shared that the administration is engaged in staffing plan meetings. Dr. Miller anticipated that within the next month deans will be informed about what resources will be available to them for staffing in the next fiscal year.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

A. Graduate council

Nevil Speer presented the Graduate Council report which was unanimously approved.

B. UCC

Julie Shadoan, Acting Chair, presented the UCC agenda which was unanimously approved.

C. General Education,

No report this month.

D. Faculty Welfare & Professional Responsibility

Jim Fulkerson, Co-Chair, gave a brief report indicating that the committee had met once this semester and has been divided into subgroups to tackle issues such as the smoking ban and salary compression. A list of possible issues under consideration by the committee are posted on the Senate website.

E. Academic Quality

Tony Harkins, Chair, indicated that during the first meeting this semester the committee reviewed a list of possible topics suggested by Chair Markham. Chair Harkins indicated that the committee might focus on the workload issue first: how it is calculated, measured, etc. He also anticipates coordinating with the Faculty Welfare Committee to address jointly issues such as SITE evaluations.

Chair Markham pointed out that most of the issues being considered by Faculty Welfare and Academic Quality are issues submitted by faculty member to the Senate website.

V. Old Business

A. Faculty Handbook

Senator Shadoan indicated that the committee hopes to have a draft done in November. The committee is waiting for language related to Clinical Ranks and issues regarding promotion and tenure. Prompted by Senator Kelly Madole, Senator Shadoan indicated that once the draft is complete and reviewed by Faculty Welfare, it will be posted for the entire faculty to review. Prompted by Vice-Chair Holly Payne, Senator Shadoan added that the handbook committee is also waiting for official information regarding liability insurance for study abroad.

VI. New Business

Chair Markham indicated that there is nothing on the agenda but that the floor was open.

Senator Julie Shadoan brought forth two issues:

- 1) Senator Shadoan indicated that she is a member of the Provost Search Committee. She encouraged faculty to send feedback about the search to Dr. Sharon Mutter, chair of the search committee, or to any university distinguished professor.
- 2) Senator Shadoan also brought up what she described as an “old issue”, an oversight from last spring when she was chair of senate. At that time, the Senate received a resolution from the Faculty Welfare committee related to an inquiry from the Benefits Committee about the insurance reserve foundation account. Part of that resolution also related to an accounting of lapsed faculty benefits that were being paid back out of the benefits account. Senator Shadoan doesn’t think Senate ever received that information from Jim Cummings. Senator Shadoan is asking the Senate to make a follow-up request to Jim Cummings for that information.

Chair Markham stated that he will post to the Senate website a reminder about the provost search committee including how to share comments with them.

Chair Markham indicated that he would speak to Senator Shadoan after the meeting to get information about the resolution regarding benefits.

Senator Mac McKerrall, Journalism brought forth one issue:

- 1) He asked how the timetables for the new provost search and the general education task force intersect with each other.

Dr. Richard Miller stated that he will find out.

Senator Darlene Applegate brought forth one issue:

- 1) She stated that she has been asked by three faculty members to obtain clarification about the distribution of revenues from the licensing of WKU logos. She indicated that there seems to be some ambiguity in understanding how the process works. Does the money go to the general fund for distribution or does it go to athletics? And, if it goes to athletics, they would like justification for why one particular unit on campus benefits from licensing fees generated by the logo that represents the entire university.

Senator Applegate made a motion, seconded by Senator Mac McKerral, that the matter be referred to the Senate Executive Committee so that they could then refer it to the appropriate standing committee for investigation. The motion was approved by the Senate. Some discussion followed approval of the resolution.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Hudepohl, Secretary