



UNIVERSITY SENATE

Thursday, March 17, 2011

3:45 p.m. – Faculty House

I. Call to Order

The following members were present: Eileen Arnold, Kristina Arnold, Lauren Bland, Barbara Bush, Robert Dietle, Vladimir Dobrokhotov, Uma Doraiswamy, Scott Droege, Karin Egloff, Gordon Emslie, Nikolai Endres, Jim Fulkerson, Becky Gilfillen, Charlie Harris, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Sonya House, Jan Hunt-Shepherd, Colton Jessie, Molly Kerby, Mikhail Khennner, Debra Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Nathan Love, Kelly Madole, Mac McKerral, Andrew Mienaltowski, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Tracey Moore, Kumiko Nemoto, Ivan Novikov, Jane Olmsted, Holly Payne, Yvonne Petkus, Pam Petty, Keith Phillips, Matt Pruitt, Eric Reed, Mark Schafer, Gary Schallert, Richard Schugart, Vernon Sheeley, Liz Sturgeon, Travis Taylor, Samanta Thapa, Megan Thompson, Evelyn Thrasher, Huanjing Wang, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Mary Wolinski

Alternates present were: Andy Ernest (for Blaine Ferrell), ? Lathrop (for Christy Spurlock),

The following members were absent: Darlene Applegate, Greg Arbuckle, Mike Binder, Nathan Bishop, John Bonaguro, Richard Bowker, Erika Brady, Pitt Derryberry, Jill Duba, Melanie Duke, Marc Eagle, Sam Evans, Nathan Fisher, Dennis George, Peggy Gripshover, Randy Kinnersley, Alex Lebedinsky, David Lee, Michael McIntyre, Vicki Metzgar, Roger Murphy, Steve Nagy, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Angela Robertson, Michael E. Smith, Mark Staynings, Martin Stone, Heather Strode, Dana Sullivan, Francesca Sunkin, Adrian Switzer, Donald Swoboda, Maribeth Wilson, Dawn G. Wright, Di Wu, David Zimmer

II. Approve February, 2011 Minutes

Approval: Approved as posted

III. Reports:

1. Chair – Kelly Madole

- Email from Eric Reed regarding the restarting of AAUP Chapter.
 - Wednesday, March 23, 3:00pm
- Calendar for faculty informing us of various deadlines
 - Sally Kuhlenschmidt is working on this. Feel free to contact her if you would like to add anything to the calendar. facet@wku.edu
- Senate Actions and Administrative Responses
 - A summary of everything we do at every Senate meeting, with responses/action taken

2. Vice Chair – Molly Kerby

- Senate elections are due at the end of the month.
 - Only 14 departments responded.

- Another email will be sent out soon

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

Representative – Molly Kerby

- Meeting April 11 in the MMTH ITV room
 - Transferability still on the agenda
 - Gen-ed requirements possibly
- Web-page completed.

4. Advisory

a. **Faculty Regent – Patti Minter**

- Board committees will meet March 30; full board April 29. Anything that comes up in those meetings will be shared at the next Senate meeting.

b. **Provost – Gordon Emslie**

- Three recommendations submitted; all three approved
 - 1st and 2nd are curriculum; 3rd was recommendation to proceed with policy
- SACS 5th yr report due to leave Academic Affairs office on Monday.
 - Thanks to Dr Gaiko, Doug McElroy for spearheading that report.
- Legislative Senate bill 130 passed.
 - This bill permits comprehensive universities to award up to three practice oriented doctoral degrees
- FORUM (Listening Tour feedback) will occur March 25th, DUC 3pm
- FORUM for the upper level course requirement presentation will occur March 22, 3pm (In Gary Ransdell Hall)
- Budget cut clarifications:
 - These are budget cut proposals
 - Proposal from Academic Affairs cut \$1.5 million dollars; cut is not from incidentals.
 - Deans proposals included things like terminating searches that had not been started / Provost's office condensed 2 positions into 1
 - Dr. Emslie stands by statement, he is unaware of any current employee that was terminated due to budget cut (employee in academia)
- Two searches currently going on:
 - 1) Extended search for Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
 - Interviews will occur in early May
 - 2) Search for Director of WKU Glasgow campus.
- University Award: (Informational)
 - Done a little differently in selecting award winners from colleges.
 - Using four subcommittees to cover each of the award areas.
 - Subcommittee has 6 individuals.
 - Banquet is around April 26.
- Staffing plan –
 - Budget cut brings down to lowest level.
 - On up hill for next years staffing plan.
 - Deans can fill ¼ of their vacancies starting in the summer.
- c. **SGA President – Colton Jessie**
 - Resolution to make WKU a fair trade certified university

- Dr. Ransdell agreed to sign this resolution
- SGA elections are March 29 and 30

5. **Robert Owen, Vice President for Information Technology**

- Presented major IT projects that are underway.
- Introduced Directors from the Information Technology Department
- **Question:** Email – and mobile devices – Do you or would you really read our email?
Answer: Could we? Yes. Do we want to? NO. Don't have time, resources or desire to read the email!
- **A university owned computer/computing device:** Could we take a look at email as a legal entity? Answer: Yes, we have a right to do that, but that is the only time we get into that.
- **We get 1-2million messages maybe 2-3 million, a day that flow into the WKU system.**
Don't have the time, nor do we care to read your emails.
- **Can we (if you have a personal hand-held device) that has WKU info...can we remotely wipe that device?** No capability. The only way we can touch a personally owned device would be if we have permission of owner, or a search warrant issued by court of law.

IV. Standing Committee Reports:

1. **Graduate Council** (see attached report) – Nevil Speer
Chair Speer moved approval of the GC report. Approved.
2. **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee** (see attached report) – Pam Petty
Pam Petty moved for approval of the UCC report.

Discussion:

Richard Schugart (Mathematics & Computer Science). The department would like to request that Honors 251 proposal be removed from the UCC report under the idea that they have a disagreement with it being a three credit hour course and it being offered multiple times that are conflicting with a number of math classes MWF and TR, when a number of the math classes, and I've heard some objections from other departments mostly due to a time conflict with courses that are typically offered.

Other discussion: (Pam Petty) Proposal to revise Academic Policy – incomplete with an X – was endorsed by graduate council today.

Unanimously approved UCC report without endorsing the HON 251 piece.

Chair Madole asked UCC Chair Petty if she could comment on the HON 251 proposal.

UCC Chair Petty asked if the proponent or anyone from the college was there to address issues.

Dr. Schugart - It seems to be that the objection within our department is with regard to the fact that the course is occupying multiple blocks of time when our students would typically take those types of classes; typically take, say math classes. We've heard similar objections from other departments as well.

Much discussion was held concerning this objection.

Chair Madole – so it makes this a required honors course. The program revision makes HON 251 a required course for honors. The objection is, they do not want this program revision to pass because of this particular course. The question is whether we would like to approve this program

revision with HON 251 as a required course. The objection is the timing of this course makes it extremely difficult.

Dr. Shugart: That is correct.

Chair Madole: Any other discussion? Let me make it clear. What we are discussing is the revise a program proposal from the University College which at least in part would make HON 251 a required course for Honors students.

More discussion was held.

Robert Dietle: Move to table this until the next Senate meeting; much bigger issue here is the class changed from a class to a cohort.

Second – Rich Weigle

DS: Motion passes unanimously

3. **General Education Committee** - No report
4. **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee** – No report.
5. **Academic Quality Committee** – Kristina Arnold – no report
6. **Ad hoc Committee on the Senate Executive Committee** – Darlene Applegate (absent)
 - Discussion or objections of report.
 - No objections; report will be filed
 - Findings will be discussed next month

V. **University Committee Reports**

1. Benefits – Patricia Minter

- a. Data from Representatives from Anthem – this data will be posted on the Senate webpage
- b. Numbers: - plan has grown for a number of reasons (job losses of partners, etc.)
- c. Utilization of the plan is down (according to anthem rep) (wellness checks, etc. are down)
reminders will be sent to faculty that well checks such as mammography's and colonoscopies are covered at 100%
- d. Plan finished to the good \$911,000
- e. A lot of bad is because of the cost-shift to the employees
- f. Number of average claims has dropped 4.1%
- g. 2009-2010 been a 5% cost shift to employees (people in standard plan cost sharing used to be 81% at 19%. (80/20). It is now 76/24. (Below acceptable benchmark). What did this mean to the average employee? Average out of pocket is 684\$ per plan holder. (What was raise? Compensation increase? Based on salary data the compensation increase was eaten by this).
- h. Try to do next year: Going to pursue variable contribution plan. Had we enacted this, the average out of pocket per employee would be 174 bucks, as opposed to the 684. With 1million in surplus, to her mind, there is no justification for passing any further cost onto employees. She will strenuously oppose asking for another dollar out of our pockets.
- i. Any views? Please email her.
- j. Look back at the agenda from last month, Chair Madole had posted a memo from President Ransdell about variable contribution.
- k. Look again – at the bottom he writes the benefits committee 'Recommended we not go to this.' Minutes from three of these Benefits Committee – Aug 17 committee voted 10/0 to pursue variable contribution. Sept 7 received communication from President that they really wanted to send 2 plans forward. One with variable contribution one without. They did not.

Close vote 6/5 that necessitated a meeting Nov 7. Three motions deadlocked 6/6 and motion to pursue one plan failed. Asked to reconsider – took two meetings to do so.

- l. Finally – Last years ad-hoc committee report: Proposal 1) an investment strategy in place for our reserve. Benefits Committee voted and now have a stated investment strategy, passed unanimously, people will be required to make an annual report to benefits committee and answer questions about transparency. 2) Develop a policy for possible withdrawal incase of emergency from benefits reserve. Major concerns that statement on restriction of use that if Pres wants to withdrawal, and he must consult benefits committee and that will be considered. She amended motion that he must go to full BOR. 6/5 vote (faculty in 5) amendment was defeated. Policy now goes to the President.
- m. Contact her for any questions
- n. QUESTION: (Robert Dietle) Policy now in place where the pres can decide if there is an emergency, and then withdraw from the insurance reserves? Yes, if it is approved by benefits committee. But actually it doesn't. This policy makes it clear that the president (we are an advisory committee) and he can over-ride that 10-0 vote.
- o. (Robert Dietle) What kind of emergency? We were assured this insurance reserve fund would only be used for insurance.
- p. (Chair Madole) Is this a policy that is an official university policy? This one is going straight to president without signing off on administrative council.
- q. Molly Kerby – Can we make a motion that faculty welfare committee take a look at this? And that this is not policy, and if President said he wouldn't use the money in such a way...
- r. **Molly Kerby: Motion that faculty welfare take a look at this. Second – Darbi Haynes-Lawrence.**
- s. DS: Eric Reed – I remember that there was something in writing that President would never use this money for anything but insurance.
- t. Chair Madole – So the motion is that the Faculty Welfare Committee look into this issue of whether or not the insurance reserves can be tapped into under emergency purposes and particularly whether or not if this is a university policy and if faculty and staff have the opportunity to weigh in on.
- u. Technical point: Patti said they aren't calling it Policy.
- v. Variable contribution strategy would have been funded by drawing down reserve, for getting dependent plans to 80/20.
- w. Motion passes unanimously

VI. Unfinished Business

1. Policy 1.4030 Textbook Adoption (see revised policy)

- a. *Motion to approve; second. Discussion*
 - i. *Policy intended to take existing materials that have been adopted and do an automatic role over into the next semester.*
 - ii. Eric Reed – **Motion:** Strike Number 5 – replace with “If instructor of record fails to provide any notification by the dates of 2.3, then the WKU bookstore will inform students that ‘no textbook yet requested by instructor.’”
 1. *Motion seconded. Discussion of motion:*
 - a. *Motion to vote immediately (Darbi Haynes-Lawrence) – Second*
 - b. *Voting on whether to vote immediately. One no.*
 2. *Voting on Senator Reeds motion: 12 yes / 16 no*
 - iii. Eric Reed – **Amendment** – Keep current number 5, remove the last sentence and replace it with, “If the instructor of record has not previously taught a section of that course the text will be assigned by the department head.”
 1. *Senator Reed withdrew amendment.*

The above information was where the February Senate meeting left off due to loss of quorum. Below is where we picked up at March Senate meeting.

2. Carol Watwood moves that we amend the current policy by substitution with the revised policy.
Second Mac McKerral
 1. DS: None
 2. Motion passes unanimously.
 3. Motion to accept the revised textbook policy:
 - a. **Move to vote immediately:** (Vote – passes unanimous)
 - b. In favor of recommending the policy move forward:
One no

VII. New Business:

1. **Information items** (Items b-e are existing policies that were reviewed by SEC; some have received minor revisions.)
 - a. Suggested revisions to Policy 0.000
 - b. Existing policies
 - c. Policy 1.1010 Consensual Relations Between Faculty and Students
 - d. Policy 1.2060 Relocation Expense Reimbursement Policy
 - e. Policy 1.3000 Equal Treatment of students
2. **Consent Items** (Items a and b are new policies that were created from sections of the Faculty Handbook. Items c and d were previously approved by the Senate but have minor revisions. Item e is a new policy on which input was requested from the Research Office).
 - a. Policy 1.1300 Sabbatical Leave
 - b. Policy 1.1270 Adjunct Faculty
 - c. Policy 1.1331 University Distinguished Professor Selection and Appointment
 - d. Policy 1.4060 Course Syllabi
 - e. Policy 2.0300 Internal Grants Policy

Motion to approve – Jane Olmsted; Second – Carol Watwood: Vote passes unanimously

3. Action Items

- a. Fair Trade University Resolution
 - i. Motion to accept Debbie Krietzer, Second Molly Kerby– Vote passes unanimously
- b. Policy 1.1960 Research Track Faculty (first reading)
 - i. Motion to approve recommending this policy – Carol Watwood; Second Molly Kerby.
DS: None. Will come back for second reading next month.
- c. Student Evaluation of Teaching Resolution (see attached)
 - i. Motion to accept resolution: Kristina Arnold; Second Debbie Krietzer
 - ii. Discussion / Vote passes unanimously
4. Eric Reed proposes new resolution:
Senate resolves it disagrees with any use of the insurance reserves for anything other than paying claims associated with health insurance or plan administration. We also resolve/request that Dr. Ransdell address the Senate to explain the purposes behind the recently adopted proposal put before the benefits committee for the emergency use of health insurance funds.

DS: Suggested the SEC weigh-in
Vote passes unanimously

Motion to adjourn – Molly Kirby 5:05

Respectfully submitted by Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Secretary