



## UNIVERSITY SENATE *DRAFT MINUTES*

Thursday, October 18, 2012  
3:45 p.m. – Faculty House

### I. Call to Order

- The regular meeting of the WKU Senate was called to order on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 3:45 p.m. in the Faculty House by Chair Mac McKerral. A quorum was present.
- **The following members were present:** Cain Alvey, Shahnaz Aly, Charles Borders, Kristi Branham, Chris Brown, Amy Cappiccie, Ismail Civelek, Chris Costa, Bruce Crawley, Brittany Crowley, Tucker Davis, Patricia Desrosiers, Robert Dietle, Cory Dodds, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Mary Jane Gardner, Steven Gibson, John Gottfried, Frederick Grieve, Peggy Gripshover, Jennifer Hanley, Nancy Hulan, Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Jeffery Kash, Richard Keaster, Randy Kinnersley, Alex Lebedinsky, Qi Li, Ingrid Lilly, Mac McKerral, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Matt Nee, Ngoc Nguyen, Keith Phillips, Kristin Polk, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Kelly Reames, Nancy Rice, Richard Schugart, Vernon Sheeley, Beverly Siegrist, Mark Staynings, Fred Stickle, Dana Sullivan, Janet Tassel, Samanta Thapa, Paula Trafton, Carrie Trojan, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken, John White, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski
- **Alternates present were:** Chris Byrne (Ron Gallagher), Gary Houchens (Steve Miller), Danita Kelley (John Bonaguro), Andrew McMichael (David Lee), Shura Pollatsek (Tracey Moore), Martin Stone (Becky Gilfillen), Mary Beth Wilson (Christa Briggs), Andrew West (Barbara Fiehn),
- **Absent:** Darlene Applegate, Lauren Bland, Diane Carver, Ashley Chance-Fox, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Dennis George, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo, Jeffrey Katz, Ed Kintzel, Debra Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Allison Langdon, Suellyn Lathrop, Sonia Lenk, Kelly Madole, James May, Gustavo Obeso, Gary Ransdell, Kateri Rhodes, Jonghee Shim, Janice Smith, Cheryl Stevens

### II. Approve September 2012 Minutes

- September minutes approved

### III. Reports:

#### A. Chair – Mac McKerral

- Follow-up on Budget Presentation from Sept. meeting, question: How does WKU's budget compare to other institutions across the country

- Response: Not well generally, spreadsheet is posted on Senate website under Updates showing comparisons with other KY institutions

**B. Vice Chair** – Jennifer Hanley, no report

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

**Representative** – Molly Kerby, no report

**D. Advisory**

**1. Faculty Regent**—Patricia Minter

- Board of Regents will meet on Friday October 26
- Faculty Regent Reports are linked from the Faculty Senate Agendas, found on the new Senate Website under the Agenda tab

**2. Provost** – Gordon Emslie

- Email sent to faculty
- Enrollment still doing well
- Phase 2 of faculty hires--numbers will be determined by final enrollment
- Candidates for Associate Provost/Dean of Graduate Studies—campus visits next week
- Candidates for Dean of the Libraries will visit mid-November, no dates set

**3. SGA President** – Cory Dodds

- Students met at South Campus to discuss issues, including closing of the food court
- Student Govt. hopes to pass resolution on food court
- Applications for study abroad scholarships and grants are under review, should have responses within a few weeks
- Creating new program, Society of Distinguished Seniors
  - Will recognize graduating seniors who have made outstanding academic contributions (information to be distributed soon to Dept. Heads)

#### **IV. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**A. Graduate Council: Report** ([Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC](#))

- Approved

**B. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee:** ([Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC](#))

- Proposal for admission to Professional Education has been pulled
- Approved

**C. General Education Committee:** No report

**D. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee:** No report

**E. Academic Quality Committee** ([Report Posted: Routed to UCC-Catalog change](#))

- Two items: first refers to bi-term plan review, made redundant by separate resolution

- Second item: Concurrent Baccalaureate Degrees
  - Committee is positive toward proposal, but committee results have been forwarded to UCC for review before release

## V. University Committee Reports

- At-large appointments to Colonnade Implementation Committee (Mac McKerral)
- Appointments made by SEC (Hollis, Dunkum, Lilly)

## VI. Old Business

**A. Action:** [Faculty Workload Policy, 1.2090](#) (tabled definitely from September meeting)

- Approved

**B. Action:** [Draft Resolution on Bi-term Proposal](#)

- Intent is to serve notice that faculty expects to have strong role in any development of this plan
- Designed to answer concerns that what is now a hypothetical conversation could suddenly become policy (though we have received assurances this will not happen)
- Question: Should we distinguish between “plan” and “proposal”? Bi-term is not yet an actual proposal, but a vague discussion of the merits of this type of plan
- Response: Yes, if it is simply a matter of departments being urged to offer bi-term classes that is okay, but if it moves to mandated goals and no choice, then it is policy
- Resolution Approved

**C. Revise Field Experience Policy:** [MSN Certificate in Nursing, Nurse Administrator \(See pages 29-30\)](#)

- This is undergoing further revision, move to send back to UCC
- Approved
  - Point of Clarification: is this a policy item?
  - Chair: No just a curriculum revision

## VII. New Business:

**A. Election:** Senate Representatives (2) to the Budget Council; Senate Representative to the Student Research Council; Senate representative to the Emergency Planning Committee (2); Senate Representative to the Distance Learning Committee.

- Ballots distributed and collected, votes will be tallied at later time

**B. Action:** [Syllabus Policy \(Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

- SACS-mandated change
- Policy approved

**C. Action:** [Sabbatical Leave Policy \(Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

- KTRS-mandated, policy change is simply to bring us into compliance
  - Comment: state has mandated general change, but this policy contains a date of submission change conflicting with faculty handbook
  - No problem moving date, but suggest that date be changed in faculty handbook

- Provost Emslie: That is not the change being proposed--the date changes were approved last year (January), so sabbatical applications can be approved in a timely manner (needed for course assignments at dept. level)
- Question: how was that change presented: as a handbook change, or policy change?
- Provost Emslie: The handbook states (p. 57) that any changes that need to be made to the handbook as a result of policy change will be made by June 30 of that year, to take effect July 1 of the next year. The Faculty Handbook is therefore in conflict with its own provisions.
- Comment: By delaying this policy, we would be allowing the handbook and the policy to be brought into sync—they should be in agreement...
- Provost Emslie: I agree...
- Comment: And I believe that the Faculty Handbook trumps policy until it is changed...
- Provost Emslie: But the handbook itself says that it will change to reflect changes in policy, and that hasn't happened.
- Comment: Then let's make it happen
- Motion to table definitely (failed)
- Comment: This body needs to defend the Faculty Handbook as the ultimate guide to policies—we need to review policies in timely fashion, but we need to take conflicts between policy and handbook seriously
- Comment: Yes, you need to make sure the machine runs...this is a non-controversial change, but this makes it a good time to determine how this works. The Faculty Handbook is our constitution, and the policies are the statutes. But the changes to the Handbook are ratified only by academic year—to take effect at the beginning of the new academic year. We cannot make policy changes without regard to the handbook.
- Comment: With all due respect to the points made, we may well be setting a very dangerous precedent here by allowing policies that are duly approved to become null and void if not included in the Handbook. By doing this we might provide tacit approval for the handbook committee to, for example, intentionally “overlook” a policy with which a small group on the committee disagrees. This is very dangerous.
- Comment: Perhaps we should return to practice of having the Faculty Senate, as a body, approves the Faculty Handbook after the committee completes it.
- Question: Why is the Faculty Handbook committee so far behind on these changes?
- Chair: Normally the outgoing Chair of the Senate would take this position, but in this case the outgoing Chair moved to an administrative position, and it took time and effort to find a replacement.
- Clarification from Chair of Faculty Handbook Committee: development of the Faculty Handbook Committee as it now stands took a very long time and went through a very messy democratic process. The committee does not work without approval—handbook policy requires ratification of changes by the Faculty Senate.
- Approved

**D. Action:** [Colonnade Implementation Proposal: COMM 145 \(Robert Dietle\)](#)

- Committee has begun its work, reviewing courses in Foundation Category
- Communication department offered first course, no revision required
- Question: should this proposal serve as a model for future submissions?
- The committee submits a list of questions to department heads to be answered for submissions

- This semester we are looking at Foundation courses, next semester would be Exploration course, next year the committee will look at Connection courses
- The current group of courses are based on existing courses, but if there are new courses that will be a more involved process
- Question: was there a request for course proposals?
- Response: yes, a Faculty-All notice went; the shop is open (but hold off on Connection courses, which will be done next year)
- Approved

**E. Information:** [Plan for Senate review of the Bi-term proposal](#)

- Send comments or questions to the Senate Chair or to the relevant standing committees: UCC, Faculty Welfare, and Academic Quality

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Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm

Respectfully submitted, John Gottfried, Secretary