



**University Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2013 -- 3:45 p.m.
Faculty House**

DRAFT Minutes

Call to Order:

- Chair Mac McKerral called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 3:45 pm in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:** Shahnaz Aly, Charles Borders, Kristi Branham, Christa Briggs, Amy Cappiccie, Ashley Chance-Fox, Ismail Civelek, Christopher Costa, Bruce Crawley, Brittany Crowley, Tucker Davis, Robert Dietle, Cory Dodds, Marc Eagle, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Barbara Fiehn, Ron Gallagher, Steven Gibson, Becky Gilfillen, John Gottfried, Frederick Grieve, Peggy Gripshover, Jennifer Hanley, Darby Haynes-Lawrence, Nancy Hulan, Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Jeffrey Kash, Randy Kinnersley, Debra Kreitzer, Alison Langdon, Alex Lebedinsky, Qi Li, Ingrid Lilly, Mac McKerral, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Matt Nee, Ngoc Nguyen, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Kelly Rheams, Nancy Rice, Vernon Sheely, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Mark Staynings, Fred Stickle, Janet Tassell, Samanta Thapa, Paula Trafton, Carrie Trojan, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken, John White, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski
- **Alternates Present:** Janet Applin (Sam Evans), John Martin (Kristin Polk), Gayle Mallinger (Dana Sullivan), Nancy Richey (Suellen Lathrop),
- **Absent:** Cain Alvey, Darlene Applegate, Lauren Bland, John Bonaguro, Chris Brown, Diane Carver, Patricia Desroiers, Amanda Drost, Connie Foster, Mary Jane Gardner, Dennis George, Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo, Jeffrey Katz, Richard Keaster, Ed Kintzel, Joan Krenzin, David Lee, Sonia Lenk, Kelly Madole, James May, Gustavo Obeso, Keith Phillips, Gary Ransdell, Kateri Rhodes, Richard Schugart, Janice Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Evelyn Thrasher,

A. Approve December Minutes

- Approved as posted

B. Reports:

1. **Chair – Mac McKerral**
 - No report
2. **Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley**
 - No report
3. **Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education Representative – Molly Kerby**

- COSFL is liaison between State Universities KCTAS and Council on Post-Secondary Education
- Usually Molly Kirby and Faculty Regent Minter attend meetings
- Will keep Faculty Senate informed of upcoming meetings—all faculty are welcome to attend

4. Advisory:

a. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter ([Link to text of Faculty Regent Report](#))

- Main item: employment contract for the new football coach Bobby Petrino and the hiring of the assistants and staff
- Unprecedented commitment to athletic spending
- The faculty concerns fall into three categories:
 - potential personnel issues
 - possible damage to the academic reputation of WKU
 - the major long-term financial commitment to athletics
- Hire represents shift towards ever-escalating athletic expenditures
- Third point most troubling: WKU athletic spending increased by 38% between 2006 and 2011, from \$16.1 million to \$22.3 million annually:
- Athletic department is not self-supporting; majority (63%) drawn from student athletic fee, so funds are linked to enrollment (and the money taken for these fees could be used for academics)
- Last year, the Board passed largest contract amount in WKU history to try to retain Coach Taggart, now over 850K (and more including salaries for new assistant)
- Buyout clause of 1.2 million that would likely be put back into personnel costs if Mr. Petrino were to leave before his contract expires
- Escalation in athletic expenditures cause for alarm--enrollment is at best flat, at worst in decline. Our expenditures for debt service remain long-term obligations.
- Concerns of faculty have not been answered—our small across-the-board raise does not even cover cost of living and calls for merit pay have not produced it.
- Why? WKU continually funds extra-curricular endeavors and agency bond-funded brick-and-mortar projects at the expense of the academic mission of the university.
- When the money was there to fund faculty growth and academic initiatives, it was spent elsewhere and now it is difficult to make up the difference given the budget climate
- Funding of entertainment over education must reverse immediately.
- Petrino hire and similar decisions show WKU committed to funding entertainment at all costs.
- WKU must put money into academic mission and recognize faculty and staff who fulfill it are as important as brick-and-mortar and extra-curricular concerns
- When funding is scarce, non-academic projects and extra-curriculars do not teach students, engage in research or public service, or retain the students
- For these reasons, Faculty Regent Minter cannot support the contract before the Board.

b. Provost – Gordon Emslie

- Approved: Graduate Council, UCC, Research Faculty Policy, four new Mathematics courses for Colonnade program
- Board meeting tomorrow: sabbaticals will be voted on for approval
- WKU, Hardin County School System and ECTC partnering to set up a dual-credit facility in Elizabethtown
 - Hardin County high school students can earn college credit in their home town
 - Built on land donated by WKU
 - Board will be asked to approve this plan
- Another issue: Adult learner college (name tentative)
 - Adult ages 25 and up...awarded academic credit for life experience

- Try to close gap between the 40 or 50 hours student had and the 120 hours required for a degree, and find a way for them to complete within reasonable time frame
- SACS—working on reaffirmation of SACS accreditation
 - While final dates are in 2015, many incremental reports come due quickly
 - Working on faculty credentialing section
 - Important items:
 - Outcomes based learning---this will come up later
 - Faculty Credentialing--Making sure university has enough properly credentialed faculty to fill positions
 - Adequate number of qualified faculty members
 - Course-by-course evaluation of credentials to teach every specific courses
 - 92% of universities fail this SACS standard—we want to be the exception
 - Each individual faculty member must view faculty roster
 - Example:
 - Name: Who are you?
 - Courses taught
 - link to course description
 - Must have learning outcomes, and method of evaluation
 - Credentials to teach course
 - Could be terminal degree, or could be 18 hours of graduate coursework
 - include current CV
 - Some foreign degrees are not equivalent
 - Faculty of the institution (WKU) and appropriate department must evaluate program and determine validity of degrees
 - Other qualifications as appropriate
 - Faculty of appropriate department must determine whether qualifications constitute proper credentials
 - Graduate faculty must prove they are qualified as graduate faculty (Graduate Dean approval is, for example, adequate)
 - Another example: no terminal degree, but experience in the field, or research and dissertation guidance, may represent qualification (determined by faculty of departments)
 - Sylvia Gaico and Richard Miller of Academic Affairs are good contacts for questions

c. SGA President – Cory Dodds

- No Report

C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. **Graduate Council: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)**
 - Approved
2. **UCC: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)**
 - Approved
3. **General Education/Colonnade Reports: (See New Business)**
 - No report
4. **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee: (No report)**
 - No report
5. **Academic Quality:**

- a) **Bi-Term Report**
 - Chair—not an action item; just accepting the report
 - Report accepted
- b) **Bi-Term Resolution: Posted and endorsed by SEC**
 - Question: Does the Provost have a response?
 - Provost Emslie: I will respond at length at the next meeting
 - Comment: prefer to remove reference to per-credit-hour tuition structure
 - Response from AQ Chair: connection has been made by Provost, and also this is a procedure used by institutions we do not wish to emulate
 - Approved
- c) **Grading Report Posted**
 - Report is in response to document presented by Provost
 - This proposal attempts to answer concerns of both faculty and students
 - Previous discussion of plus/minus grading some years ago resulted in controversy
 - Assigns quality points for performance lying somewhere between whole grades
 - Student Government seems to support this solution
 - Chair: SEC would prefer .5 point differential rather than .3 points
 - Two differences from Provost's version
 - Addition of D+
 - Use of .3 rather than .5 points
 - Provost's recommendation would have failed in committee
 - There is also considerable resistance to a plus/minus system
 - Chair: specifically, why .3 points rather than .5 points—was there any discussion of grade inflation?
 - Response: yes, but we felt that it was more traditional that .3 points was more in line with traditional methods
 - Question: so you thought this system would be accepted by other schools?
 - Response: Yes
 - Question: is this going to look weird to other schools?
 - Response: Maybe, but the .3 is usually accepted.
 - Comment: We also need to consider the impact on student's GPA
 - Comment: In some departments, you can have a D in a class in your major, and I think it works to our favor, even if it's not used very often. It offers a half-step if students with a D push for leniency on a grade.
 - Chair: but if we are going to unilaterally ignore the system, that is not an acceptable approach
 - Comment: we will all end up using the system if it's there
 - Comment: it might be a positive for our students, when reviewers at other schools see only pluses rather than negatives
 - Comment: have we reviewed research adequately?
 - Provost Emslie: Yes we did research this previously. The reason for using the .5 point differential is that it would be the midpoint between the grades.
 - Approved

D. New Business:

1. **Verification of Student Identity in Distance Education Course (Posted: Endorsed by SEC)**
 - Approved
2. **Time Requirements for Hours of Credit (Posted: Endorsed by SEC)**
 - Approved
3. **Selection, Appointment and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs (Posted: Endorsed by SEC)**

- Amendment presented:
- "The committee chair shall be appointed by the Dean. The faculty of the hiring department will determine, by secret ballot majority vote, whether the chair shall be a tenured faculty member from their own college, or from a different college than the hiring department. When possible, the committee chair should also have experience or currently be a department head."
 - Provides at least relative independence of the search committee from the hiring official
 - Question: what if the vote is close (5/4, 4/3)?
 - Friendly amendment, that vote must be super-majority (60%)
 - Comment: are we talking about all faculty, just faculty present, or tenured/non-tenured faculty?
 - Motion to table definitely for next meeting, approved
- 4. **Colonnade course approvals:** [MATH 116 proposal](#); [MATH 116 Syllabus](#) and [MATH 183 \(Posted\)](#)
 - Approved

E. Information items:

1. **University Wellness Plan: Wade Pinkard, Employee Wellness manager**
 - *Note: moved to first on the agenda so the speaker would not be detained unnecessarily*
 - Presentation on Power Point slides -- available on Faculty Senate site
 - University Wellness plan:
 - Incentives available for completing activities:
 - Step 1: complete two "gateway activities" (health assessment and biometric screening) by March 31, 2013 to earn 50 points
 - Step 2: Complete one of five additional activities by Nov. 15, 2013 to earn 50 points
 - Points can be redeemed for credit on health insurance payments, flexible spending accounts, supplement to paycheck, or vacation/wellness day
 - See wku.livehealthier.com for more information

Meeting adjourned