UNIVERSITY SENATE
Senate Executive Committee

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 3, 2012
Wetherby Administration Building, Room 239

I. Call to Order
The regular session of the WKU Senate Executive Committee was called to order on Monday, December 3, 2012 at 3:15 p.m. by Chair Mac McKerral. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:
Kirk Atkinson, Charles Borders, Dana Bradley, Amanda Drost, Gordon EmslieJohn Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Rick Keaster, Debbie Kreitzer, Mac McKerral, Patricia Minter, John White

II. Approve [November Meeting Minutes](#)
- Minutes approved as posted

III. Reports:
A. Chair: Mac McKerral
- Executive sessions are recorded and will be archived temporarily by IT
    - Comment: What about times when we are "off the record"
    - Chair: In general, we should not be "off the record", if needed we will either simply edit the minutes, or if we declare a closed session (which requires a vote); as chair I believe all SEC and Senate meetings should be open
    - Comment: In the past it has been necessary to go into closed executive session, and if we do we should post the proper procedure and language to do this
    - Chair: Yes, I have that information somewhere, and we could try to post it on the Senate website. I believe personally that all meetings should be public and open
    - Some meetings are, by statute, closed…and those meetings would be an exception
    - At some point the audio files will be made available on the website

- All senate and SEC meetings are open
- Chair for handbook committee to replace Paul Markham
  - Previous vice-chair of senate not available (this is the person who would normally become chair)
  - Dana Bradley--interim chair of handbook committee, voted on by committee
- President Ransdell approved nomination of Richard Gelderman for benefits committee

B. Vice-Chair
- We are preparing for elections next semester

C. Committee Chairs

1. Academic Quality Committee (Guy Jordan)—No report

2. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee (Tucker Davis)
- Put out survey regarding bi-term proposal, and have gotten some response—please encourage others to respond
- Question from Tucker Davis: Anonymity on survey?
  - Suggestion--just don't make demand for department?
- forums on bi-term proposal week before final week
- Hope to have finished document by January Senate meeting

3. General Education Committee (Amanda Drost)—No report

4. Graduate Council Report (Kirk Atkinson, alt.)
- Temporary course will appear on report, SPE 595
- Group given temporary course for the semester, as an exception
- Approved

5. University Curriculum Committee Report (John White)
- Agreement on disputed courses
- Approved

D. Advisory Reports

1. Faculty Regent (Patti Minter)
- Board having committee meetings last day of semester, Friday 12/14
- Agenda not available yet, probably out soon
- Story in Herald: South campus food court
  - Had forum on this issue recently, good start
  - Discussing possible solutions (e.g., open two hours on friday)

- Should be a model for difficult issues and discussions

2. Academic Affairs (Provost Gordon Emslie)
- Phase II of staffing plan--16 new faculty searches
    - If all go through we will increase tenure-eligible faculty level by 6—eventual goal is 50
    - Good start
- Presenting plus/minus grading proposal to SGA
    - President of SGA supportive, but there are concerns (e.g., reputation of WKU, grade inflation)
    - Will probably go to Academic Quality for consideration
- SITES evaluations--67.54% compliance with online evaluations--up from last year
    - Comment: This far exceeds our original goal for compliance
    - Problem: Early access to grades if you complete evals, but grades may not be posted at that point anyway
    - Provo would like to clarify the promise of early access
        - Particularly in light of high response rates generally, and the success of offering other incentives (drawing for iPad)
        - Or perhaps we should clarify language and add FAQ
        - Chair assigns Academic Quality to create FAQ
- Student productions that seem realistic, taking place on campus
    - There is a draft policy on this topic; Will be presented at future SEC
    - Such productions must be approved and appropriate warnings issued

IV. New Business:

A. Research Faculty Policy 1.1961
- Some changes to policy to bring into compliance with handbook, mostly related to promotion (not tenure-eligible)
- Some changes to wording on salary policies (same as other faculty)
- Approved for forward to full senate

B. Grading System Proposal
- Previous arguements were time-consuming and frustrating
- This policy is a good compromise dealing with previous conflicts
- Comment—why is there no minus in this system
- Response—to avoid some conflict, and it accomplishes the same end
- Comment--does not look like it will lead to grade inflation
- Question to Provost Emslie—is this a first move toward complete plus and minus?
- Provost Emslie: no

D. Faculty Handbook Committee Substantive Change Proposals
- Interim chair
- Interested in moving issues forward quickly
- Ogden does not have a representative at this time
  - Senate Chair will seek a candidate
- Have created form for deletions/additions
- Will bring Dr. Richard Miller on in consulting role

a. [Continuance Policy](#)
- Provost--couldn't approve this as written; would prefer that I attend these committee meetings to work out problems
- Comment: No, the SEC is appropriate
- Comment: Provost should be included in meetings so that disagreements can be dealt with at the source
- Chair: not the job of the SEC to make substantive changes to these revisions
- Comments: if we see problems do we send back to committee?
- Chair: In general, we do not want to have an authority figure dictating the content of revisions
- Provost: just saying we need to get together on an informal basis to work out small problems in the text before it goes to the senate
- Comment: committee asks for input from SEC members, and should be run by college representatives to make sure it suits the needs of as many groups as possible
- Provost--there are a number of small revisions needed (e.g., how do we define "mentor"; consent from Dept Head needed; can candidate withdraw if they choose; etc.)
- Vote--send back to Handbook Committee for revision

b. [Continuance Date Amendment Substantive](#)
- Provost: dates are good, but doesn't like the fact that only negative recommendations are reported to faculty member
- Provost: need to approve some items as a block--when they interact/overlap, to ensure internal agreeement
- Change to form for Handbook committee form--need to allow for related items to be grouped together,
- Chair: Protocol with regard to approval--SEC would "endorse" independent pieces, but when pieces are related the SEC must approve singly then it goes back to committee for gathering into a coherent whole
- Then whole handbook would go to senate as a single vote

c. [Tenure at Appointment Amendment](#)
- Vote to endorse by SEC

V. Information Items:

- Colonnade Implementation Committee: MATH 109; MATH 116; MATH 117; MATH 136; MATH 142; MATH 183
  - Provost: is there a MAT equivalent to these? Is it standard process that South Campus courses are created automatically? If not, do we want to create joint proposals?
  - Comment: general understanding that there should be equivalent courses, but details and procedure unclear
  - Chair will ask chair of Colonnade Implementation about this

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Meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm
- Respectfully submitted by John Gottfried, Secretary