



University Senate

Senate Executive Committee

Draft Minutes
Monday Feb. 11, 2013
3:15 p.m. – WAB 239

A. Call to Order

The regular session of the WKU Senate Executive Committee was called to order on Monday, February 11, 2013 at 3:15 pm by Chair Mac McKerral. A quorum was present.

In Attendance:

Kirk Atkinson, Charles Borders, Amanda Drost, Gordon Emslie, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Mac McKerral, Richard Miller, John White

B. January Meeting Minutes

- Approved

C. Reports

1. Chair

a. Grading Proposal

- Chair asks Academic Quality and UCC and Grad Council to work together
- Would like to have for March Meeting—but may be able to put off
- Provost Emslie: willing to discuss with SGA and other parties to come up with workable policy
- Comment: The plus-minus system seems at this time to be acceptable to both faculty senate and SGA representatives
- Comment: this is really a topic that faculty senate needs to take responsibility
- Suggestion: offer choice of several alternatives to representative of UCC, AQ, Grad Council, and SGA

b. Elections approaching

- Jennifer Hanley will guide election activities
- Standing committee appointments also need to be considered as part of process

2. Vice Chair—no report

3. Secretary—no report

4. Committee Chairs

- a. Academic Quality—no report (will meet Thursday)
- b. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee: No report
- c. General Education Curriculum Committee: No Report
- d. Graduate Council: Report posted
 - Will put more focus on policy section
 - Wants to make sure UCC is okay with format change, so both committees are submitting the same form
 - May be best to present two proposals—one for courses and the other for policy change
 - Report approved
- e. University Curriculum Committee:
 - Some changes and revisions to report—final version will be send to Chair
 - Chair: please send revisions, SEC will do an email vote on revised report, then post for Faculty Senate Meeting

5. Advisory Reports

- a. Faculty Regent (Regent Minter) –No report
- b. Academic Affairs (Provost Emslie)
 - Faculty Roster presentation working well (
 - Commonwealth College
 - Seems unlikely to move forward
 - Plan is to form alliance, rather than compete for it
 - All institutions will work together
 - Budget discussions
 - No major cuts at WKU
 - There are ongoing budget discussions:
 - CPE will vote on tuition cap
 - Chair has communicated with Handbook Committee
 - Have not seen much movement for this committee
 - Need to find a way to present changes incrementally, not as a single work
 - If two readings need to be done in Faculty Senate, then okay
 - The problem is that this leaves all the responsibility with the Provost, and the Faculty lose their input on these issues
 - Chair: Governance Committee
 - We have heard nothing from them
 - We did fill the seats, and we have named an interim chair, but we have not seen anything new

- Provost: was seeing momentum for a while, but this seems to have been lost
- Bi-term proposal—response to recent comments will be delivered at next Faculty Senate Meeting, then a written version will be posted
- Faculty staffing—before courses are added, we need to carefully consider the need for additional faculty

D. New Business

1. Policy: Student Production Policy 1.3150 (Posted)

- Concerns: “trapdoor” to interference in open campus / free speech
- Chair—is this policy for permission, or just to make aware?
- Provost: just to make us aware
- Comment: could have a chilling effect on free speech, wording “may disrupt” could remove spontaneity
- Comment: just meant to make administrators aware of situations that could cause problems
- Approval of motion to send to committees—Academic Quality and Faculty Welfare

2. IEC memo on Study Abroad Fee (Posted)

- Chair: SEC will not argue merits of fee, but decide what we want to do—send to committee?
- Question: what will this money be used for?
- Provost Emslie: must increase revenue to meet expenditures
- Chair, problem with language in memo: use of benchmarks is a shell game, also implies that we should always do what other universities do
 - The problem with this is that the “have-not” students will not study abroad, while the “haves” will go
- Comment: this new fee should not be sprung on students
- Provost: If issue is timing of imposing the fee, then activation of fee could be delayed
- Suggestion: someone could simply bring a resolution to the floor concerning delaying start of the fee
- Chair: Academic Quality committee look at broader issue as to whether the fee is appropriate

Adjourned 5 pm