



Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting
Draft Minutes
January 14, 2013 -- 3:15 pm
WAB 227 - AA Large Conference Room

A. Call to Order

The regular session of the WKU Senate Executive Committee was called to order on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 3:15 pm by Chair Mac McKerral. A quorum was present

B. In Attendance:

Kirk Atkinson, Charles Borders, Tucker Davis, Amanda Drost, Gordon Emslie, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Guy Jordan, Rick Keaster, Mac McKerral, Beverly Siegrist

C. Approve December Meeting Minutes

- **Approved**

D. Reports

1. Chair

- Routing of handbook changes
 - This was discussed at some length in the last SEC meeting
 - Handbook committee changes will be endorsed by the SEC, then send changes to the full Senate for approval
 - Changes will be incorporated by Handbook Committee, then the full document can be brought to the Senate
 - In this way we will not bring unseen documents to Senate, which will make things easier
 - Substantive changes require 2 readings—therefore changes must be submitted to SEC by March, at the latest, in order to be passed this year

2. Vice Chair

- No report

3. Secretary

- No report

4. Committee Chairs

a. Academic Quality Committee:

1. Conference Report on Bi-Terms posted

- Report accepted
- Academic Quality Chair thanks all who contributed
- Chair: no comments except a few typos
- Report accepted by SEC
- Approved to send to Faculty Senate
- Comment from Provost Emslie:
 - Some typos
 - Also some of the language implies that we don't want to be associated with some institutions?
 - Response from AQ chair: we're referring to some private for-profit institutions

2. **Resolution on Bi-Terms: Resolution posted**

- Approved: forward to Senate

3. **Revised Grading Scale Recommendation: Recommendation posted**

- Committee suggests modifications:
 - Shift quality points (+ grade = add .3 points)
 - Add D+ grade to previous plan
- AQ Chair: This will be controversial, and everyone has their own attitude about the issue, it could cause debate
- Comment from Provost
- Does not like 3.3 points for + grade—we have presented this as a “near miss” of the next highest grade; needs to reflect how close the grade is to the next highest grade; prefers movement to 3.5 points
- AQ chair: some faculty are concerned about grade inflation
- Provost: The grade inflation would be negligible
- Comment: Real grade inflation is not coming from plus/minus grading; it is coming from lack of grading standards in other areas
- Comment: Going to the .5 point for + grades might make more sense, more logical
- Other possibilities are a full plus/minus grading system, or an A/B system
- Proposal will be forwarded to Senate for discussion, but chair will relate the discussion of the relative merits of the .3 vs. .5 point systems.

b. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee: No report

c. General Education Curriculum Committee: No Report

d. Graduate Council: Report posted

- Change: policy revisions will be marked as such; not marked as “other”
- Suggestion from Provost Emslie...policy changes should appear at the beginning of the report, as they are an important--probably the most important part of the report. They should not be buried at the end.
- Approved

e. University Curriculum Committee: Report posted

- Approved

5. Advisory Reports

a. Faculty Regent (Regent Minter): No Report

b. Academic Affairs (Provost Emslie)

- Department Head Meeting:
- Faculty credentialing—SACS wants specific credentials for specific courses
 - Best way to handle—one faculty member at a time, defends credentials for each course, done by the faculty themselves
 - Question: how specific would the credentials have to be?
 - Answer: propose that department faculty would make the judgment
 - Another problem—foreign equivalents
 - General requirements
 - PhD, OR Master, OR at least 18 graduate hours of study in discipline
 - May also be able to confirm through faculty review
 - Salary buy-out of research time will be discussed at next Senate meeting

E. New Business:

1. Policy: Verification of Student Identity in Distance Education Courses
 - SACS-related—must make sure the person taking an exam is the person who is getting the grade
 - Several methods could be used
 - Approved to send to Senate with SEC endorsement
2. Policy: Time Requirements for Hours of Credit
 - Provost Emslie—policy wording conforms to federal rules
 - Current policy combines sections of two previous policies into this one: also includes sections borrowed from federal requirements; nothing terribly controversial
 - Basically: standard academic principle that 1 credit hour equals 50 minutes of class time, and assumption that out-of-class time required would be 2/1 (2 minutes out-of-class for every 1 minute in the classroom)
 - Question: How does this apply to online courses, where “seat time” is not implied?
 - Provost Emslie: The idea is that if you have a 3-credit online course, it should require roughly 3 hours per week of class time and 6 hours per week of outside work. If the student can complete the course in an unreasonably short time period, the course is not valid. This is driven by the presence and practices of “for-profit” institutions.
 - Approved to send to Senate
3. Policy: Selection, Appointment, and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs
 - Minor change; previous policy did not specify how chair of selection committee would be selected; this policy states that the Dean will do it
 - Approved

Adjourned 3:55 pm