



**University Senate Meeting  
Thursday, February 21, 2013 -- 3:45 p.m.  
Faculty House**

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Call to Order:**

- Chair Mac McKerral called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 3:45 pm in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:** Cain Alvey, Shahnaz Aly, Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo, Kirk Atkinson, Lauren Bland, Charles Borders, Kristi Branham, Christa Briggs, Chris Brown, Amy Cappiccie, Ismael Civelek, Christopher Costa, Bruce Crawley, Brittany Crowley, Tucker Davis, Robert Dietle, Cory Dodds, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Barbara Fiehn, Ron Gallagher, John Gottfried, Peggy Gripshover, Jennifer Hanley, Nancy Hulan Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Randy Kinnersley, Sonia Lenk, Qi Li, Kelly Madole, James May, Mac, McKerral, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Matt Nee, Ngoc Nguyen, Kristin Polk, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Kelly Reames, Verdon Sheeley, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Mark Staynings, Fred Stickle, Janet Tassell, Paula Trafton, Carrie Trojan, Rico Tyler, John White, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski
- **Alternates Present:** Janet Applin (Sam Evans), Melanie Autin (Richard Schugart), Chunmei Du (Tamara Van Dyken), T. Scott Lyons (John Bonaguro), Martin Stone (Becky Gilfillen)
- **Absent:** Darlene Applegate, Diane Carver, Ashley Chance-Fox, Patricia Desrosiers, Connie Foster, Mary Jane Gardner, Dennis George, Steven Gibson, Frederick Grieve, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Jeffrey Kash, Jeffrey Katz, Richard Keaster, Ed Kintzel, Debra Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Molly Kirby, Alison Langdon, Suellyn Lathrop, Alex Lebedinsky, David Lee, Ingrid Lilly, Gustavo Obeso, Keith Phillips, Gary Ransdell, Kateri Rhodes, Nancy Rice, Janice Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Dana Sullivan, Samanta Thapa, Evelyn Thrasher,

**A. Approve January Minutes**

- approved

**B. Reports:**

1. Chair – Mac McKerral
  - Senate site, under [Senate Updates](#)—please review
    - 2 QEP proposals sent by Doug McElroy
    - Improving Student Learning
  - Spring Break: SEC agenda posted February 25, March 4 meeting
  - March meeting very important:

- Handbook update
    - Pres Ransdell will visit to discuss WKU budget
  - Plus-minus grading: considered by graduate council and curriculum committee
2. Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley
- Time to start thinking about Faculty Senate elections, coming up soon
  - Changes in representation require an election
3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education Representative – Molly Kerby
- COSFL meeting Monday 12:30 pm in Frankfurt
  - Chair invites feedback and input from faculty
4. Advisory:
- a. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter
- As reported in local press—Board of Regents met on January 25
  - Contract for Coach Petrino passed, vote was 6 to 1
  - Meeting was anti-climactic; little discussion
  - Report of enrollment included no hard numbers
    - looking forward to receiving full enrollment report
    - If enrollment declines, funding will suffer
  - Reminds all constituencies that we should not be funding entertainment when we face budget shortfalls
  - Everyone must speak out
  - Entertainment is nice, but we should fund first for academic priorities
  - Will keep everyone informed, and thanks to all for support
- b. Provost – Gordon Emslie
- 6 recommendations approved
    - Grad council report...had to revise implementation dates
  - SACS—preparing for report coming up soon
  - Asking faculty to clarify credentials for every course
  - SACS requires revision of several campus policies...working on this
  - SACS has reduced some requirements (such as distance learning, no longer requires separate approval for different areas)
  - QEP: please review proposals sent out by Doug McElroy
    - One for Writing/Communication and the other for “Information Mastery”
    - Seeking feedback
  - Bi-term course response
    - Appreciate possibility to discuss with many parties
    - Overwhelming majority of students/faculty do not support this
    - Many point out potential risks, such as impact on ability to write papers, time to recover from illness, increased stress, loss of 5<sup>th</sup> week assessment, possibility of drop in student retention
    - Deliberate move to bi-term is not in the best interest of WKU
    - However, we will continue to explore enhanced use of accelerated learning, and other scheduling plans
    - Will pursue opportunities to increase enrollment for winter and summer programs
    - Various means of learning evolve, and other changes may merit our attention

- MOOCs may represent an opportunity/threat to educational landscape
- Online courses may offer good opportunities for alternative schedules and strategies
- Adult learners particularly may find such alternatives useful
- Thanks to all for participation and feedback

c. SGA President – Cory Dodds

- Student Government: Vote on Plus-Minus Grading Proposal was scheduled, but has been postponed
- Will keep Faculty Senate informed of progress
- Study abroad scholarship application is now online, deadline approaching

### C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
  - Approved with minor exceptions (due to discrepancies in start dates)
2. UCC: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
  - Approved

### D. Old Business

1. Selection, Appointment and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs (Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
  - Took up last meeting, moved to this month
  - See Revised Amendment to this policy, below
2. Revised Amendment to Old Business Item 1.0214
  - Previous amendment rescinded; new amendment presented
  - First new amendment: Head of committee should have experience as Dept. Head, AND, search committee should operate independently of hiring official
    - Comment: Would this include forwarding the recommendation to the Dean
    - Comment: amended to refer to output from each stage of the process
    - Approved
  - Second new amendment: Person chosen as interim Department Head should be tenured, preferably in the department (Section 6D)
    - Comment: This amendment answers a particular situation, so maybe we shouldn't make this a policy
    - Comment: any move we can make to insure the integrity of searches is a good thing, and I don't think it is an exceptional situation
    - Approved
  - Vote on policy as amended
    - Approved

### E. New Business:

1. Colonnade Implementation Committee course recommendations (university college versions of courses) MA 109C, MA 116C, and MA 117C; ENGL 100C, ENGL 200C; COMM 145C
  - Approved

2. Recommendation in Response to the IEC Letter Concerning a new \$150 SAGL Study Abroad Fee
  - Should not create new fee after students have already planned trips and finances—this recommends that implementation of the fee be delayed until summer of 2014
  - Approved

**F. Information items:**

1. [Memo on Plus-minus Grading, 2007 \(Posted\)](#)

**Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm**

Respectfully submitted: John Gottfried, Secretary