

**University Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 23, 2014 -- 3:45 p.m.**  
**Faculty House**

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**Call to Order:**

- Chair Margaret Crowder called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, March 23, 2014 at 3:51 pm in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:**  
Heidi Álvarez, Shahnaz Aly, Lauren Bland, Keyana Boka, Imelda Bratton, Chris Brown, Jill Brown, Mike Carini, Ashley Chance-Fox, Yining Chen, Ismail Civelek, Krystal Clayton, Bruce Crawley, Margaret Crowder, R. Tucker Davis, Robert Dietle, Karin Egloff, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Jody Evans, Ann Ferrell, Barbara Fiehn, Lloren Foster, Steven Gibson, John Gottfried, Frederick Grieve, Jennifer Hanley, Don Hoover, Nancy Hulan, Samantha Johnson, Dean Jordan, Jeffrey Kash, Richard Keaster, Stephen A. King, Alison Langdon, Sonia Lenk, Qi Li, Ling Lo, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marstin, Greg McAmis, Lauren McClain, Richard Miller, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Isabel Mukonyara, Ngoc Nguyen, Yvonne Petkus, Pam Petty, Shura Pollatsek, Attila Por, Matt Pruitt, Tammera Race, Nancy Rice, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Michael Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Dick Taylor, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken, Adam West, Aaron Wichman, and Blairanne Williams.
- **Alternates Present:**  
Danita Kelley for John Bonaguro, Julie Ellis for Robert Choate, Frank Fan for Marilyn Gardner, Holly Payne for Angela Jerome, Keri Esslinger for Beth Pyle, Seth Church for Janet Nicky Seay, Eric Reed for Mary Wolinski, and Maribeth Wilson for Dawn Garrett Wright.
- **Guests Present:**  
Amy Brausch, Larry Caillouet, Pit Derryberry, Sylvia Dietrich, Lance Hahn, Michelle Hollis, Molly Kirby, Emmanuel Iyiegbuniwe, Thomas Kingery, Elizabeth Lemierize, Kelly Madole, Andrew McMichael, Ron Mitchell, Sharon Mutter, Farley Norman, Wade Pinkard, Beth Plummer, Rhonda Qoadzer?, Doug Smith, Larry Snyder, Steve Wieneger, .
- **Absent:**  
Cain Alvey, Kristi Branham, Christa Briggs, Amy Cappiccie, Diane Carver, Christopher Costa, Brittany Crowley, Laura Delancey, Patricia Desrosiers, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Frieda Eggleton, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Ron Gallagher, Dennis George, Becky Gilfillen, Jeffrey Katz, Suellyn Lathrop, David Lee, Alexandria Manglaris, Catherine Martin, Doug McElroy, Jane Olmstead, Inma Pertusa, Gary Ransdell, Kelly Reames, Mark Reeves, Kateri Rhodes, Jeff Rice, Nancy Richey, Julie

Shadoan, Janice Smith, Dana Sullivan, Janet Tassell, Kevin Thomas, and Carrie Trojan.

**A. Approve February 2014 Minutes**

- A motion to approve the February minutes was made by D. Taylor was seconded by J. Hanley. The minutes were approved unanimously as posted, with one factual clarification read to the Senators by Chair Crowder on behalf of Merrall Price: “The only South Campus faculty who are moving are the faculty in Liberal Arts and Sciences, and that they will be moving their tenure homes, but will still have offices at South Campus and will continue to teach classes there.”

**B. Reports:**

1. Chair – Margaret Crowder

- The at-large senate election results are posted. Thanks to those who participated and to J. Hanley (Vice Chair) who led the elections.
- WKU General Council D. Wilkins has confirmed through an email dialogue that she will speak as an invited speaker at the April 17 University Senate meeting.
- The memo from President Ransdell on the faculty handbook was received and the recommendation was accepted with response.
- The faculty worklife survey information is posted online; please take a look at the results.

2. Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley

- The at-large results are in, thank you to those who participated.

3. Secretary - Heidi Alvarez

- Sign-in process was clarified (green folder), please report any corrections to the roster.

4. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education – Molly Kerby

- There was a March 7 meeting
- Kirby explained what COSFL is
- Kirby met with the budget people for CPE and discussed that we are beginning to not be a state-supported school. Only 25% is supported by the state. We are becoming more state-affiliate but still have to follow state rules.

5. AAUP Report – Eric Reed

- No report

**C. Advisory:**

1. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter

- On February 25, Regent Minter and three members of the Board of Regents went to meet with the legislature in Frankfort. Time was spent talking about priorities. Many in the House would have like to fully fund the university’s priorities, but the

antiquated funding system in the state prevented this from happening. The legislative committee that she serves on – House Bill 333 – impacts faculty; it changes the conditions for those going into transitional retirement at age 60. This is going to become law. Minter said she understands more now why the university takes the positions they do.

- Minter asked Athletic Director Todd Stewart for a written report on football six years out. Football and athletics is partially funded by the university and student fees. Revenue and attendance were provided. Funding expenditure, base budget (how much was student fees) still need clarification. Hilltopper Athletic Foundation (HAF) data is not transparent. Minter stated that it is important to know in difficult budget times what is actually happening.
- The Board of Regents part of the budgeting process is at the very end. The process of building the budget will be in April. Minter trusts that they will provide information before the Board of Regents meeting in committees next week.
- There is a \$3.1 million shortfall. It is time to focus on what is essential to the academic mission to make wise choices; this will have consequences for the future. The meeting is one week from tomorrow at 8:45 in the Board of Regents room. The Board will receive the completed evaluations of the President as well as the information from the Faculty Welfare survey.

## 2. Provost – Gordon Emslie

- The Provost commented on how House Bill 333 will affect those aged 60 and over.
- 400 students will be presenting their work on Saturday.
- The Forensics Team arrived back this morning.
- All recommendations from the February Senate meeting were approved.
- President Ransdell gave his response to the faculty handbook.
- The Budget Council had lively discussions. The sheet categorized growth and number of salaried positions. 10's \_\_\_\_, 20's \_\_\_\_, 30's professional non-faculty, 40's sports staff. 2.2% per year, 1.6 salary increase per year. In the 30's, the numbers will be reduced.
- The Provost is still waiting for names for the Space Committee.
- Budget: the highest priority is for the fiscal year 2016 staffing plan to go forward; Tuition shortfall; dropped enrollment; doctoral; nursing expansion; health; increased expenditure of scholarships; state-mandated waivers; state budget cut; \_\_ raise program
- 2015 staffing plan: Budget committee is working beyond that to stress priorities.
- Final numbers are not in yet.
- Long-term play to address 15% increase in faculty compensation for 2018. There is a critical issue of creating a merit raise pool at some point. 3% is not possible for every year. Cost of living is adjusted in some years and more meaningful merit raise in other years.
- There are two candidates interviewing for Director of Admissions.
- Faculty is invited to attend on April 10.

## 3. SGA President – Marc Reeves for Keyana Boka

- Boka stated the position on budget cuts is the same for 7/8 universities in the Commonwealth.
- COPSE meeting is Saturday – tuition cap will be discussed.
- April 8 & 9 are the spring SGA elections; the officer debate is on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Faculty and Staff are encouraged to attend.
- Scholarship applications closed on March 25 at 5:00.
- Students will gather to watch the NCAA tournament in Grise Hall on Saturday.

### **C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations**

1. Graduate Council (Beth Plummer): Report posted; endorsed by SEC  
Beth Plummer presented the February Graduate Council report with a motion to approve; the report was approved unanimously with no discussion.

Plummer also stated that the April 10 Graduate Council meeting will be at 2:00.

2. University Curriculum Committee: Report posted, endorsed by SEC  
Ashley Chance Fox requested a motion to approve the February 27 UCC report as posted with a change in wording (2.1 was clarified). The motion as amended was approved unanimously.

Two policy items in the February agenda (R. Dietle): (1) one correction to the minutes “change of academic policy”. (2) .3 Rationale colonnade program: humanities is 6 hours (not 3). No further discussion.

#### 3. Academic Quality:

Following a motion for approval, the February Academic Quality report was approved unanimously.

#### 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility (R. Tucker Davis):

Motion for approval by R. Tucker Davis of the February Faculty Welfare Report. Question from the floor: is it a proposal or a report? Response: It is a Policy Item endorsed by the Faculty Welfare Committee and the SEC.

Two concerns were brought up by the Department of Communications on first amendment rights.

The policy item was included within the report of faculty welfare. Policy items are usually listed separately.

The Senate will deal with the report first and then separate the policy.

The approval of the report was unanimous.

Further discussion on policy item: A recruitment event in Hopkinsville that involved prayer resulted in an email for review and potential policy. The committee adopted the policy that Clemson had on its books. Passed in 1971, it states that even though legislation prohibits prayer at public events that a written policy should exist. T. Davis said that Clemson’s is a much less specific policy and is open for interpretation. B. Mukonyora (Religious Studies) stated that she agrees that the policy separating prayer from the classroom should not make it difficult for non-Christians who attend events. T. Davis asked

B. Mukonyora if she supports the policy as written; she replied that it would depend on what the prayer said. T. Davis stated that the cases he reviewed do not allow any prayer. R. Miller said he was confused when he read the policy by what nonsectarian prayer is, and as a Christian, he does not want to be limited in what he can say in a prayer; the term nonsectarian puts limits on what he can say. T. Davis stated that it only affects public prayer at public events. R. Dietle stated that during his five years on the Board of Regents, every meeting began with a Christian prayer; Dietle felt that it did not speak to him, and that “no strings” goes both ways. S. Miller stated that this topic is historically divisive and difficult to define, and that this is not the forum or the place to discuss this; he suggested forming a committee of those who have knowledge in the area (legal scholars, university lawyer, and others with expertise in this area). M. Crowder stated that Faculty Welfare has already considered this. P. Minter said her understanding is that the original issue was brought by a faculty member who is also a lawyer, and it is correct in terms of constitution. It was originally brought by the university council, then brought to the faculty welfare. A committee would not come to a different decision. We are currently noncompliant with constitutional standards on prayer. She added that there is more than one regent who is concerned with this practice. T. Davis stated that it is more likely decidedly coercive in a smaller event. I. Civelek said that WKU is not a private school and that we have to comply with whatever the state wants. B. Mukonyora said it is also a constitutional right to not be religious, and she is interested to see what happens. The intention was not to prescribe how to pray but to fully endorse the multicultural population of the university. The way we honor and celebrate our diversity is by recognizing and allowing all cultures to be represented; but the way of achieving the diversity in the resolution should be examined. J. Hanley stated that assumptions wrapped in the conversation are that everyone wants to participate in prayer, and she feels that the policy is given in the spirit of fairness. A. Wichman commented that prayer makes him feel uncomfortable. B. Fiehn stated that she feels this policy would not meet the laws for separation of church and state. T. Davis said the documents he read had prayer in graduation ceremonies and with invited prayer givers. The issue with first amendment rights does not endorse one religion. He speculates that if one religion feels like they are left out, then there might be an issue with that. A motion to approved the Policy Item on Public Prayer was seconded by Alison Langdon. The Policy was approved with 29 in favor of the policy and 11 opposed. The policy will be sent to Julia McDonald.

5. General Education: (Lloren Foster)

No Report.

6. Colonnade: (Robert Dietle)

Motion to approve policy for revision was seconded by J. Hanley; the motion passed unanimously.

#### **D. Old Business**

No old business to report.

#### **E. New Business:**

- Eric Reed: Resolution creating a new standing committee on budget within the senate will provide more structure. We are the only state university that does not currently have a committee of this nature. There would be representatives from the senate, one student, three at-large senators, and an ex-officio member from the Provost's office. If passed, there would be two public. A motion to approve by E. Reed was seconded by M. Pruitt. The Resolution to Create a University Senate Budget and Finance Committee passed unanimously.

**F. Information items:**

1. M. Crowder will send the link to the Faculty Worklife Survey and access to the previous survey (2012).
2. Please thoroughly read the President's memo response regarding the Faculty Handbook.

A motion to adjourn by D.Taylor was seconded by J. Hanley. The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Álvarez, Secretary