

University Senate Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2014 3:45pm

Faculty House

Call to Order:

- Chair Margaret Crowder called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, **January 23, 2014 3:45pm** in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:**
Shahnaz Aly, Lauren Bland, Chris Brown, Jill Brown, Mike Carini, Robert Choate, Krysstal Clayton, Bruce Crawley, Margaret Crowder, Patricia Desrosiers, Robert Dietle, Karin Egloff, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Jody Evans, Ann Ferrell, Barbara Fiehn, Lloren Foster, Jennifer Hanley, Nancy Hulan, Stephen A. King, Sonia Lenk, Qi Li, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marstin, Greg McAmis, Lauren McClain, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Yvonne Petkus, Pam Petty, Attila Por, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Tammera Race, Jeff Rice, Julie Shadoan, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Dick Taylor, Adam West, and Blairanne Williams.
- **Alternates Present:**
Danita Kelley for John Bonaguro, Molly Kerby for Ashley Chance-Fox, Holly Payne for Angela Jerome, Aaron Winter for Aaron Wichman, Eric Reed for Mary Wolinski and Maribeth Wilson for Dawn Gannett Wright.
- **Guests Present:**
Beth Plummer
- **Absent:**
Heidi Álvarez, Cain Alvey, Keyana Boka, Kristi Branham, Imelda Bratton, Christa Briggs, Amy Cappiccie, Diane Carver, Yining Chen, Ismail Civelek, Christopher Costa, Brittany Crowley, R. Tucker Davis, Laura Delancey, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Frieda Eggleton, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Ron Gallagher, Marilyn Gardner, Dennis George, Steven Gibson, Becky Gilfillen, John Gottfried, Frederick Grieve, Don Hoover, Samantha Johnson, Dean Jordan, Jeffrey Kash, Jeffrey Katz, Richard Keaster, Alison Langdon, Suellyn Lathrop, David Lee, Ling Lo, Alexandria Manglaris, Catherine Martin, Doug McElroy, Richard Miller, Steve Miller, Isabel Mukonyara, Ngoc Nguyen, Jane Olmstead, Inma Pertusa, Shura Pollatsek, Gary Ransdell, Kelly Reames, Mark Reeves, Kateri Rhodes, Nancy Rice, Nancy Richey, Janet Nicki Seay, Janice Smith, Michael Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Dana Sullivan, Janet Tassell, Kevin Thomas, Carrie Trojan, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken.

Agenda Adjustment

Dr. Ransdell is speaking on the budget in response to the Governor's speech of last Tuesday. The Governor does include money to build the center wing and planetarium for a project totaling \$48 million.

- Governor's Address
- Faculty all e-mail forthcoming discussing the budget shortfalls
- 9-inning game and this is the first inning the governor proposes a budget and it goes through several committees
- Total cut to higher ed \$25 mill, WKU \$1.8 mill 2.5%
- Trying to strategize to avoid additional cuts
- Clearly—effort is to free up money for K-12 education
- Ransdell frustrated—in his word the sanitized version
- Governor discussed cradle to career and partnering—but now is renegeing on promise and is cutting funding for higher education
- University presidents working in tandem to avoid this—but another budget cut is a distinct possibility
- Ransdell unhappy because he felt we were at the end of the budget cutting process
- Hand outs illustrating the budget cuts
- We are expecting a \$2mill hit from KRS in a mandated increase in pension fund for our employees
- \$100 million endeavor state-wide could help alleviate some of the burden
- 50% inclusion followed in the pension fund solution for WKU this meant \$1.3 million
- There was \$2mill recurring Gatton Academy funding to grow from 120 students to 200 students governor has responded positively and will raise private money for Gatton Academy \$10mill
- This does not go into the general budget
- Gatton Funding will not affect the general university funding
- Commonwealth College: adult learning initiative, Beth Laves, Gordon Emslie—not fully determined, about \$2 mill—mostly infrastructure for online adult learners-
- Bucks for Brains \$60mill from governor in matching funds we get \$2.5mill for faculty
- \$50mill goes to UK and U of L will not oppose because we will get \$2.5mill
- Match private gifts for endowed faculty positions
- Funding still uncertain
- New Capital funding projects—we want our \$48 mill but the overall projection for this budgetary aspect is grim
- Agency bond—Expand Preston and new mid-campus parking structure—nothing done yet, doubtful this will come to fruition unless student government wants to help out
- This will be from student fees we will not adopt this in normal budgetary process.
- Authorized to do so, but unlikely
- Our budget 5 variables: critical 1) reduction in budget, 2) what to do with fixed cost increases about \$3-4mill normal, KERS mandate \$800,000, 4) compensation variable—modest and nowhere fully decided—salary and benefits in 5) revenue—tuition increase and what it will entail 6) Enrollment—decline in fall, likely to have the same in the spring as well
- We have reached a point where tuition increase will be modest. Projection 3% range but could be higher if the budget cut stays. CPE will authorize a higher one to offset decrease

- 3-4% tuition increase should know within the next month
- 100,000 new international students but we do not know the long-term effects
- 4 draws on budget—thus there will be a budget reduction scenario to guarantee a balanced budget—don't know how much or where
- Anticipate and have a voice in how that unfolds over the next couple of months
- G. Emslie is putting together a faculty advisory group
- Keep doing what you are doing—Ransdell was stressing the need for us to continue to put forth efforts in the classrooms

Q1: Doc of Physical Therapy Hoover—Different funding structure from other regional universities how is that progressing?

A: new funding model is being developed—non-growing schools are getting too much money, going to model on K-12 lines. Higher ed needs a minimum number all schools get per student, We should all be at the average of our peer group. We are \$1000 below the comp universities in KY

NKU and WKU are taking the lead in this discussion. Important thing for us: if we have new model that takes \$950mill for higher ed and redistributes it based on state appropriations for student we will win because ours will go up—redistribute the current base and future revenue based on the same formula. 2016-2018 state biennium.

Follow Up question.....wait for Beshear

What the governor is trying to do—he is a politician wants people to fight for new revenue, tax reform, gaming, pick your source if we can generate new revenues we might be getting new funding. We won't know on the new funding model for at least 18 months

Q: Steve Miller—insight about the new funding model is not just a simple matter of re-assessing. Hard to sell redistribution as opposed to just leveling up. Happened in 2000 with public schools. WKU and NKU would be better off to catch up than cut from other people.

Ended 4:09 pm

Crowder

Dick Taylor first approved minutes, Seconded by:

Dietle: wants an amendment to list individually new courses approved under the colonnade plan.

Colonnade committee—wants new courses listed individually.

As Amended approved forwarded by Taylor and Siegrist

Crowder: No real report, lots to anticipate in the spring. Benefits, FCWPR on board, transition to Colonnade,

Molly Kerby: no report

Eric Reed: No AAUP report

Patti Minter Report (Regents)

- Will be in touch about what is going on.
- Read *Courier Journal and Herald Leader* to get what is going on in Frankfort
- BOR meets tomorrow, January, day before 1st quarterly meeting
- Coach's contract up for debate

- Contract is posted on BOR agenda
- Highlight: Jeff Broughm \$600,000 base salary, large buy-out, non-compete clause to prevent a Petrino follower
- Assistant Coach Salary men's football is coming and there is an anticipated Jump—going to come close to the Million dollar mark for coaching staff
- Assistant staff \$135,000 for one assistant coach—equivalent to deans.
- By April picture of budget cuts will be clear
- Whether or not coach is good or liked, no baggage, the point remains the same we cannot afford this
- We know there is a budget cut and the situation gets worse—this year there is an enrollment drop. Governor's speech indicates bad things are coming
- WKU makes long-term financial commitments to athletics, continuing a trend—that has not worked
- 3 points: 1) In 6 yrs athletic spending at WKU has increased 38% USA Today—
- 2) Athletic department is not self-supporting, 63% of the budget comes from student fees—linked to enrollment
- 3) Cuts are coming but not necessarily in the most expensive department on campus. Student fees = tuition increase by CPE.
- Knight Commission: WKU Lexington Herald Leader—athletics received \$36,000 and change/student athlete. Regular students got about \$11,000
- How do we become better university? This is the biggest discrepancy in the state.
- Delta Cost Project: Salaries and compensation account for 1/3 of funding. Cost we pay it as do our students
- Enrollment has declined—we should be very concerned. Revenue strain dependent on international and out of state students—picture is not overly positive
- One student tuition funding strain funds the debt on the Honors College bond—none of faculty's concerns have yet been answered
- Can we fund benefits? We hope so but there is no guarantee.
- As we continue to fall behind—small raise doesn't cover the cost of living
- We want to apply the athletic standard to faculty instead of just coaches
- Not a really good idea—we fund entertainment over education we need to reverse this immediately
- Headline coach has moved on but our decision on new coaches demonstrates that WKU is still committed to funding entertainment at all costs
- BOR needs to recognize that we need money in the academic mission, when funding is scarce go back to the basics and the fundamentals
- Fallen into the concierge model of education—entertainment to attract students
- Minter cannot support the contract in front of the BOR
- If we want to lead with international reach we need to re-focus

Crowder—asked Ransdell for a plain English top 5/10 budgeting priorities for the university

Crowder personally believes that our budgeting is NOT aligning with our mission

Full report will be posted on the website

Minter—ours is by far the most out of line

Dietle: Is the old budget council still in existence—the one university used to have still in existence
Reed—called in February

Dietle: Emslie: why a faculty task force but not the Budget council

Crowder hopes Emslie supports academics in the upcoming budgeting round

Emslie

- Recs from last senate., Grad Council, UCC, approved

SGA—declaring major

Colonnade courses approved

Agrees with Patti that we are important

Registrar—84,000 grades 99.7% success rate in turning in grades on time

BOR—meets, addition to coaches, Academic Affairs—3 new programs: BA criminology, emeritus
faculty, appts, ? Presentation on Green River preserve

Enrollment: Glass $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Up 69 winter enrollment 3% in absolute terms, more students are enrolling esp
freshmen and sophomores

Today's spring enrollment #s: Today in comparison to last year: 83.4% last year 83.0% our retention rate
from fall to spring is up. Not surprising because Fall student body—freshmen cohort the largest we have
ever had—full time BAs

Models: Move the movie one frame forward. Take fall picture and add standard retention rates—predict
a 400 student drop. But level funding

Identified tuition revenue we don't have to back towards the Honors College because NAVITAS numbers
144 for sure, 140 break even are needed

Until governor's speech on Tuesday we were looking good.

Admission staff is fired up to put the ship back upright—a direct quote

80,000 students with good ACT scores across the US

Campus tours ready to go

Student comes to dept wants tour—find someone

Peer advertising is important

Student Success summit—200 people there how to retain and all the wonderful opportunities we have for
students

We have a wonderful experience—spread the word so students can benefit

Universities are always at a critical juncture

Particularly critical—because we are making inroads in our academic programs

Budget challenges but opportunities as well

Commonwealth College—we are poised to be well

\$1.5mill recurring funds to address faculty compensation issues--#of faculty/student 36.1 we are doing
well

Median salary—we are not doing well

Yes we have a Budget Council, but Provost wants 1) an ad hoc group to look at the books to figure out
what we should be doing

2)Space committee—most universities have one. Right now it is Jessica Steenbergen—we need a faculty
group advising on space decisions. Space is a valuable commodity

3) recognizing faculty—like to do it with dollars, but the money is limited. We recognize 4 at university-level award, 26 college-level awards. We need to recognize and support that. Yes the university is about academics

4) Key Policy—causing consternation—wants a group to discuss the key policy and any other task force Working with SEC to establish membership on these committees

Task force est. in 2011, turned recommendations into implemented policies and procedures.

Discussed it with G. R. he was okay with this decision. IF you are interested let him know.

Minter: Follow up on Robert Dietle's question—about the internal budget council discussion. Senate elected 2 people to represent us on budget issues—Reed and Chhachhi need to be included. Budget council used to be more effective and has become a rubber stamper. Need to include those duly elected to

Emslie: Not cutting out

Minter: Ad Hoccing makes sense on retention but other issues should include the senate.

Boka

Jan 17; what can students at all universities do during these budget cuts

Planning for a rally for retention in Frankfort in late March

Additionally, having individual meetings with legislators to talk about higher ed and what can be done

Supporting CPE's current campaign for 15 hour/semesters to encourage retention

First SGA meeting Feb 4

KY student Environmental Sustainability issue

Standing Committee Reports:

Plummer: Grad Council Report—Dec 12 grad council report for approval—Approved, no opposition

Policy with no number for grad faculty—passed no opposition

UCC: Kerby for Chance-Fox. Submitted for approval as posted: Approved

AQ, FWPR, Gen Ed, Colonnade: No reports

Old Business—None

New Business

Policy 1.5170—Full Time Teaching Assignments—No discussion, Approved unanimously

Taylor first, _____second,

Information Item

Legislative Advisory Election Results—Minter

Adjourn Taylor, Hanley

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Hanley, Acting Secretary, Jan. 23, 2014