

**WKU Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting
October 5, 2015 -- 3:15 p.m.
WAB 227 - AA Large Conference Room**

A. Call To Order

1. A regular meeting of the University Senate Executive Committee was called to order by Chair Kate Hudepohl on October 5, 2015 at 3:15 P.M. in the WAB 227 conference room. A quorum was present.
2. Members in attendance were: Heidi Álvarez, Barbara Burch, Thad Crews, Susann Davis, Laura DeLancey, Marko Dumančić, Claus Ernst, Rick Grieve, Kate Hudepohl, Molly Kerby, David Lee, Jeremy Maddox, Patti Minter, Bryan Reaka, Jay Todd Richey, Julie Shadoan, Liz Sturgeon, and Adam West (for Gayle Mallinger).

B. Approve August Meeting Minutes

1. A motion to approve the August 31st meeting minutes by Bryan Reaka was seconded by Patricia Minter.
2. Patricia Minter made the following corrections to the minutes: (1.) Jeremy Maddox and Patricia Minter were both present; (2) on page 3, item c pertaining to the ombudsman, there is a “t” dropped – it should read “the” -- not “he”.
3. The minutes as amended by Dr. Minter were approved unanimously.

C. Reports

1. Chair Report (Kate Hudepohl)

a. Whistleblower Process:

- As a quick follow up from the September meeting (August 31), Chair Hudepohl said that she misunderstood the concern about the whistleblower process and the procedure for how it works when it goes to the internal auditor. It is not automatic. It wasn't that the person was identified (they had to because of the nature of the situation); it was that the procedure is opaque and there appears to be no follow through once the internal auditor refers the matter to an appropriate person for consideration. The person who brought up the question did not expect SEC to act on it. This is just to clarify.

- Vice Chair Shadoan said the process for the internal auditor is the original phone call farms it out but it never comes back to them. If there is any ambiguity, then it needs to be outlined.
- Patricia Minter said that in the 2014 April or July Board of Regents meeting, the process was outlined in Jennifer Miller's report.
- Chair Hudepohl said that the person was waiting to hear and had to contact Jennifer Miller.
- Patricia Minter said the general parameters are outlined, but in internal audits, once they come back, they might need to be outlined. This might be worth a look.
- Julie Shadoan made a motion to refer to Faculty Welfare on the process (2nd Reaka).
- Patricia Minter suggested that it be confidential.
- Julie Shadoan said that if a faculty member has an issues, they should not have to look at the Board of Regents minutes. Shouldn't it be in the handbook or on the website?
- Patricia Minter said that everyone thinks the Faculty Regent is the problem solver; everything cannot be looped back and maintain anonymity at the same time.
- There was no further discussion.
- The motion to refer to Faculty Welfare on the whistleblower process passed unanimously. This will go to Faculty Welfare only to look at the procedure.

b. Ombudsman:

- Karl Laves was not available to attend today.
- Chair Hudepohl looked at the minutes from last year and is waiting to see if he can come in November. She wants to be clear about what we are looking for. Last year, they asked for a report on general types of cases dealt with, numbers of cases, etc.

c. Administrative Salary related to change in rank:

- A question was asked: can Senate do anything about the former Provost stepping into a faculty position at a large salary?
- The salaries are not in alignment with other salaries. It is understood that it is in their contract. One person said that they heard that the college becomes responsible for the salary.
- Provost Lee clarified that colleges do not have to absorb it into their funds.
- Regent Burch said that she was also contacted about it; the President has the right to set the salary. The 9/10 conversion was the question, which is not according to current policy, but the President said he had the right to do that. The SEC would need to ask the President.

- Vice Chair Shadoan said that she asked former Provost Emslie about Gordon Baylis. He said that these are written into the contract. Regent Burch agreed and said that this is public knowledge. There is a change of contract as of July 1. Dr. Emslie was appointing salary-based and administrative-based for three deans and multiple department heads because he felt it was fairer. Regent Burch said that she was surprised that it was not changed on July 1 and brought it up. Provost Emslie brought it forth to Senate as a policy: Anyone in a position for three years could then go to faculty with 9/11 of their salary. This passed through senate unanimously.

d. Update – feedback on compensation and other spending priorities:

- Chair Hudepohl submitted names to Gil Johnson for potential one-on-one meetings. Hudepohl did not use her own personal ideas for the list. They emailed back and forth this week. Hudepohl picked an extra name for Potter and Ogden due to the size of these colleges. There is a full range of titles, including junior faculty, department chairs, adjuncts, etc.
- Each person on this list has been emailed about the possibility of a one-on-one conversation. Chair Hudepohl does not know if Mr. Johnson has contacted any of them.
- The list of names provided to Gil Johnson is as follows:
CEBS – Pam Petty
CHHS – Richard Dressler
Gordon Ford – David Zimmer
Libraries – Laura DeLancey
Ogden – David Keeling and Margaret Crowder
PCAL – Eric Reed and Patricia Minter
UC – Tucker Davis
- Faculty comments were compiled in a word document without identifiers. Vice Chair Shadoan edited the first version. Chair Hudepohl bound the copy and made copies for everyone on the budget committee. The final document showed editorial changes and summarized comment analysis.
- Gil Johnson emailed Chair Hudepohl on Friday. He will possibly set up a meeting with the Budget Finance Council in October (this week or next week). Eric Reed and Indudeep Chhachhi are two members of this committee. Some members of this committee report back to the Vice President of Finance and to the President. Chair Hudepohl hopes that Mr. Johnson will also listen to a faculty group.
- Regent Burch said that he has not yet mentioned it to the Committee.
- Chair Hudepohl said that the Budget and Finance Committee has students, faculty, and staff, along with people who report to the President and Vice President. Patricia Minter added that this committee has not met in five years. Provost Lee said that it did meet a few times, and he said he was a member of this committee. Kim Ramsely? presided over the meeting.

- Patricia Minter said that this group did not actually negotiate the budget. She is not opposed to broadening it to add other representatives, but we are really looking for concerns about the academic mission.
- Gil Johnson said he may talk about health insurance. Chair Hudepohl said that she will send the compiled comments from May.
- Regent Burch said that Chair Hudepohl did a good job.
- Chair Hudepohl said that she realized after the first read through that it indicated it would only be shown to the Board of Regents. She does not feel that she can share that document.

e. Insurance:

- Someone was concerned about the fact that department heads were contacted about those who did not complete their wellness. A faculty member also found out who else in the department did not complete it. This should be confidential; it is personal information.
- Claus Ernst suggested directing it to a faculty member on the Benefits Committee. In terms of this effort, it is a two-sided issue. Several people don't read their email. This is to help prevent an increase in their premium. Effort was made to contact everyone. If there is a problem with it going too far, then this should be brought up.
- Vice Chair Shadoan said that it is a HEPA violation, so it needs to be brought up.
- Claus Ernst was aware that individuals would be contacted but did not know Department Chairs would be involved. He is still in favor of Human Resources contacting individuals. He said he will bring it up at the next committee meeting and will report back.

f. Prayer Resolution Response:

- The President felt that Policy 0.0271 addressed the resolution.
- Patricia Minter asked if SGA is satisfied that this policy addresses it.
- Jay Todd Richey said not necessarily what they believe is in the best interest of the university. They are more interested in being compliant with the law. SGA has looked at numerous Supreme Court rulings.
- Patricia Minter said that the non-sectarian part is not what either body approved.

g. Sturgis:

- The electronic copy of Sturgis is not the most recent edition.
- It is illegal to put the entire book on the Senate website or shared drive.

- Chair Hudepohl will buy hard copies for the Curriculum Committee or Chairs of standing committees.
- A question was asked about how formal the meetings are. The Curriculum Committee is very formal.
- The cost is \$14 per copy and it can be passed on.
- Chair Hudepohl plans to buy three hard copies, and might consider putting it on the shared drive.

h. Senate Budget/Carry Forward:

- In reference to the budget carry forward, Chair Hudepohl asked Provost Lee if there are ways to make faculty/staff lives easier when dealing with it; do we want to do something creative with the carry forward, such as conference travel for this year? It is \$11,000 and will go once it is gone.
- Dr. Lee said he will not be taking any of the Senate carry forward money.
- Vice Chair Shadoan asked where the money comes from.
- Regent Burch said that it comes from Academic Affairs and was created to give money to function.
- Vice Chair Shadoan said that this used to come out of the President's budget.
- Regent Burch suggested that the Senate might want to hang on to it rather than give it away.
- Chair Hudepohl said that there is not much wiggle room. \$800 was used for software, Sturgis copies, etc. The Registrar's/Provost's office had one employee who was paid for the UCC Secretary job. The President used to pay for Senate beverages and does not any more.
- Patricia Minter said that UK and U of L send leaders to conferences. She added that this would allow officers to interact on a national level.
- Other ideas included Preston Center, tuition dollars, vacation days for staff.
- Claus Ernst said that there is not enough money to give away for travel, and suggested keeping it.
- Chair Hudepohl stated that the Senate office location is not secure.

i. Confucius Institute Issue (Martha Day and Lynn Hines):

- Chair Hudepohl attended four formal meetings about this issue. The first one was the first day of the SEC (August 17). Two faculty members, Martha Day and Lynn Hines, spoke with Julie Shadoan and Barbara Burch and specifically asked if Senate could examine this issue. They traveled to the Confucius Institute in August and have

traveled previously with the Confucius Institute. There were a few issues with the August 2015 trip to China. WKU procedures in place were possibly not followed. Protocol was not followed. There were issues with theft of intellectual property. The FBI got involved to examine the situation. An electronic copy material was taken and Malware was deliberately introduced. The next time it was plugged in, it punched a hold that connects it to the internet. Once problems arose, other ones came up. Chair Hudepohl has attended four formal meetings on this now with various people (Faculty members, FBI, President Ransdell, legal council, Paul Mooney). Day and Hines shared the situation with Senate for possible action; specifically, in terms of notifying Senate, issues that could be explored include: (1) publicizing the issue so that future faculty/students traveling with/for the Confucius Institute are prepared in advance (ie. guard all electronic devices at all times; or, better yet, take absolutely no electronic devices to the country); (2) issue of being reimbursed for expenses (as of mid-September, this still had not happened); (3) Question whether there needs to be an external audit/examination of the WKU Confucius Institute, its activities and procedures generally and in terms of this ordeal; and (4) to find other recommendations (such as referring to standing committees to invite them to state their concerns).

- The faculty members have not been reimbursed for their expenses.
- Day and Hines are concerned about future faculty going on these trips. This also happened three years ago, and they were completely unaware. A procedure needs to be put in place and people need to know.
- They are concerned with reimbursement for expenses and about an external auditor looking into the Confucius Institute to investigate.
- A grievance was filed.
- It appears it was the intent before they left campus. Martha Day was having problems with her thumb drive while teaching. The thumb drive was taken by someone and they took it down the hall. There was an execute file on the thumb drive; someone deliberately loaded it – thirteen files with the same name. This happened on site at the University where they were supposed to be teaching.
- Bryan Reaka made a motion to refer this issue to Faculty Welfare and Academic Quality (2nd Shadoan).
- Patricia Minter said that she has so many concerns. She would like a more specific charge with guidance from the SEC. She is astonished that the FBI is involved. Senate does not have this kind of power; she wants to modify for a stronger charge. For example, regarding academic freedom, were policies followed that are in place? Is the charge to inform faculty or to cover the university?

- Chair Hudepohl agreed that the senate does not have the same power as the FBI. Once it is set loose, there is no telling how it will be understood. She asked the SEC for recommendations.
- Someone mentioned that people might be discouraged from registering international travel with Paul Mooney. Kate Hudepohl said she was initially suspicious, but that Paul Mooney has been wonderful. Patricia Minter added that we were told that we had to register or we would not be paid.
- Laura DeLancey said that the committee can decide if there are issues with transparency and previous complaints.
- This ruined the connections that they [Day and Hines] had with their teachers.
- One person stated that they do not feel we should be involved with the Confucius Institute, and added, what if Martha had not have noticed?
- Chair Hudepohl said she does not want to tie the hands of the committee.
- Claus Ernst said he is puzzled and does not know how Senate can get involved. With any device, if you give it to someone else, there is no control over what happens. He suggested that IT could make a list of “don’t do” for travelers.
- Chair Hudepohl clarified that someone TOOK the thumb drive to another room (she did not give it to them).
- Procedure and protocol, how to safeguard your device, triggers are that when you apply for the travel commission (filling out the online form), then you get an email from Paul Mooney. You have to apply as a university employee.
- It was lasered out – the trip with the Confucius Institute and Hanban.
- The WKU Confucius Institute told them not to apply.
- Is this an issue of working with the Confucius Institute or is it isolated?
- Provost Emslie made a set of policies about foreign travel. The issue was who are we protecting? It did both: indemnifying the university and also the faculty. None of these safeguards were in place.
- Someone commented that not being fully informed is an issue.
- Regent Burch said the concern is involved in work for the university, policies and procedures were not followed.
- Adam West asked what the end goal is.
- Chair Hudepohl said a recommendation on transparency for future faculty and staff. This incident also involved illness and emails being altered to change the look of the story (changes were made by WKU Confucius Institute personnel).
- Julie Shadoan said that faculty are not required to do this (create a database for Mooney to share with faculty). She said there was an

incident three years ago that involved the President's laptop. She suggested having a policy in place to keep this from being done.

- Bryan Reaka said that he wanted to modify his original motion - refer to the Faculty Welfare committee to look at previous issues with international travel and to make it available to the faculty, and to suggest/make sure faculty are protected by following policies that are in place. Patricia Minter said that this can be addressed without a fact-finding committee. She asked at what point was the policy not followed? This can point out weaknesses in the system to make sure that the university and faculty members are protected.
- Faculty members should be briefed before the trip about potential intellectual property violation.
- It was suggested that in discussion of this, it is a good idea to invite the actual faculty members [Day and Hines] so that the facts are straight.
- There was an attempt to get information before they even left the campus. After arriving in the country, a handler took the thumb drive and it was never seen again. Martha's was taken while she was in the middle of a classroom – it was taken. The FBI confirmed this.
- Patricia Minter reiterated that a more specific parameter (not to find facts or assign blame) is needed for the committees. It does involve the rights and responsibilities of faculty members without judgment – we need to inform what could happen. She urged the SEC to charge the committees carefully. Are safeguards in place if they were deliberately not followed by the Confucius Institute employees of the university?
- Jeremy Maddox said if an employee does not follow it, then it is not necessarily the fault of the university.
- Bryan Reaka made a friendly amendment to his original motion.
- Discussion on wording of the motion took place. The final motions were:
- Motion #1 with friendly amendment by Bryan Reaka (2nd Susann Davis): that the Faculty Welfare committee look at policies and procedures dealing with disclosures of information about previous issues stemming from international travel or study abroad by university personnel and students.
- There was no more discussion on motion #1 (Faculty Welfare).
- Motion #1 with friendly amendment (academic quality committee) passed unanimously.
- Motion #2 with friendly amendment by Bryan Reaka (2nd Patricia Minter): that the Academic Quality committee look at policies and procedures concerning disclosures of information on security of intellectual property issues stemming from international travel or study abroad by university personnel and students.
- Patricia Minter said that this situation involves both work life issues and academic quality issues. This provides a more complete picture.

- There was no more discussion on motion #2 (academic quality).
- Motion #2 (academic quality) passed unanimously with friendly amendment.

2. Vice Chair Report (Julie Shadoan)

a. [Faculty Mentoring Award Committee](#)

- The committees are posted. Julie Shadoan made a motion to approve the nominees as posted in the link (2nd Reaka). The list of nominees was approved unanimously.
- Vice Chair Shadoan noted that the language for populating committees is unclear and she would like to make the elected appointments and terms clearer in the future.
- There are other committees that need to be populated (Academic Complaint, Advisory Committee, Faculty Grievance, Faculty Award, Benefits (Reames's term expires in January and needs to be replaced), Health Services Advisory Council).
- A motion to approve Tonya Bragg from CHHS for the Health Services Advisory Council by Marko Dumančić was seconded by Bryan Reaka. Patricia Minter noted that this is a SGA amendment; the Health Services oversight committee watches quality control. Following a vote, the Tonya Bragg was approved as a member of the Health Services Advisory Council.
- Rhonda Patterson was appointed in May for the Parking and Transportation Committee. Three more members are needed.
- Prof. Ed. Council
- A motion to add Layla Zhuhadar to the Student Research Board by Jeremy Maddox was seconded by Marko Dumančić. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Vice Chair Shadoan will send an email with all vacancies this week.

4. Secretary

- No report.

4. Committee Chair Reports

a. [Academic Quality Committee \(Jeremy Maddox\): Attached](#)

- The committee gave feedback about SITE evaluations. The committee did not feel anything could change.
- CPE is in the final stages of planning for 2015-2020. Issues to discuss in depth should wait until November, because nothing is set in stone.
- Assessment strategies
- Jeremy Maddox made a motion to send the report forward to Senate.

- Patricia Minter stated that the SITE evaluations are administered far too early in the semester; the link is being sent to students in week eight. She asked Provost Lee if this date could be moved later. Provost Lee responded that he plans to follow up.
- Jay Todd Richey asked if Senate is interested in having President King come to WKU to speak about the 2015 Plan of Action. Chair Hudepohl, Regent Burch, and Jeremy Maddox responded that yes, they are interested in this.
- The motion to sent the Academic Quality Committee meeting report on to Senate passed unanimously.

b. [Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee \(Patti Minter\): Attached](#)

- Patricia Minter made a motion to send the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee report on to Senate, with one action item to be taken care of first.
- The Committee unanimously decided that for autonomy reasons, financial reasons, and the expertise in the room, the Faculty Work Life Survey will remain in the hands of the Committee. In the next six months, the Committee will be looking at survey design and a long-term five-year report and trend line.
- The Title 9 Committee motion of membership was tabled indefinitely.
- Services were offered to the Benefits Committee for compensation, benefits, etc.
- Following the report, Dr. Minter brought forth the Action Item by Lauren McClain, a motion to endorse the creation of an active shooter training for WKU employees. There is little knowledge of what we would do. This item passed unanimously in the Faculty Welfare Committee. Laura DeLancey made a motion to endorse the Faculty Welfare Committee's study of creating/instituting an active shooter training program at WKU, including best practices and benchmark institutions. The motion was seconded by Bryan Reaka. Reaka agreed that WKU was underprepared last time. The three Regents were quieted about it. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Patricia Minter made a motion for approval of the whole report and the approved action item to go forward to Senate. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Budget and Finance Committee (Claus Ernst): No Report

- Claus Ernst said that he would like to get an overview of the budget since Gary Ransdell's appointment (% academics, % athletics, % salaries, etc.) and see what the timeline is like.
- Regent Burch asked if the committee has discussed benefits for health.

- Claus Ernst responded that the data for this year will be in February/March. The study of premiums for next year is basically done; they have to be set long in advance. The cost share split between WKU and employees is 70/30. This includes anything paid that is registered through the plan. This number will not change. We won't know this before March.
- Regent Burch asked if the committee gave consideration to the reports from last year.
- Claus Ernst said, yes, the report from last year was discussed. With the realities of money, the question is can changes be made without incurring additional cost? Claus Ernst added that he thinks President Ransdell has accepted that there will not be any changes for next year.
- Regent Burch suggested that the Committee should follow up with the President on any commitments that were made last year (ie. Beverly Siegrist's data on bariatric surgery as a benefit).
- Patricia Minter asked about allergy shots. Claus Ernst said this is difficult to do with the PPO/Saver plans because all cannot be treated the same.
- Claus Ernst said that there is no new money and no resources to add a lot of things to the plan.
- There are specific grievances and to have 75 people vote, hers used bariatric surgery as an example, but people are looking for additional changes.
- Claus Ernst said that the Benefits Committee feels since there is no new money, more changes cannot be made.
- Regent Burch said that the Board Members were surprised at the shared cost with employer. In the "real world," employees pay much more; they implied that we don't live in a real world.
- Claus Ernst said that 70/30 is the number, and plan changes should not change this. When you add whatever you pay out of pocket, it is very much an industry standard. He added that this is below the benchmark standard.

d. [Colonnade General Education Committee \(Marko Dumančić\): Attached](#)

- Marko Dumančić stated that the Committee met on September 22 to consider six courses. Two were approved.
- Three hundred students are caught between programs. The committee is looking at making substitutions for students who leave and come back, especially non-traditional students.
- The second policy refers to the process to determine non-native English speakers, which includes exempting in a fair and equitable fashion.
- There is a bottleneck with Connections classes; Marko Dumančić urged the faculty to apply for Colonnade status.

- There is an effort to increase transparency of Colonnade, especially online.
- Only one Colonnade course has been rejected.
- Marko Dumančić made a motion for approval of the report (2nd DeLancey).
- Bryan Reaka asked about DCF 360 “rubric will be developed.” He asked if this is common practice.
- Marko Dumančić responded that there was no Assessment Coordinator. Rubrics are not difficult to construct if the standards are clear; this will go retroactive for courses that are already developed. Developing a generic rubric will happen after the Assessment Coordinator is selected. The rubrics will be applied retroactively.
- The AG course Intro to Environmental Science has the same title as 280. The courses are equivalent. The AG course has to go through to make sure.
- There was no more discussion.
- The motion for inclusion of action items and the senate report on the agenda passed unanimously.

e. Graduate Council (Molly Kerby for Kurt Neelly): Attached

i. [May 2015 Report](#)

ii. [September 2015 Report](#)

- Molly Kerby made a motion to approve the May 2015 and September 2015 Graduate Council reports as a bundle (2nd Reaka).
- The Graduate Council report passed unanimously.

f. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee \(Liz Sturgeon\): Attached](#)

- Liz Sturgeon stated that the UCC met on September 24, and that she is submitting the attached items with a motion to approve the report. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Advisory Reports

a. Faculty Regent (Regent Burch)

- The Board of Regents held its committee meetings on 9/25/15.

The BOR Finance and Budget Committee Report:

- (1) personnel actions;
- (2) audit reports;

- (3) GASB 68 Implementation, which involves a new accounting requirement to incorporate each institution's share of the liability in state pension funds. (WKU's share of KTRS/KERS liability is \$402 million). This does not mean WKU has to pay it, but just changes the numbers on the bottom line for the institution.
- (4) Regent Gil Johnson shared with the members of the Finance and Budget Committee the results of the meeting he held on August 28 with faculty and staff leadership, and indicated he plans to meet with additional faculty.

The BOR Academic Affairs Committee Report:

- (1) the New Physical Therapy Department was created.
- (2) Provost Lee introduced the new Emeriti appointments.
- (3) There was a discussion of the Academic Program Review Process.
- (4) Dr. Brian Meredith gave an Enrollment Report: Enrollment is flat compared to fall 2014 (we are down 32 students). Since 2013, there has been an overall decrease of 5% -- 978 students (21, 124 to 20,146). The actual numbers will not be in until the census is in (October) – this number does not necessary equate revenue. Revenue may be more important to consider than actual numbers, and given the increase in dual credits (@11% increase from 1,657 to 1,832), these do not represent regular tuition dollars. First-time full-time freshman (FTFTF) is up by 43 students. More students are graduating on time (but they are also not staying here as long, so that means less money coming in). There is an increase in transfer students and an increase in students entering with pre-earned college credits. Many exceptional efforts are being undertaken on the part of the admissions staff. There was a report distributed on the incoming class quality, success, and additional areas to note.
- (5) The meeting of the Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship took place and most of the Regents attended this conference. The program was excellent. Some of the highlights included:
 - (A) *Teaching Naked: How Moving Technology Out of Your College Classroom Will Improve Student Learning*, a book by Jose Antonio Bowen (winner of the Ness award for best book in higher education in 2013), is a good case for the QEP and why technology is so terrific outside and in the classroom. He says the best uses of technology are outside the classroom. He reinforced the importance of inside the classroom as an opportunity to engage active learning, to hone critical thinking skills, to improve student engagement and success, and to be more nimble.

- (B) A presentation on the Kentucky Postsecondary Website by Dr. Robert L. King, CPE President, *Shaping Postsecondary Education Policy and Practice from 2016-2020*.
- There was some very interesting and relevant information about PSE attainment in Kentucky.
- 40% of working-age Americans hold an associates degree or higher (33% in Kentucky). Kentucky ranks 44th nationally.
- 63% of all jobs in Kentucky (65% nationally) will require some form of PSE or training.
- There are many statistics on the benefits of PSE, and strides have been made in Kentucky.
- From 2000-2009, Kentucky was ranked first in improvement in six-year graduation rates at state universities. Since the funding cut in 2010, Kentucky is ranked 41st.
- From 2000-2009, Kentucky was ranked second in improvement of 25-44 year olds with Associate or higher degrees; since the funding cut in 2010, Kentucky is ranked 24th.
- From 2000-2009, Kentucky was ranked 3rd in improvement in three-year graduation rates at KCTCS; since the budget cuts in 2010, Kentucky is ranked 44th.
- In terms of budget cuts of state (% of cuts in state support in 2014-2015), Kentucky tied with West Virginia (an average of -2% cut), as the two states taking the greatest percentage cuts.
- Dr. King presented the DRAFT Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. This is on the Website and makes performance indicators clear. It is a terrific case for the impact of the budget cuts in Kentucky.
- Further information with the full report and presentations is available on the Kentucky Post-Secondary Education website under 2015 Governor's Conference. Dr. King's report is entitled *Shaping Postsecondary Education Policy and Practice from 2016-2020*. Please look at the full report.
- (6) New scholarship criteria was reviewed. It is designed to include more students and to stay within the budgeted amount for the year. This plan should enable giving scholarship money to more students.

The BOR Executive Committee Report:

- The naming of designated rooms in the new Honors/International Building and several Athletic building areas was approved.
- The report *Faculty Feedback on Compensation*, compiled by Dr. Kate Hudepohl (Chair of the University Senate), was shared.
- Regarding the Confucius Institute Resolution from the University Senate (see bulleted items below):
- Chair Higdon sent the resolution to the BOR Executive Committee for review (he also sent it to all of the Board members.)

- The review materials included:
 - a. the University Senate Resolution as printed in the SEC minutes as of August 12, 2015;
 - b. the Bylaws of the WKU Board of Regents; and
 - c. A memorandum from the Board of Regents Parliamentarian Randy Capps and University General Counsel Deborah Wilkins.
 - There was no discussion on the Resolution, except to announce that the matter was considered closed.
 - The rationale included in the memorandum from the Parliamentarian and Legal Counsel was as follows:
 1. Reconsideration would be in violation of the Board Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order;
 2. The request for proposals has been let and expenses have already been incurred; and
 3. Reconsideration of a vote, under any circumstances, but particularly the current circumstances, will likely result in doubt or uncertainty as to:
 - a. The Board's commitment to its Bylaws and/or Code of Ethics;
 - b. The ability or authority of university officials to enter into contracts on behalf of the university; and
 - c. Contractors' and vendors' willingness to commit, even when a particular matter has been approved by the Board, for fear approval will be withdrawn at a later date.
 - Note: the President announced that he intends to secure the maintenance and operations funding, from the Chinese Hanban, for the building for the entire term of the contract for fifty years. He anticipates getting this in December 2015.
 - Additional information: The Regents were updated on the major ruling issued related to compensation of student athletes.
 - a. The President indicated that WKU will join Conference-USA peers in offering the full cost of attendance to scholarship athletes beginning next year.
 - b. The campus financial aid staff follows guidelines in calculating the full cost of attendance for the campus.
 - c. WKU's will be approximately \$2,500 per scholarship athlete (some are partial, so there would be variation).
 - d. The Athletic Director is working with Hilltopper Athletic Foundation in a private fund raising effort to raise as much of this added cost as possible.
 - Patricia Minter asked what happens when the money for this plan cannot be raised? Regent Burch said she did not know. Patricia Minter asked if we can find out if this was done with a vote of the Athletic Committee? Regent Burch said she will find out.
- b. Academic Affairs (Provost Lee)

- There have been discussions about CPE and upcoming performance metrics.
- Eric Reed was named the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies until June 30. A formal search will take place in the Spring.
- The Potter College Dean search will start next week. It will be a national search, and Provost Lee hopes to see it completed by February.

D. Old Business:

E. New Business:

F. Information Items:

1. [President Ransdell response to Prayer Policy Resolution](#)
 - a. [SGA Prayer Policy Resolution endorsed by University Senate on May 14, 2015](#)
2. [University Senate Budget](#)
3. [Information about Ombudsman from SEC meeting minutes](#)

A motion to adjourn by Bryan Reaka was seconded by Liz Sturgeon. The meeting adjourned at 5:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Álvarez, Secretary