

**Western Kentucky University**  
**University Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 17, 2016**  
**3:45 p.m.**  
**Faculty House**

**A. Call to Order**

- 1. A regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order by Chair Kate Hudepohl on Thursday, November 17 at 3:48 P.M.**
- 2. A quorum was present:**
  - a. Members Present:** Heidi Álvarez, Audrey Anton, Frahad Ashrafzadeh, D'Lee Babb, Jim Berger, Pamela Chandler, Thad Crews, Jerry Daday, Laura DeLancey, Claus Ernst, Keri Esslinger, Travis Esslinger, Ann Ferrell, Marilyn Gardner, Dominique Gumirakiza, Timothy Hawkins, Anne Heintzman, Lynn Hines, Don Hoover, Gary Houchins, Kate Hudepohl, Grayson Hunt, Jarrett Johnson, Pam Jukes, Molly Kerby, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Stephen King, Eric Kondratieff, David Lee Fenghelen Liang, Jeremy Maddox, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marston, Lauren McClain, Richard C. Miller, Patricia Minter, April Murphy, Yvonne Petkus, Leslie Plumlee, Shura Pollatsek, Beth Pyle, Tiffany Robinson, Julie Shadoan, Matt Shake, Sandy Staebell, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Shannon Vaughan, Adam West, Aaron Wichman, Dawn Garrett Wright, and Zhonghang Xia.
  - b. Substitutes Present:** Michael Carini for Keith Andrew, Jean Neils-Strunjas for Barbara Brindle, Pat Kamkesis for Jill Brown, Danita Kelley for Neale Chumbler, Michelangelo Zapata for Susann Davis, Angela Jerome for Jennifer Walton-Hanley, Imelda Bratton for Andrea Jenkins, Dan Forrest for Katherine Pennavaria, and Stacy Bibelhauser for Melloney Simerly.
  - c. Guests Present who signed in:** Amber Scott Belt, Sylvia Gaiko, and Monica Kast.
  - d. Members Absent:** Lori Alexander, David Bell, Barbara Burch, Fred DeGraves, Lisa Duffin, Marko Dumančić, Ali Er, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Dennis George, Dean Jordan, Jeffrey Katz, James Line, Ling Lo, Joshua Marble, Edmund Martelli, Doug McElroy, Mac McKerral, Sharon Mutter, Hannah Neeper, Matt Pruitt, Gary Ransdell, Bryan Reaka, Jeffrey Rice, Jay Todd Richey, Dale Rigby, Michael Smith, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Stevens, Fred Stickle, Dana Sullivan, Dick Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Tanya Vincent, Maribeth Wilson, Paul Woosley, and Jie Zhang.

## **B. Approve October Minutes**

1. A motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes by Molly Kerby was seconded by Marilyn Gardner.
2. Pam Jukes made a friendly amendment to state that she was present at the meeting in October (she was left off by accident).
3. There was no additional discussion regarding the minutes.
4. The posted October 2016 University Senate Minutes were approved unanimously as amended to include Pam Jukes as present.

## **C. Officer Reports:**

### **1. Chair – Kate Hudepohl**

- a. Chair Hudepohl is looking at creative ways to get administrative support for committee work; this was brought up at the Senate Executive Committee meeting.
- b. Senate Budget: LaDonna Hunton will give the numbers from last year and this year in the December meeting.
- c. President Ransdell's response to amending Policy 0.2040 is included in the information section of this meeting (section H of these minutes). He endorsed it to have more inclusive language.
- d. Student Government Association President Jay Todd Richey sent his report electronically and it will circle back to this item (Policy 0.2040).

### **2. Vice Chair – Julie Shadoan**

- a. The results of the handbook election are in. Patricia Minter and Laura Moore were elected. Ron Mitchell is finishing Dana Bradley's term. Les Pesterfield is also serving.
- b. The new Academic Complaint Committee members are : Harkins, Jenkins, Higginbotham. Alternates are M. Pruitt, H. Marchionda, and A. Yoho.
- c. Several vacancies still exist; an email was sent out again this afternoon and there were some volunteers this time.

### **3. Secretary – Heidi Álvarez (No Report)**

## **D. Committee Reports and Recommendations:**

### **1. Graduate Council: Shannon Vaughn (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)**

- Shannon Vaughn made a motion to endorse the October Graduate Council Report with a friendly amendment. The changes that were made through the process were not included in the final document but were already agreed on in graduate council.
- Shannon Vaughn made a friendly amendment to accept the report as amended. She then went on to explain what these changes were. The graduate council agreed to all of the edits but they were not included in the posted document.
- Shannon Vaughn made a motion to include the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Angie Jerome.
- Dr. Roberts was present at the meeting to answer any questions. There were no questions.
- The Graduate Council report passed unanimously as amended.
- Shannon Vaughn will send it by tomorrow with the edits.

### **2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Liz Sturgeon (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)**

- Liz Sturgeon made a motion for approval of the October 27 UCC meeting report.
- There was no discussion.
- The report was passed unanimously and approved as posted.

### **3. Colonnade General Education Committee: Marko Dumančić (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)**

- Tim Hawkins (standing in for Marko Dumančić) made a motion to approve the October Colonnade General Education Committee report.
- There was no discussion.
- The report was approved unanimously.

**4. Academic Quality: (No Report)**

**5. Budget and Finance Committee: (No Report)**

**6. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility: Patti Minter (Report posted)**

- The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee has no items for voting, but Patricia Minter said she is happy to entertain any questions or comments.
- Lauren McClain added a point to the active shooter training; the mandatory training will not happen. Those trained to offer training are taking requests at this time. McClain said she would like to see the Senators have their departments request this training so it can get out to many people.
- Student Government Association will sponsor forums and a Master Plan event. They are also requesting a training at branch campuses.
- The training will not be mandatory but McClain wants to see as many departments as possible request it.
- Shura Pollatsek said that people will want to know the length. Lauren McClain responded that it is an hour. The video is on the website (“Run by Fight” and can be looked up in the search bar under “violence prevention.” The training is more involved than the video.
- Patricia Minter said that information on who to contact to schedule will be in the next report.
- Aaron Wichman said he feels that security is a complex issue and thinks we should go after other risks first.
- Molly Kerby asked what the methodology for the research project for gender inequity is.
- Patricia Minter said that the committee will be developing this tomorrow; there is a list of things to look at and she is open to suggestions. She is happy to share this but does not have it now.
- Lauren McClain said that the quantitative data from institutional research will take in account variables that cause difference in salary.

## **7. Faculty Handbook Committee: Margaret Crowder (No Report)**

## **8. Ad Hoc Committee of Senate Charter Revisions: (Draft Posted - 1st Reading)**

- Motion at October 2016 SEC meeting for the Senate Executive Committee to serve as the Committee as a whole to propose changes to and to revise the Senate Charter.
- Chair Hudepohl gave the background. Smaller colleges and libraries do not have substantial numbers to populate committees. This came up at SEC to deal with adjusting these numbers. The motion made in the October 2016 SEC was for the SEC to serve as a committee of the whole to make these revisions.
- She then explained how charter revisions work. The first reading has no voting. Any amendments made come around twice. The second reading requires a vote on the charter. If no changes are made today, the vote will take place at the December senate meeting. The vote requires a 2/3 majority. Any changes will restart the process; it goes back to the ad-hoc committee and restarts the process.
- **Three areas to address:**
  - 1) **Membership of at-large senators (from May 2016 motion requesting consideration of low #s in some colleges)**
- The first change is related to membership of at-large senators from May 2016. On page 2 of the posted charter, Julie Shadoan said that because of lower numbers of faculty in University College, Gordon Ford, and the Libraries, that some faculty are overcommitted on committees. To rectify this, Shadoan asked last May for senate to consider a revision of the charter. Every college should have a proportionate number on committees. 11% automatically puts in an increase. This is why the other language is at the bottom.
- Jerry Daday asked if this means the size of senate will grow, and if so, how big will it get?
- Julie Shadoan said that the numbers fluctuate each year. Three additional for the library means that everyone else will grow as well. It is an automatic growth.
- Jerry Daday said he thinks it will affect the at-large elections. Is there another way to get representatives on these committees without blowing up the numbers on senate?
- Julie Shadoan said that this depends on fires, hires, retirements, etc.
- Patricia Minter said that on the numbers we have now, it will be about 10+ -- it will be proportional representation as is the spirit of the charter.

- Chair Hudepohl said that it is important to have representation on all committees and we are trying to help those who have to serve on multiple committees.
- Jerry Daday suggested that there may be too many standing committees.
- Chair Hudepohl stated that on page 2 under #6, the typo was fixed.

**2) Issue of GC standing committee chair (issue from 2015 charter revision that was agreed to but missed in charter revisions)**

- The last time we had a charter change was when Margaret Crowder was the Senate Chair. Graduate Council was brought back in as a committee of the University Senate. The elected chair of the Graduate Council was meant to automatically be a member of the University Senate. Potentially, the Committee could have only a few senators. Language is being added on page 13 to acknowledge that the Chair of the Graduate Council will automatically be a member of the University Senate.
- Page 15 clarifies that regarding chairs of committees, members of senate have to be chosen as committee chairs, except for Graduate Council, who will become a member of the University Senate.

**3) Terms of office for complaint committee (issue identified by both Shadoan and Miller)**

- Page 19 was discussed in detail by Richard Miller and Julie Shadoan and relates to how the University Academic Complaint Committee is populated. It is cumbersome to populate every year. Now it will be every other year, starting this coming spring. Beginning then, it will become a two-year term.
- There were no questions on the first reading of the charter revisions.
- It will not go back to the SEC and it will have its second reading in December.
- There were no proposed amendments or comments.

**E. New Business**

- There was no new business from the floor.

**F. University Senate Leadership Reports**

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

- Molly Kerby gave a report on The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education.
- At ECU, programs are being threatened.
- WKU is sharing the responsibility of uploading documents on the website.
- Meetings are open.
- Molly Kerby will send out changes to the website.
- In sharing information, Kerby is hoping we can all support each other.

**2. AAUP representative - Margaret Crowder (No report.)**

**G. Advisory Reports:**

**1. Faculty Regent – Barbara Burch (No report).**

**2. Provost – David Lee**

- Provost Lee said that interviews are taking place for the Dean of Graduate Studies; one was today.
- Provost Lee addressed that it is a tense time in higher education. This is likely not the end of it and there will be tense times going forward.
- The Office of International Enrollment had a forum on Tuesday. Students asked questions about deportation and inquired about the electoral college. Provost Lee took away that faculty and staff are doing hard work on our campus to make it a welcoming place. Provost Lee expressed appreciation to the faculty for their tone and tenor at this time. He thanked the faculty for their conscientious efforts to make the campus tone what we want it to be. He asked the faculty to stay in touch with him about their concerns.
- Chair Hudepohl asked about the enrollment numbers that we shared at the Senate Executive Committee meeting. Provost Lee responded that there is no update. The Herald may have covered. The numbers may not be completely accurate. Overall total enrollment is up due to dual credit enrollment. Dual credit students pay less per credit hour. In terms of students with a tuition bill, that number is down; it is possible we will miss our tuition revenue goal. Two numbers are worth pointing to: (1) first-time full-

time student number are up by 71, which is encouraging; (2) there is an increase of 100 in first-year graduate students. This suggests in recruiting they will be here a few years and he sees it as progress.

- Soleiman Kiasatpour asked about if the international students feel with the tension that the United States is not as welcoming to outsiders. Much of this recruiting is done through word of mouth; in expressing to their communities, do they feel things are changing and they are not as welcomed? Provost Lee got a sense of concern but not alarm. A number of folks have gone out of their way to show that this is still a welcoming community. He feels it will continue to be positive but thinks we should stay in close touch with these students.
- Audrey Anton asked if there is a good script we ought to say when the students asked if they are going to be deported? Can we reference to their rights? Can we give them information? Provost Lee said that our international students are in the country legally and will not be deported. He cannot speak to any new laws that might happen going down the road. WKU will do all they can to help those students.
- Dominique Gumirakiza asked what the strategies are for these students going forward? Provost Lee said that we are down 200 for this year but are still in line with previous years. International enrollment is through word of mouth. The best thing we can do is to be supportive listeners and to provide services that these students need. We need to make sure they have a good academic and personal experience. If the support from international governments changes, there is not much we can do about that.
- Provost Lee said he will give a talk on the history of Thanksgiving at the Thanksgiving dinner for international students next week.

### **3. SGA President – Jay Todd Richey (report attached.)**

- Jay Todd Richey was not present at the meeting but his report is attached.
- Chair Hudepohl pointed out a few things:
- The Student Government Association Safe Space will be open longer hours. Josh from SGA said it will be open until 8:00 or 9:00.
- There is a new, temporary initiative called SafeWalk, where students can simply call (270) 261-9831 and be immediately connected with a student if they need someone to walk with them on campus, regardless of the location. The phone number is on the website. Anyone feeling threatened can call and have students walk with them. Chair Hudepohl said that she is proud of what the students are doing. Josh said that any student can volunteer. The Director will meet with the students to set them up.

- Chair Hudepohl said she will bring up if there is anything we can do to reach out to students; perhaps this can happen at the departmental level, but she wants to talk about this.
- Aaron Wichman said that public statements can control behavior and that we should make it clear what is acceptable and expected.
- Chair Hudepohl said that the Gender and Women's Studies have all of the safe spaces on campus on their webpage and it is important to talk about.

#### **H. Information Items**

1. President Ransdell Response to Rec. #2016\_10\_05 Motion to Amend Policy 0.2040

#### **I. Motion to Adjourn**

1. A motion to adjourn by Molly Kerby was seconded by Marilyn Gardner.
2. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Heidi Álvarez, Secretary**