

Proposal for a WKU University Senate Budget

The current university senate budget is \$5,885.17 in the WKU 2016/7 budget (200027).

Most of this is spend on the recorder and food services for meetings leaving very little for anything else.

It is a long-standing complaint (going back to the founding the University senate) that his budget is inadequate. For almost all functions the WKU University Senate relies on volunteers who take on additional workload above the regular duties of their jobs. It is an unreasonable expectation to conduct business essential to the university using volunteers that are not compensated at all. What other functions equality essential to the university operate on such a shoestring budget? It is in the interest of the university to have a senate that is well run and attracts the best faculty to take leadership roles within faculty governance.

Proposal to fully fund the WKU University Senate

In addition to current funds in the budget the following items should be funded:

1. Funds for course releases

Chair - one course per semester

Chair of the UCC - one course per semester

Vice chair - one course per academic year

Secretary - one course per academic year

Chair of the graduate council - one course per academic year

For each course release the equivalent of a summer course stipend (at least \$6000) should be budgeted. The funds should be available either as a stipend to the officers to supplement their salary or this stipend will be given to the department for a course release. Whether to choose the salary supplement or the release time option is up to negotiation between the officers and their departments.

2. A full time staff position should be created to support senate activities such as:

- Keeping minutes of meetings of the senate committees
- Maintaining the senate web pages
- Collecting/checking/distributing course/program/policy proposals submitted to the curricular committees.
- Creating a senate newsletter

This person should be working directly for the senate officers. A graduate or undergraduate student is not adequate for these tasks since the turnover rate of graduate students is very high - at best a graduate student would last 2 years, but often it would only be one year.