

Western Kentucky University
University Senate
Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting Minutes
15 October 2018, 3:15 p.m.
Helm 108B

A) Call to order

- A regular meeting of the SEC was called to order by Chair Kirk Atkinson at 3:15.
- Members present (substitute): all members present
- Guests present: Amber Belt, Assistant to the Provost; James Baugh; Tori Wilbraham

B) Approve September 2018 minutes

- J. Berger motioned to approve. S. Davis seconded. Unanimous approval.

C) Officer reports

• **Chair – Kirk Atkinson**

1. Tori Wilbraham (HURON) group sitting in today as a guest. No presentation today, but they are going to present (Q&A) at the October Faculty Senate meeting.
2. Attending Texas Senate meeting on 26-27 Oct (south region / national council for university senates)
3. Dr. Phillip Bale (Chairman of Board of Regents) will be at November Senate meeting
 - Intent of meeting is an effort to increase communication between faculty and Board of Regents and to let him get to know the faculty better. Faculty can also learn more about how the Board views things.
 - C. Ernst – Faculty life survey showed a low opinion of the Board. This meeting can help mitigate any hostility that may be festering towards the Board and improve the relationship.
 - C. Dick – Is he going to directly address the Senate?
 - C. Ernst – I suggested to him to give a brief overview of what he sees as the Board’s role.
 - K. Atkinson – C. Ernst and I are going to meet with him ahead of time.
 - D. Clark – That should be the minimum. If he just comes and sits, it won’t accomplish much.
4. Distributed Provost’s handout on salary increases in recent history of WKU.

• **Vice Chair – Dan Clark**

1. Student research conference needs Senate rep for their committee (help planning conference coming up in March)

• **Secretary – Jason Bergner (no report)**

D) Committee Chairs

• **Academic Quality Committee – Heather Strobe (no report)**

1. Still continuing to work on the resolution about the withdrawal date (moving it back) and should have something to present this at the next SEC meeting.

• **Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee – Patti Minter (no report)**

1. Meeting this Friday (19 Oct) to take up the issues that the SEC has put on our plate.
2. Faculty-life survey has been sent out to all faculty and posted on Senate web site. MC question results are available.

- ***Budget and Finance Committee – Jim Berger***
 1. Budget and Finance report – J. Berger motioned. No second needed. Unanimous approval.
 2. We have broken down into three subcommittees
 - Looking at budgetary comparisons over a long period
 - Where we are now and how priorities have changed
 - Faculty compensation
 - Working to gather questions to hand them off to the HURON group
 - Also questions regarding budgeting and financing here at the university
- ***Colonnade General Education Committee – Mary Wolinski***
 1. Colonnade report – M. Wolinski motioned. No second needed. Unanimous approval.
 2. WKU Institutional Research shared with committee data of students enrolled in fall 2018 and amount of incomplete Connections requirements they had.
 3. Subcommittee is exploring the possibility of creating a 4th column in the Colonnade Connections category (international) – would not add requirements to students, but would give them more options for fulfilling Colonnade requirements.
 - Would include study abroad and upper-level language courses as counting
 - K. Atkinson – Would the 4th column create more a shortage when we’re already struggling to meet the requirements? Would it make the problem worse? Is there a potential misallocation of resources?
 - M. Wolinski – We’re looking to add more options/flexibility to the current requirements. They would have to had three selections out of the four. It doesn’t add a fourth. These courses in the fourth column already exist. It provides a wider variety of courses.
 - C. Ernst – Question about what “FTFY” in the report.
 - M. Wolinski – Full-time, first year
 - C. Ernst – How is this different than a freshman?
 - M. Wolinski – Students could be transfer students from another university.
- ***Graduate Council - Carl Dick***
 1. GC report – C. Dick motioned. No second needed. Unanimous approval.
 2. Provost Ballman attended our last meeting, made statements, and took questions. It was productive and appreciated.
 3. GC is at full membership and have an SGA representation
 4. One of our primary members resigned (Kristin Wilson)
 - Making adjustments to compensate for this (cover policy committee, for example)
- ***Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Janet Applin***
 1. UCC report – J. Applin motioned. No second needed. Unanimous approval.
 2. A little bit of surprise because they thought the year might be slow with the curriculum change freeze at the University
 3. Questions about the report
 - D. Clark – Is there anything special that allowed these changes to get through the established freeze?
 - J. Applin – If they were already in the pipeline, or if they are consent items, or if they are Colonnade Connections, then they were allowed to continue on
- ***Faculty Handbook Committee - Kate Hudepohl (no report)***

E) Advisory Reports

- *Faculty Regent – Claus Ernst (no report)*
- *Academic Affairs – Terry Ballman*
 1. Search committees have been convened for the two vacant academic dean positions (Gordon Ford, Health & Human Services)
 2. CAPE update – met with about 100 faculty in an open forum
 - Hope to get everything out to department chairs later this week (rubrics, templates, etc.)
 - Will ask Senate to nominate three tenured faculty from each academic college to serve on wider CAPE committee (stipend provided)
 - Will also ask Deans of each college to put forth names
 - Provost will then choose the members
 3. Colonnade – things are getting better for students – thanks for your hard work
- *SGA – Stephen Mayer (no report)*

F) Old Business – none

1. Review proposals referred to Academic Quality and Faculty Welfare committees
 - Discussion with Dr. Rhoades (sleep study)
 - Dr. Rhoades asked that the proposal be pulled since he didn't intend it to get this far at this time.
 - K. Atkinson is asking the subcommittees to wrap up this issue and send whatever information they have to K. Atkinson.
2. Small group met last week to look at changes to Senate Charter
 - Wanted to keep the changes from being wholesale due to the other major issues being dealt with right now
 - Small group went through Charter and looked for references to University College and any references to numbers of voting members (this was usually based on the number of colleges)
 - K. Atkinson asked question to P. Minter about rules regarding readings and voting on Charter changes
 - Charter changes must go through two readings at both the SEC and the full Senate. Voting occurs after the 2nd reading. Supermajority (2/3) required.
 - P. Minter moved to approve today's reading as the first reading. J. Berger seconded. Unanimously approved. Discussion prior to vote:
 - J. Berger – wants to maintain a fixed number of committee positions – we don't want to do that a lot (shrinking bodies means fewer voices at the table)
 - C. Dick – We could solve that by increasing the reps from each college. I understand what you're saying, but I'm not sure it's crucial.
 - J. Berger – I just want to make sure that was considered.
 - C. Dick – It was.

G) New Business

1. SGA resolution to provide for student rights (J. Baugh – guest)
 - J. Berger moved. D. Clark seconded.
 - Resolution was proposed in SGA to clarify a section of Student Code of Conduct (line item 15).

- Line item 15 pertains to students refusing to comply with order from university official and law enforcement officers and refusal to identify themselves
 - Generally used in conjunction with student who is violating another part of the Code of Conduct
 - Speaker was ordered to do/not do certain things using line item 15 as a stand-alone measure
 - L. Hill - What committee were you on?
 - J. Baugh - It wasn't a committee. I was going through a grievance process and grade appeal process. I was given orders by people in my department and college and told that I couldn't do certain things (such as recording a meeting) or I would be reported.
 - L. Hill - How big of a deal is it to be reported to Office of Student Conduct? It might be a good thing to have another body look at this action.
 - J. Baugh - The threat of being reported is often enough to get students to give up on things. As an example, I am the only student left out of a number of students who started this process with me. The others dropped out when we were being threatened with reporting to the Office of Student Conduct.
 - S. Mayer – I reached out to WKU's legal counsel. She isn't opposed to looking into it and changing it. We're looking at getting the faculty's approval.
 - J. Berger – Who oversees the crafting of the wording that should be used in the Student Code of Conduct?
 - J. Baugh - This would ultimately flow through the Student Division of Student Affairs and the WKU legal team.
 - P. Minter to T. Ballman – Any change has to be ratified by whatever term that is used by administrative counsel?
 - S. Mayer – That would be above the Faculty Senate. That would go to university counsel and the Board of Regents once it gets past the Senate.
 - K. Atkinson – Is there a policy already in place that says students should not record grade appeal meetings?
 - J. Baugh – Within my college, guidelines have been released in the college that committee-level meetings should not be recorded. This has been passed since my appeal started and I wanted to record the meetings.
 - J. Fulkerson – Could we table this for a month?
 - C. Dick – Why?
 - J. Fulkerson – I'd like to get more information on the Code of Conduct.
 - J. Fulkerson motioned to table for a month (until next meeting). J. Lindsey seconded. Voted unanimously to table this issue. Discussion before the vote:
 - L. Hill – Is there any harm to your grade appeal by tabling it?
 - J. Baugh – No.
 - K. Atkinson to J. Fulkerson – Would you spearhead gathering the information for this issue?
2. Resolution from SGA for students' right to record
- J. Lindsey motioned. C. Dick seconded. Resolution endorsed unanimously. Discussion prior to vote:

- J. Baugh – Wants students to have a positive right to record. Faculty don't have a positive right, either. Having a recording of a meeting is objective. Students altering recordings is beyond the technical ability of most students and has been the only reason given in opposition to this (speaker's statement).
 - Students feel that in grievances and grade appeals, having a recording is the best way to have an objective record of the meeting
 - K. Atkinson – If the student wants to record, the faculty has no say so.
 - C. Dick – You can just turn on your iPhone and record now.
 - J. Baugh – Students do this now. The ability to record helps establish consistency
 - J. Lindsey – I have no problem with this. Faculty members can record as well.
 - E. Gish – It's already legal, but the point is to make it evident so students will feel comfortable doing it?
 - J. Baugh – Yes.
 - C. Dick – Are there any bodies on campus where recording would still be prohibited?
 - J. Baugh – Title IX covers that, faculty-specific issue (evaluation, etc.).
 - C. Farrell – Are the resolutions you've proposed better served separately or joined?
 - J. Baugh - separate
3. University Athletic Committee representative
- Need to vote on reps from Ford and Ogden for this committee
 - Vote taken by ballot
 - Steve Wells and Robyn Ayers
4. Coalition of Intercollegiate Athletics request
- Are we interested in joining?
 - J. Berger motioned. H. Strobe seconded. Discussion:
 - S. Davis – Are there costs associated other than attending the meeting?
 - M. Wolinski – The athletic program should pay for this since it's an athletic-related issue.
 - J. Berger – What's the benefit to us? If we're going to put money in, what does that person bring to back to us as a Senate?
 - K. Atkinson – Could we send this back to the University Athletic Committee?
 - J. Berger motioned to table definitely. J. Fulkerson seconded. Unanimously voted on to table definitely.
5. SGA resolution supporting class cancellation November election
- J. Berger motioned. J. Lindsey seconded. Motion failed unanimously. Discussion:
 - F. Wilson speaking about petition to cancel class on election day.
 - C. Dick – University closes for general elections? We're talking about mid-term elections. Can't students utilize absentee voting?
 - S. Mayer – Students registered in Warren County can't get absentee ballots. Many students from other areas get switched to vote here because they want to have a say in local issues.

- J. Berger – Part of the University’s difficulty is that there are accreditation issues for minutes for face-to-face time. Has this issue been addressed in your conversations?
- M. Wolinski – We canceled for the eclipse. Why not this?
- F. Wilson – We’re looking further into this.
- L. Hill – What about canceling in-person class activities?
- H. Strode – Who has the final say?
- C. Farrell – Is there a reason you made it specific to this year and not for subsequent to all mid-terms?
 - F. Wilson – No. I’m open to friendly amendments.
- S. Davis – This would be difficult for the current semester.
- M. Wolinski – We only did daytime classes for the eclipse.
- L. Hill – You could add a clause excepting classes that only meet on Tuesday.
- C. Dick – This strikes me as a reasonable request for the long-term, but this is likely problematic for the current year.
- D. Clark – Would we want this to be yearly given the way officials are elected in Kentucky?
- J. Wilkerson – Could we recommend that faculty not penalize students for missing?
- E. Gish – Is there a way to affirm what the students have done without approving for the current year?
 - D. Clark – Instead of endorsing this, can we just refer this to the full Senate?
 - L. Hill – Would you be willing to bring two versions of it, one of which specifically referred to future years?
 - D. Clark – Does the SGA meeting before the next Senate meeting?
 - S. Mayer – Yes.

H) Information Items

I. HURON group presentation and Q&A session 10/25 Senate meeting

I) Adjournment

- D. Clark motioned to adjourn. H. Strode seconded.
- Meeting adjourned