

Western Kentucky University
Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting
Monday, October 10, 2022
Zoom

- **Members Present (Substitute):** Toni Szymanski, Sheila Flener, Stacey Forsythe, Marilyn Gardner, Anthony Paganelli, John Wright, Julie Shadoan, Kirk Atkinson, Mac McKerral, Stacy Leggett, Dana Sullivan, Amanda Drost, Bangbo Yan
- **Non-voting Members Present:** Provost Bud Fischer, Shane Spiller, Cole Bornefeld, Susan Eagle
- **Guests Present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Beth Laves, Molly Kerby, Amber Scott Belt, Rob Hale, Marko Dumančić, Hannah Digges, Elliott, Juliana Ortolani, Jessica Dorris
- **T. Szymanski called a regular meeting of SEC to order at 3:24 pm Central Time**

<https://wku.zoom.us/j/5940316448>

A. Approve minutes of previous month's SEC Meeting:

- [SEC Meeting Minutes, 9.12.22](#) A. Atkinson, J. Shadoan (10 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Toni Szymanski

- T. Szymanski talked with President about moving away from SITE evaluations for teacher evaluations. Another model is needed and CITL has worked on this previously. M. Dumančić will provide some information. T. Szymanski would like for Academic Quality and Faculty Welfare to consider placing this idea on their agenda.
- M. Dumancic-WKU will be transitioning to Blackboard Ultra. We started some transitions Summer 2021, about 50 faculty have made the switch. Juliana Ortolani and Hannah Digges Elliott will answer questions. H. Digges-Elliott, follow plan for your program if you have one. There is a page on CITL to announce your intent. J. Ortolani-Will be offering some training in November, January, and each semester. CIITL will also providing training for new faculty for next summer.

2. Vice Chair - Dan Clark, no report

3. Secretary - Stacy Leggett, no report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. [Academic Quality, Amanda Drost \(Chair\): \(Report posted\)](#)

- A. Drost, no report (minutes approved only)

2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (No report)

- K. Atkinson, Eric Kondratieff will be the chair

3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacey Forsythe (Chair): (Report posted)

- Motion to bundle. S. Forsythe, J. Shadoan (9 yes, 0 n) Motion approved
 - a. 9-6-22 Report
 - b. 9-27-22 Report
- S. Forsythe-As a committee, we have designed new proposal forms. The process will be completed through CourseLeaf. (9-27 report). Once approved by Senate and the Provost, we will post the forms and examples. Will open up the process in January for courses except Foundational. Will accept International, but there will not be an assessment piece. Working with UCC to determine if an expedited process might be possible for some changes going forward.
- Motion to approve, S. Forsythe (10 y, 0 n) Motion approved

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Kate Horigan (Chair): (Report posted)

- K. Horigan, J. Tougas asked if she could come to faculty Senate and talk about Big Red Backpack and parking at the same time. A. Szymanski asked for input. Faculty Welfare will ask J. Tougas to attend two Senate meetings and address concerns separately.
- Motion to bundle, K. Horigan, J. Shadoan (10 y, 0 n) Motion approved.
 - a. 8-26-22 Report
 - b. 9-23-22 Report
- Motion to approve, K. Horigan (11y, 0 n) Motion approved.

5. Graduate Council, Dana Sullivan (Chair): (Report posted)

- Motion tabled

6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener (Chair): (Report posted)

- Motion to approve, S. Flener (10 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

7. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (Chair): (Report posted under new business)

New business

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (No report)

- K. Atkinson-BEC voted to recommend 2% across the board raise. Discussion of stimulus payment—has been tabled to next meeting.

2. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle (President): (No report)

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Robin Ayers, (Chair): (No report)

4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby (Chair): (No report)

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- M. McKerral asked about contracts. S. Spiller responded he was asking questions about printing and maintenance contracts. M. McKerral asked if someone from WKU ensured contract is being met, particularly in regard to facilities. S. Spiller expressed concerns that we are paying for a service but not receiving for facilities due to staffing shortages, but WKU is still paying for the service.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- B. Fischer thanked those who helped with Head for the Hills. Great day on Saturday.
- B. Fischer-Budget process for next year starts in November. It starts with the number of freshmen that we hope to recruit.
- B. Fischer-New model for faculty compensation. Two questions: was Tier 3 too large and diverse? We have added fourth tier in the new model. Did instructors need another tier? No, they did not. Recommendation from BEC as 2% across the board.
- B. Fischer-QEP focus groups-students, faculty, and staff. 4 or 5 more to go. Will send out a survey to rank top QEPs. This will come back to the committee. M. Gardner for the smaller list, will there be an explanation? B.Fischer at least in a broad sense.

3. SGA President, Cole Borenfeld

- No report, also heading to Discover WKU event.

F. Old Business:

- None

G. New Business:

1. Faculty Handbook Revision 1 (Chair Reference)

- J. Shadoan. Correcting chair to chair/director.

- Motion to approve. J. Shadoan (9 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

2. Faculty Handbook Revision 2 (Program Coordinator)

- J. Shadoan. Area coordinator is now academic program coordinator.
- Motion to approve. J. Shadoan (9 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

3. Faculty Handbook 3 (Faculty Senate)

- J. Shadoan. Change university senate to faculty senate.
- Motion to approve. J. Shadoan (10 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

4. Faculty Handbook 4 (Links and Policy)

- J. Shadoan. Making sure all links are current and active and remove redundant language from the policy in the handbook. Policy includes v so that number can change without changing the handbook. K. Atkinson question about changes in policies. J. Shadoan mentioned existing language. R. Hale will find and provide link related to this language.
- Motion to approve. J. Shadoan (9 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

5. Faculty Handbook IXA (UDP)

- J. Shadoan. Getting rid of extra language, redundant language.
- J. Shadoan. (10 y, 0 n, 0 a). Motion approved.
- A. Szymanski asked about instructors. J. Shadoan mentioned pedagogical and other faculty.

6. Faculty Handbook XIIM (Conference USA)

- J. Shadoan. Change conference to Conference USA.
- J. Shadoan (10 y, 0 n, 0 a) Motion approved.

7. A. Szymanski-What can we do to encourage people to speak?

- S. Spiller-Full Senate is intimidating. Media presence can be intimidating.
- K. Atkinson-Spoke to the culture of intimidation. Meeting in-person.
- M. McKerral-Spoke about the fear of retribution and Faculty Welfare surveys. He also added the importance of having more individuals engaged. He also spoke about the President's not attending Senate meetings.
- S. Spiller-compare to other universities. Believes the President must connect with faculty in looking at the faculty morale on the survey.
- S. Spiller asked how Faculty Welfare results were being received. A.Szymanski-interpretation was money. S. Spiller-it is more than money. What percent of faculty completed survey? 371 respondents. T. Szymanski-we threw out there free parking.
- S. Spiller stated the university put \$1.5 million in health care to keep health care from not going up.

- T. Szymanski-Face-to-face meetings might help or make worse. Possible orientation for new senators.
- S. Spiller-Faculty are responsible for curriculum.
- K. Atkinson-The feelings of intimidation should be recognized by Provost.
- T. Szymanski-The Provost did say he has open door policy.
- M. Gardner-Open door policy versus chain of command.
- J. Shadoan-All senators have responsibility to speak up. President's view that he does not have time for shared governance is disturbing. He is not emulating what is happening. Does not have the same disregard for the student governance
- S. Forsythe-Concerned about losing new faculty and then losing the position entirely.
- T. Szymanski-Child care could be a big incentive and the early childhood education program is growing.
- M. McKerral shared the PCAL committee that was formed to address faculty morale.

AUP Guidelines for Shared Governance.

Adjourned at 4:10

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Leggett
Senate Secretary