MINUTES
UNIVERSITY SENATE
JANUARY 18, 2001
GARRETT BALLROOM

Chair Patricia Minter called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The following members were absent without alternate representation: Karen Adams, Jeff Baynham, Jim Becker, Michael Binder, Thomas Green, Martin Houston, Dan Jackson, Carl Kell, Alton Little, Tony Norman, Jane Olmsted, Lester Pesterfield, Gary Ransdell, Thomas Schandling, James Skrabacz, Brian Sullivan. Alternates in attendance were: Douglas Smith for Kathryn Abbott, Kacy Harris for Linda Clark, John Hardin for David Lee, Shirley Lowman for Carrie Morgan.

The minutes of December 14, 2000 were approved as read with the notation that Michael Klein had alternate representation at that meeting.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR
Chair Minter thanked Dr. Arvin Vos and Dr. John White for the new seating arrangement.

The Chair said that the Executive Committee will begin considering amendments to the University Senate Charter. She said that the amended Charter would be presented to the Senate for approval in March or April, at the latest. Dr. Minter invited Senators to send suggested amendments to her by email. She said that the Executive Committee would begin to consider draft amendments at its February meeting.

Dr. Minter noted that the ad hoc Senate Election Committee is composed of Dr. Claus Ernst, Dr. Mary Wolinski, and Dr. Fred Murphy. The committee will present its report on election procedures for the Senate at the February meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A. REPORT FROM THE GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Robert Dietle presented for second reading the motion to adopt a special rule. Dr. Dietle said that the General Education Committee recommended the General Education Task Force Report for approval at the December meeting of the University Senate and also proposed that the University Senate adopt a special rule to govern the debate on this report. The special rule reads as follows:

The University Senate shall debate the Report of the General Education Task Force, as a whole, discussing it section by section as long as the assembly desires, but no amendments to the report shall be accepted from the floor. At the end of the discussion, the Senate shall vote on the report as a whole. A yes vote will signal approval of the report; a no vote will send the report back to the Task Force for further revision.

Dr. Dietle pointed out that according to Sturgis, the Senate body could adopt a special rule by majority vote.

The Chair declared that the floor was open for discussion.
After several minutes of discussion, Dr. Dietle again noted that the motion, if passed, would allow no formal amendments from the floor during the debate. He indicated that if there are serious questions and concerns about the Task Force Report, it should be voted down by the Senate and sent back with instructions to revise in light of the issues which were raised. Several Senators commended the Task Force Committee on the amount of work and study that went into producing the report.

A motion to close discussion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

The Chair declared that the Senate would now consider the motion to accept the special rule from the General Education Committee, noting that a YES vote would indicate acceptance of the rule that no amendments would be accepted from the floor, whereas a NO vote would defeat the rule.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS
A. Report from the General Education Committee
Dr. Robert Dietle presented the General Education Task Force Report and moved approval. (NOTE - the Task Force Report is attached to the minutes.)

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and declared that this was the second reading for the report. She proposed that the report be discussed section by section. Dr. Richard Hackney, member of the Task Force, and Dr. Dietle addressed several issues that arose throughout the discussions. One correction was made was on Page 11 of the document, which states... *Demonstrates knowledge in one or more of the sciences* ..." It was pointed out that the category in Natural Sciences requires at least two sciences to be taken by students. Dr. Hackney said that the words "one or more" would be removed and replaced with appropriate language.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of each section. The Sections were discussed, comments were made and addressed, however no significant changes were noted. (NOTE: A tape of the entire discussions is on file in the office of Academic Affairs.)

Dr. Robert Dietle moved to close discussion. The motion was seconded and carried.


B. REPORT FROM THE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
Dr. Darlene Applegate said the Committee did not have a Consent Agenda to present at this meeting. She said the sub-committee that is developing by-laws for the University Curriculum Committee has produced an 8-page draft which they hope to have finalized in the near future. Dr. Applegate also reported that Dr. John White and his colleagues are making considerable process in the development of an online proposal submission procedure. This
procedure will be presented to the University Curriculum Committee for consideration at its January 25, 2001 meeting.

C. REPORT FROM THE FACULTY WELFARE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Dr. Katrina Phelps distributed minutes of the January 11, 2001 meeting. She noted that some of the items listed in the minutes would not be brought to the Senate for a vote until the February meeting because they are matters of policy which must be approved by the Executive Committee. Dr. Phelps asked that the senators review the items and provide suggestions or feedback on the items to the FWPRC or the Executive Committee before the next meeting.

a. Professor Emeritus: Dr. Phelps said the Board of Regents approved adopting a Professor Emeritus status at the University and that they have asked the FWPRC to develop the standards and criteria for this status. She said they have collected data from other institutions and a draft for criteria and benefits has been prepared.

b. Tax sheltering parking fees: A resolution will be presented at this meeting.

c. Draft 4 of the Five-Year Strategic and Operations Plan for Information Technology: Dr. Phelps said the Committee would meet with Dr. Kirchmeyer next month to consider this plan.

d. Mace Bearer: Dr. Phelps said the Committee has been asked to establish criteria for determining who will be the University Mace Bearer.

e. Advising Award: Dr. Phelps said Dr. Burch notified the FWPRC that a faculty award for Excellence in Advising will be established next year. Funds are available for developing this award. She said she is working with Dr. Luther Hughes on forming a committee to establish criteria for this award and asked that anyone interested in serving on this committee notify her.

f. Resolutions: Dr. David Keeling read the following resolution and moved approval:

RESOLUTION

Whereas:
(1) The University Counsel negotiated a settlement in December of 2000 to resolve a race discrimination lawsuit against Western Kentucky University.
(2) The terms of the settlement included the following provisions for the plaintiff:
   a. a tenure track position with the rank of Assistant Professor, effective this semester;
   b. a waiver of the terminal degree requirement and all performance requirements for research and creative activities in promotion and tenure considerations.
(3) The above terms violate current standards within the affected department in the following ways:
   a. tenure track appointments are not offered to persons lacking a terminal degree, and the rank of Assistant Professor is not offered to those without a terminal degree;
b. the terminal degree requirement and requirements for research and creative activity are not waived for any other faculty member in promotion and tenure evaluations.

(4) No one in the academic administration including the Provost, the Dean of the College, or the Department Head was consulted regarding the terms of this offer prior to its presentation.

Be it hereby resolved that the University Senate strongly opposes this settlement process as well as the specific terms of this offer, and urges the President NOT to recommend this original settlement to the Board of Regents. Furthermore, the University Senate requests assurance from the President that any future negotiations that impact Academic Affairs will include all relevant academic administrators.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Phelps noted that this Resolution was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

A friendly amendment was made in Item (3) to change the word "effected" to "affected". The change was corrected for the official record.

Dr. Bill Davis moved to close debate and to table definitely the motion to approve the Resolution. The Parliamentarian declared that the motion was not debatable and that it requires a two-thirds vote. The Chair called for a vote.

The motion was defeated and the floor remained open for debate.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made and seconded to close discussion. The motion carried.

The Chair called for a vote on the Resolution. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

The Chair said that the Resolution would be forwarded to the President, members of the Administrative Council, and to the Chair of the Board of Regents.

Dr. Joel Philhours read the following Resolution and moved approval:

RESOLUTION
Whereas:
(1) The Tax Code allows employees to set aside an amount of pre-tax salary to cover the cost of their annual parking fees.
(2) WKU employees would save federal income taxes and Social Security taxes (a savings estimated at $40,000 annually) and WKU would save Social Security taxes (a savings estimated at $10,000 annually) on the parking fee set-aside.
(3) Employee participation must be preceded by employer action to offer the plan.
Be it hereby resolved that the University Senate recommends the University make this salary reduction plan for parking fees available to employees beginning with the parking permit to be renewed on August 15, 2001.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

4. REPORT FROM THE WEB-MASTER
Dr. John White demonstrated how proposals could be presented to the Senate using a Proxima projector. Dr. White also reported that the Senate web pages are up and running and that the University Curriculum Committee proposals will be available in February. Mailing lists have also been created for all Senate Committees. Dr. White noted that if senators are not getting email from the Senate, please contact him at extension 5867 or email him at john.white@wku.edu

The Chair noted that the Executive Committee is currently negotiating with Academic Affairs to acquire a sound system.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Mutter, Secretary  Lou Stahl, Recorder