

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY SENATE APRIL 21, 2005 GARRETT BALLROOM

Chair Sherrie Serros called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. **The following members were present:** John All, Darlene Applegate, Ferhan Atici, Mustafa Atici, Jim Berger, Ray Blankenship, Ellen Bonaguro, Charles Borders, Chris Brown, Tim Brotherton, Barbara Burch, Michael Carini, Suzie Cashwell, Robert Choate, Josh Collins, Thad Crews ii, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Karin Egloff, Brittany Fausey, Jane Fife, Malia Formes, Elmer Gray, Bill Greenwalt, Anthony Harkins, Kirk Heriot, Michelle Hollis, Nezam Iraniparast, Pamela Jukes, Kaveh Khatir, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Joan Krenzin, Amy Krull, Kathleen Matthew, Margaret Maxwell, Andrew McMichael, John Moore, Russell Moore, George Musambira, Sharon Mutter, David Neal, Anne Onyekwuluje, Les Pesterfield, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Phillips, Matt Pruitt, Heather Pulliam, Sylvia Pulliam, Gary Ransdell, Eric Reed, Jeffrey Samuels, Roger Scott, Sherrie Serros, Vernon Lee Sheeley, Nelda Sims, Robert Sims, Byron Sleugh, Doug Smith, Brian Strow, Nedra Wheeler, Mary Wolinski, Uta Ziegler. **Alternates present were:** Sylvia Gaiko for John Bonaguro, Stuart Burris for Eric Conte, Rick Keaster for Sam Evans, Andrew Ernest for Blaine Ferrell, Josh McCubbins for Tim Howard, Lynn Austin for William Howard, Rachel Kinder for Terry Jepson, Connie Jo Smith for Danita Kelley, Ami Carter for Wilma King-Jones, Pat Hodges for Connie Mills, Richard Wilson for Pat Minors, Abby Lovan for Morgan Phelps. **Members absent were:** Lawrence Alice, Mike Binder, Barbara Brindle, John Bruni, Dana Emberton-Tinius, Jerry Gotlieb, Dan Jackson, Robert Jefferson, David lee, Minwoo Lee, Deborah Lively, Elizabeth Paris, Sherry Reid, Loren Ruff, Peter St. Pierre. Mason Stevenson, Jim Stone, Stacey Wade, Jue Wang, Richard Wilson, Edward Yager.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ransdell said he would like to thank the University Senators for the time and efforts that each have dedicated to the University over the course of the past academic year. Next, President Ransdell said he would like to acknowledge before this group for the splendid work done by the entire SACS Accreditation Committee over the past few years, he commended them for their excellent efforts in managing the process without consuming the University and managed and were relevant in their work with our Quality Enhancement Plan. He said the University was strengthened by their work and our strategic plan is better because of them, and there were only two recommendations that came from the SACS visitation team, and he said both of these recommendations are fairly straight forward and that we will be able to address them in a thoughtful manner, one is dealing with General Education assessment and the other with credentials of adjunct faculty.

President Ransdell said he would like to address one item on the agenda, which deals with the ad-hoc committee that will be addressing the matter of Division 1 football. He said we have heard from the Mid-American Conference (MAC) about athletic affiliation but, it was only an invitation to submit information which we are in the process of doing, and there will be more forthcoming from us. He said we have not heard anything further from them, but we do expect to and we will be prepared. The President said rest assured every nuance, problematic, financial, and academic and every other aspect will be thoroughly analyzed when that time comes. Ransdell said we would be ready. He said this is much more of a strategic plan variable, than an athletic, let alone a football variable. Those secondary variables will be important in the discussions but he promises, if given the opportunity to sit down with the 12 presidents of the institutions in the conference, he said he was 100% certain there would be no athletic variable discussed. If the conference is looking at Western for academic reasons, for institutional significance, given that sphere of influence within those institutions and what we would bring to that group of institutions from an institutional academic strength prospective, and if the only athletic conference in America where those variables exists, he said he had done enough homework to know that is the way

each president will make that decision, and it will have little to do with athletics. There will be discussions between our Athletic Director and their AD's who will likely render recommendations to the president. President Ransdell reiterated that when he meets with them it will all be about our strategic plan, our athletic value, our centers of excellence, our programs of distinction. All the variables that they will want to consider in taking that step, if in fact they do choose to take that step. President Ransdell said that having said the above, the report that will come from the Senate's Ad-Hoc Committee, would be very valuable whenever it is finished and he said he looks forward to getting the Committee's report. But until that time there is more to assess and prepare specifically for, and until then we are going to bide our time and complete this academic year in a manner that we are currently doing and see what the future holds.

President Ransdell asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chair Serros, continued with the Senate Agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Minutes of March 17, 2005, were approved with editorial corrections:

UNIVERSITY SENATE ACTION ENDORSEMENT

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Barbara Burch, endorsed the March 17, 2005 actions of the Senate without exception.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Sherrie Serros, reported she has had discussions with the Budget Committee, regarding funding of a wellness position, which Dr. Ransdell indicated would be funded through the E&G funds. She said somehow this did not get on the budget list, however she said the President has promised this will be funded through E&G funds for the next academic year. The Benefits Committee voted to fund that position for this coming academic year through the insurance surplus fund The Benefits Committee is also looking at benefits for domestic partners, which should come before the Senate next year. Next, Chair Serros, said that there is now considerable more information available through TopNet, wage statements, etc., therefore she would like to remind those who have not changed their TopNet P.I.N. from the one that was originally assigned by Micro Computing may want to consider changing it now.

Next Chair Serros referred to the email she sent to each Senator concerning "pick-a-prof.com" a website which has obtained grade distribution information by course and instructor from this institution. She said that since her students shared with her, her own grade distribution, she was amazed as were many, many of her colleagues that this distribution of information by course and by instructor was so readily available. She said there would be a resolution addressing this situation coming before the Senate later in the meeting.

REPORT FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair, Jim Berger said this would be his last term of office, and expressed his thanks to the University Senate.

REPORT FROM THE FACULTY REGENT

Regent Robert Dietle said the Board of Regents meeting will be held on Friday, April 29. He said there are two items he hopes the University Senate will investigate, 1) is the decision to dip into the insurance reserve fund to pay for the wellness position. He said this was a serious step, and that we had been promised and assured by the President that the insurance reserve fund would only be used to cover insurance. He said he fears this is the first step towards what may become a very bad habit, with the cash

being there, and since we are self-insured, we cannot take the chance spending monies now that we may need if a catastrophic illness occurs. 2) Regent Dietle said that regarding "pick-a-prof.com" he is surprised the information is available, and has learned this information has been available for the past two years without faculty being informed. He said even if the institution feels this information should be released, they should have informed the faculty. He feels there should be an explanation on this very serious matter.

REPORT FROM THE PROVOST

The Provost commented on the grades being provided to Pick-a-prof, and she said this was not to speak to the forthcoming resolution, as much as it is to explain what she has learned about it. She said she did not know that the grades were distributed; she said what she has learned is that requests that come to Institutional Research are not distributed, because they do not own the grades. The grades are owned in the Registrar's office (ownership means where the grades are collected.) The Open Records Policy requires that anything that is in the form in which grades are collected is considered as subject to open records. The grades are not distributed by student name, but they are distributed by class, and the class is by professor in terms of grade distribution. She said at this point, if the resolution passes, it will be considered. She said it is fair to say that the dilemma faced, is one of whether or not the University would be in non-compliance with open record laws, or in non-compliance with the Senate's request to not distribute grades. She said this is about the open record law, and she does not know if there is an option or not. Burch said this is one of the reasons we do not keep faculty evaluation information, which is destroyed within 25 days.

In reference to the SACS visit, the Provost said she too wants to thank all who contributed to this. She said she realizes how much time and effort was put into this endeavor.

Next the Provost spoke on salary, assistantship and budget matters that she has received inquiries about. She said this information would be forthcoming as soon as the Board of Regents meets. She also said that last week we were notified by the CPE that we had until April 29 to submit Mission Parameters and Action Goals that we believe will have a part to play in our funding in the future. Burch said Dennis George will put these online as a draft that can be revised, and she invited everyone to take a look at them.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

University Curriculum Committee (Report attached to Agenda)

Senator Andrew McMichael moved for approval of the consent agenda.

Chair Serros asked if any Senator would like to move any items from the consent agenda to action agenda. Hearing none, the Chair called for a vote on the consent agenda from the University Curriculum Community

The motion carried.

Next Senator McMichael moved approval of the newly revised By-Laws of the University Curriculum Committee. The Chair called for a vote.

The motion carried.

Next there was a discussion, as to whether sub-committees of the Senate could appoint ad-hoc committees. It was the consensus of the Senate that they could.

Senator McMichael next moved approval of the revised Guidelines of the University Curriculum Committee.

The motion carried.

Senator McMichael then reported that the UCC this past academic year considered more than 300 items.

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (REPORT ATTACHED TO AGENDA)

Senator Brian Strow moved for approval for the new revised General Education Form
The motion carried.

Next Senator Strow said the General Education Committee was charged with investigating UC 175, which is at the end of a 3-year extension evaluation. He said their general findings were that UC 175 is in fact very important in increasing retention. Senator Strow then moved approval of making UC 175 a permanent course, as long as it is a voluntary course with the provision that there would be a report made every third year to the General Education Committee on progress of this course.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion, after which she called for a vote.

The motion carried.

FACULTY WELFARE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Senator Mary Wolinski said the Committee does not have a report but reminded Senators to take the University Senate Survey of the President and Faculty Worklife. She asked Senators to encourage members and faculty in their departments to complete the survey.

Academic Quality

Senator Douglas Smith said the first survey of plus-minus grading has gone out to 400 faculty drawn at random from the total body of faculty teaching courses at WKU this year. Another 800 surveys have gone to students involved in courses on campus this year. He said after one week, approximately one-fourth of the faculty and about one-fourth of the students have responded to the survey.

Graduate Council (two reports attached to the agenda)

Dean Elmer Gray moved for the approval of the Graduate Council's initial consent agenda which was distributed with the original agenda of the Senate. Chair Serros asked if any graduate faculty Senator would like to move any item from the consent agenda to the action agenda. No requests were made. The chair called for a vote from the Senators with graduate faculty status to vote.

The motion carried.

Next, Dean Gray moved approval of the Graduate Council's addendum agenda, which was distributed to Senators today. Chair Serros, noted that this agenda was not distributed in sufficient time for Senators to review the items. She said it was up to the Senate whether they wish to add this to the agenda of the Graduate Council at this time. She said there were a couple of options. 1) We can take part or all of the consent agenda and address it today. 2) Take part or all of the consent agenda and address it at the

September meeting or 3) Take part or all of the consent agenda and address it through an email vote of the graduate senators. She opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Suzie Cashwell moved to hear the consent agenda as a whole at today's meeting. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Again, Chair Serros asked if any graduate faculty senator would like to move any item from the consent agenda to the action agenda.

Senator McMichael moved to have item # X "Creation of new Policy "Transfer Credits acceptable for Graduate Certificate Programs, moved to an Action Agenda.

At this point Chair Serros stepped aside and asked that Vice Chair James Berger serve as temporary Chair.

Acting Chair Berger asked if there were other items to be removed from the consent agenda to action. Hearing none, Chair Berger called for a vote by graduate faculty on the remainder of the consent agenda. The motion carried.

Acting Chair Berger next opened the floor for discussion of Item X.

Senator Serros said this proposal came forward to the Executive Committee two months ago and was withdrawn at that point. She said the Executive Committee has not had a chance to re-address this proposal, and noted this is a considerable policy change that would affect all certificate programs.

Senator Serros moved that this proposal be sent back to the Executive Committee for its next 2005-2006 academic year meeting. The motion was seconded.

Acting Chair Berger opened the floor for discussion.

Graduate Dean Elmer Gray, read the following change of policy as proposed:

"Students pursuing a University Graduate Certificate Program must complete at least 50% of the Certificate Program coursework at WKU."

Next, Acting Chair Berger called for a vote from graduate faculty.

The motion to send back to the Executive Committee carried.

Senator Serros resumed her duties as Chair of the Senate

Old Business

Resolution endorsed by the Executive Committee "Administration of Student Initiated Questions in All Classes (Attached to Agenda)

Chair Serros opened the floor for discussion on the SGA Evaluation of Faculty. (Page 29 of the Agenda)

After considerable discussion, Senator Sharon Mutter moved that the existing Advisory Committee appointed by the Provost have their duties expanded to evaluate and revisit the SITE evaluation. The motion was seconded.

Various senators' discussion focused on student evaluations and site evaluations.

Provost Burch said as an FYI, "there has been a lot of discussion about the need to revisit SITE, and I don't think it is this body's responsibility to establish that committee, but I certainly welcome the fact that there is an expression of a desire to do so, and it would be done in consultation with faculty...I urge the Senate to keep this separate from this document [SGA evaluations]." Burch also said one of the concerns of the students was that this would not get administered and receive returns to the degree that SITE did. "I certainly hope that people who are not meeting classes next week have gotten written approval from their department heads to not have classes." (As is required by policy.)

More discussion pursued over the issue of the SGA evaluation including concerns over alternative course format and whether it is mandatory for faculty to administer this SGA.

After discussion, Senator Mutter withdrew her original motion due to the information that it is not the jurisdiction of this body to reevaluate SITE evaluation and indicated that the Provost appoint a new advisory committee to evaluate and revisit the SITE evaluation.

Chair Serros asked Senator Smith (as second) for his approval to withdraw it. Doug Smith disagreed that this body doesn't have jurisdiction over site evaluation. "This body does have jurisdiction. If the provost office or some other office on this campus would like to join us in that discussion...I would be happy to have them aboard. But this body is the body that arbitrates is good and is not good for the faculty." He indicated he would have a hard time giving that up. He preferred that this body should establish an ad hoc committee or send it to the faculty wellness committee to review issues concerning site evaluations rather than relinquish the responsibility to the provost office.

More conversation continued over the membership of such a committee.

Motion was originally to expand the responsibilities of the committee in the resolution be expanded to include evaluation of sites.

Senator John All moved for a substitute motion:

To substitute the motion to revisit the SITE evaluation be referred to University Senate Committee on Academic Quality.

Motion to substitute takes precedence over original motion.

The substitute motion was seconded by Senator Zeigler. The motion carried.

Chair Serros return the discussion back to the original issue of the endorsement of the resolution.

Next Chair Serros call for a vote by show of hands on the main motion as amended.

The motion carried by a vote of 26 to 24 with 2 abstentions.

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Division IA Football (Proposal attached to the Agenda pages 30-32 Resolution on page 33 and recommended by the Executive Committee)

Chair Serros opened the floor for discussion of the Resolution.
After Discussions, the Chair called for a vote on the Resolution
The motion carried.

Resolution regarding Liability Insurance for Off-Campus Travel (Resolution attached to Agenda, page 34 and recommended by the Executive Committee

Chair Serros opened the floor for discussion.

After Discussion, the Chair called for a vote on the Resolution.

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

(Continuation of the Report of the Chair regarding "Pick-a Prof")

Senator Jeffery Samuels presented and moved approval of the following Resolution:

Proposal to Condemn and Oppose the Release of Grade Statistics
To Third Parties

Whereas the release of grade statistics for each instructor promotes a shopping-like environment for courses based primarily (or solely) on the students' likely grade in a course

Whereas the release of grade statistics for each instructor adversely affects enrollment in courses in which instructors seek to maintain high standards

Whereas the release of grade statistics for each instructor promotes grade inflation and undermines high standards in teaching and learning

Whereas the Western Kentucky University Senate took the position that:

1. Information about students is their own property, to give or to share at their own discretion; and that
2. Students have a basic right to confidentiality.
Whereas the release of grade statistics for each instructor compromises the privacy of each instructor

Therefore, be it resolved that the Western Kentucky University Senate strongly condemns the extant practice of releasing grade statistics to third parties (such as Pick-a-prof.com), vehemently opposes the administration from releasing such information in the future, and fervently requests that the administration seek ways to retract statistics already in circulation.

The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Douglas Smith called for a point of order, and presented the following piece of New Business: Regarding ESLI Website (<http://www.esli-intl.com/wku.htm>) # 4. That states ESLI students who complete their advanced courses they would not be required to take a TOEFL Exam to enter Western's programs. The website has another statement (number 5, which states that they won't have to take a TOEFL, GRE or GMAT in Advance, but they don't say in advance of what.

Senator Smith moved that that ELSI correct their website concerning WKU requirements.

The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Resolution Regarding the Creation of New Graduate Scholarships (Item # XI on Graduate Council's Consent Agenda)

Point of Order: Senator Suzie Cashwell noted this item has been discussed and approved with the Graduate Council's Consent agenda.

Chair Serros, agreed that this item was addressed on the Graduate proposal and passed. However since there were questions concerning the proposal, she agreed if necessary she would reopen the resolution for discussion.

Senator Uta Ziegler moved to have this item reconsidered. The motion was seconded. The motion by graduate faculty only carried.

After considerable budgetary issues which were discussed, Senator Sharon Mutter moved to add a sentence at the end of the proposal: (At which time funds become available.) The motion was seconded. The motion by graduate faculty only carried.

Chair Serros called for a vote of graduate faculty only on the main resolution as amended. The motion by graduate council only carried.

Announcements

Chair Serros asked the departing Senators to leave the table and invited the newly elected Senators to move to the table.

Next Chair Serros opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Senator David Neal nominated Senator Andrew McMichael. The Chair called for other nominations. Senator Marge Maxwell nominated Nedra Atwell. The Chair called for further nominations. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that nominations cease. As paper ballots were passed out each nominee was asked to state their qualifications:

Senator McMichael: said he has served the past year a Chair of the UCC, and in that year he has accomplished two goals: First was to streamline the UCC to work more efficiently, and secondly to make the Committee more active, i.e., pro-active in the sense that it focused on policy and substance rather than on its more traditional focus on grammar and editing. He said he would bring the same policies to the Senate and would like to see the Senate become more pro-active. He stated "I disagree with ... (well she in not here now) ... disagree with the Provost's statement that the Senate has no business in the kinds of affairs that have been discussing. I think it is inherently the Senate's business to take an active role in anything that affects the University as a whole, we are the University Senate and I will bring that idea to the Senate." Senator McMichael also stated he has no fear of speaking his mind and standing up for what he believes, he said everyone may not agree, but everyone will know exactly where he stands.

Senator Atwell: said some know her, some don't, but she feels both candidates are qualified. She said she too has no fear in speaking up and saying what she believes or where she stands. She said she has served on Faculty Senate's at other universities, she said she has been a faculty senate president at Virginia Intermont College and a faculty senate representative at Radford University as well as serving here at WKU, therefore she would bring broad experience. She said since she has been at this university she has served actively on the Graduate Council. She said she also believes in being pro-active and being

positive and thinks we never get anything done if we think we can't; so she said she believes in thinking we can and going forward to be as positive as possible.

The ballots were counted: Senator McMichael 24 votes, Senator Atwell 16 votes. Senator Andrew McMichael will serve as Chair of the University Senate.

Next Chair Serros opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Senator Eric Reed nominated Senator John All. Senator Atwell moved that nominations cease. The motion was seconded. Senator John All was elected by acclamation as Vice Chair of the University Senate.

Chair Serros opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Senator McMichael nominated Senator Josh Collins SGA, who declined, he then nominated Senator Katherine Pettit of SGA, who also declined. Senator Atwell nominated Senator Douglas Smith who accepted, and was elected by acclamation.

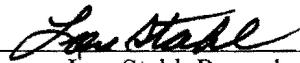
Next, Senator Smith said that the Council for State Faculty Educational Leaders would meet this Saturday. WKU has the ability to have 4 representatives present, he invited Senator McMichael and Senator All and other Senators to join him at 9:00 AM Saturday, April 23, in one of the MMTH – ITV rooms, so that they can speak with CPE representative and to observe what COSFEL who will be debating the public document about what universities in the commonwealth need to be will be doing.

Chair Serros asked that each senator caucus into their college groups and nominate members to serve on each of the Senate Standing Committees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Cashwell, Secretary



Lou Stahl, Recorder

NOTE: The agenda with its attachments for this meeting can be found on the University Senate website: <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/FS/meetings.htm>

Appointments to the Standing Committees thus far are as follows:

Executive Committee

Nezam Iraniparast - Ogden College
Kathleen Matthew - CEBS
Eric Reed - Potter College
Saundra Starks - CHHS

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Walter Collett - Ogden College
Pam Jukes - CEBS

Heather Pulliam - Potter College
Richard Wilson - CHHS

General Education Committee

Roger Scott - Ogden College
Marty Boman - CEBS
Johnston Njoku - Potter College
Karen Mason - CHHS

Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee

Ferhan Atici - Ogden College
Mustafa Atici - Ogden College
Katrina Phelps - CEBS
William Schlinker - CEBS
Jim LeTourneau - Potter College
Mary Wolinski - Potter College
Amy Krull - Potter College
Richard Dressler - CHHS

Committee on Academic Quality

David Neal - Ogden College
Marge Maxwell - CEBS
George Musambira - Potter College
Peter St Pierre - CHHS