

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 3:45 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Vice Chair John All. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Approval

The Minutes of December 15, 2005, were presented. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Chair

The Chair, Andrew McMichael, was not present. Vice Chair John All gave the Chair's report and reported:

- SGA Evaluations will be added to SITE reports.
- An ORP/KTRS forum took place with President Ransdell last week. Faculty, staff and the President discussed possible solutions to the retirement contribution dilemma.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair, John All, reported:

- Elections for At-Large Senators was conducted on Monday, March 13, and the results tabulated.
- Senate must elect members to the University Academic Complaint Committee. Ballots were circulated and collected.

Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, reported:

- The Board of Regents committee meetings took place on March 10
- A \$46 "campus rebuilding fee" will be assessed to students next year and was discussed at Regents' meeting.
- He is troubled by the lack of concern on the part of some Regents over the funds taken last from the Insurance Reserve Fund by the administration. He plans to raise the issue at the next Board of Regents meeting.

Provost

Provost, Barbara Burch, reported:

- The Budget Council met on March 15. She is optimistic that the State will provide WKU with

more funds than originally anticipated.

- The State legislature decided that KTRS will not be allowed to increase the retirement contribution demanded from WKU and other institutions.
- She met with department heads in January and requested that departments and colleges review tenure and promotion criteria.
- Although the Senate voted against including SGA evaluations on the SITE forms, SGA evaluations will be included on SITE forms. SGA evaluation data will be available on TOPNET.
- Winter Term enrolment was excellent. Tuition generated will be divided among academic units that participated in Winter Term (50%), the President (25%) and the Provost (25%).
- Summer Term enrolment is down from last year at this point.
- Beginning next year, 80% of revenues above the cost of running distance learning programs will be returned to the academic budget.

*University
Curriculum
Committee*

It was moved by UCC chair, Julie Shadoan, that the University Senate approve the consent agenda from their December and January meetings. No item was moved from the consent agenda to the action agenda. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

A new policy on attendance was approved.

A new policy allowing faculty to assign the grade "F/N" (Failure Due to Non-Attendance) was approved after significant discussion.

Graduate Council

Dean Elmer Gray, Chair of the Graduate Council, announced that the Graduate Council as a subcommittee of the University Senate has approved the concept of the elected chair. The new wording has been added to the Graduate Council working paper and will begin in the Fall.

Dean Gray moved the consent agenda be approved by the University Senate. No items were moved from consent to action agenda. The consent agenda passed unanimously.

*Committee on
Academic Quality*

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Quality was not present. It was reported that she has resigned her position as chair. No report was presented.

*Faculty Welfare and
Professional
Responsibilities
Committee*

Mary Wolinski, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, reported on the committee's February 23, 2006 meeting. At the meeting, several resolutions were passed. Three resolutions were put before the Senate for consideration and approval (all three resolutions are attached to the minutes):

a. **“Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities University Senate subcommittee resolution on a faculty ombudsperson,”** which would call for the creation of the position of Faculty Ombudsman, who would act as a neutral representative for faculty. (No action was taken by the Senate on this resolution because the meeting ended before a vote could be taken.)

b. **“Resolution from the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Senate Sub-Committee to alter tenure and promotion guidelines to accommodate family care responsibilities during the probationary period,”** which calls for a new policy that would furnish tenure-track faculty with the option to postpone the tenure decision due to care-giving responsibilities. (First Reading heard by Senate)

c. **“Resolution on Amending the Faculty Grievance Process,”** which would revise the Faculty Handbook to specify that faculty may file a grievance either with the department head or college dean. (First Reading heard by Senate)

Note: All three Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee resolutions are attached to these minutes.

Adjournment

During discussion about whether to pass the resolution to create a Faculty Ombudsman, a senator noted that the meeting lacked a quorum. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Reed, temporary substitute for Douglas Smith, Secretary

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>