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The Spirit Makes the Master

September 26, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Julie Shadoan
Chair University Senate

FROM: Barbara Burch
Provost and Vice President
For Academic Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Burch', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

SUBJECT: September 20, 2007 University Senate Minutes

I endorse without exception the actions of the University Senate at its September 20, 2007 meeting.

/lsw

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

September 21, 2007

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, September 20, 2007, at 3:50 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Julie Shadoan. A quorum was present.

The following members were present: Cathy Abell, Kristina Arnold, Nedra Atwell, Johnathon Boles, Scott Bonham, Barbara Brindle, Barbara Burch, Stuart Burris, Jeff Butterfield, Eddy Cuisinier, Jerry Daday, Judy Davidson, Terry Dean, Constance Edwards, Niko Endres, Michele Fiala, Douglas Fugate, Jim Fulkerson, Andrea Grapko, R.Reagan Gilley, Denise Gravitt, Anthony Harkins, Kathleen Hennessey, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Heather Johnson, Skyler Jordan, Kaveh Khatir, Aaron Kindsavatter, Debbie Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Scott Lasley, David Lee, Yanmei Li, Jim Lindsey, Nathan Love, Sherry Lovan, Karen Mason, Andrew McMichael, Richard C. Miller, Patricia Minter, Roger Murphy, Sharon Mutter, Dan Myers, Steve Nagy, Lan Nguyen, Holly Payne, Mark Pickard, Heidi Pintner, Matt Pruitt, Angela Robertson, Jeff Samuels, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheely, Shane Spiller, Saundra Starks, Tammie Senger-Ramsey, Heather Strode, Louis Strolger, Samanta Thapa, Michelle Trawick, Rico Tyer, Stacy Wade, Christopher Wagner, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Paul Woosley, Zhonghang Xia.

Alternates present were: N/A.

The following members were absent: Mostafa Atici, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Robert Bowker, Janice Chadha, Walter Collett, Uma Doraiswamy, Sam Evans, Tim Evans, Blaine Ferrell, James Gary, Jens Harlander, Dominic Lanphier, Amanda L. Lohden, Timothy Mullin, Ken Payne, Keith Philips, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Don Swoboda, William Tallon, Luella Teuton, Jacqueline Wooford.

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the May 10, 2007 meeting were endorsed by Dr. Burch and approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. SGA Announcement (deviation from agenda)

Kathleen Hennesey (SGA), spoke to the University Senate about the WKU "Up 'Till Dawn" fundraising campaign and encouraged faculty support.

IV. Reports

a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, announced that there will be a public forum for the upcoming Faculty Regent Election on Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 4:00 PM and encouraged members to attend with questions for the nominees.

Departmental Senators are still needed to represent the Faculty Grievance and Faculty Continuance Committee Pools within colleges and departments. Dr. Ransdell will select members from a pool of 48 Senators.

Senators were reminded to clarify the attendance list and give any corrections at the end of the meeting.

Volunteers for 07-08 University Committees are being solicited. Health and Wellness needs one senator by Oct. 1; Parking Appeals (needs 1); Campus Scheduling (needs 1); Gen. Ed (needs 2); Fac. Welfare (needs 3); Curriculum (needs 1); Environmental (entire committee); Ad-hoc for SITES (entire committee); Ad-hoc for Reviewing Senate Charter (entire committee). Additionally, each standing committee needs to update chairs.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, reported that she is making a manual for the Vice-Chair position.

She then reminded Senators about the open forum for the three Faculty Regent candidates and stated that questions can also be asked on email.

Voting lists need to be approved by departmental senators. Absentee voters need to be crossed off. Senator representation needs to be established to keep track of the voting box in the dean's office on Oct. 1. Any questions about voting eligibility should be directed to Denise Gravitt.

c. Faculty Regent

We do not have a Faculty Regent at this time, so no report took place.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, complimented the Executive Committee on their thorough preparation for the upcoming election.

She then reported that Fall 2007 enrollment is at 19,241, which is up. This number includes 120 academy students and 342 dual-credit students. Our goals are to double enrollment and reach new targets by 2020, projecting 20,000 by 2012 and 24,000-25,000 by 2020. Student retention is up due to faculty efforts. Funding is based on growth and the number of students who actually graduate. There are fewer freshmen than previous years. 14,000 enrollments last year were online, which reflects the fact that we are serving a changing population. The business plan and strategic plan are to discuss outcomes by looking at ways that funding comes to departments (graduation rates, enrollment, contributions to interdisciplinary programs, research, and service).

A meeting needs to be set up to discuss how to set up membership on the Environmental Committee.

Next week, visitors will be on campus from the American Council for Education to help with planning on how we do internationalization throughout the campus.

Faculty members need to tell students that the Study Day has been eliminated and will be used for instruction.

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

The University Curriculum Committee has not met yet. No report was presented. There will be a meeting on Sept. 27. Everything is posted on the website.

b. General Education

Meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month. Agenda items are due electronically one week prior to the meeting and can be submitted to patricia.minter@wku.edu.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

No report was presented.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented.

e. Graduate Council

Nedra Atwell, the Vice Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for approval of the Graduate Council proposal with one friendly amendment. In the New Certificate Program from the Department of Counseling and Student Affairs, under (1.77) remove the following phrase: ~~in addition to serving campus-wide faculty, staff, and students with education and programming to broaden cross-cultural understanding.~~

The main motion with friendly amendment was passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business

The Chief Diversity Officer position was filled over the summer. Dr. Miller is the head of the Diversity Enhancement Committee. The Senator on this committee is Sandra Starks.

Eric Reed described his Study Abroad Resolution that asked the curriculum committee to develop more rigorous standards for study abroad courses to make sure the courses are indeed representing what they are supposed to represent. Reed explained why he feels it is important to take up this matter. A motion by Denise Gravitt to accept this proposal was seconded. Discussion followed to clarify the purpose of the resolution. Some Senators felt that quality control and content of each

study abroad course should be handled on the departmental level. The Resolution follows:

University Senate Resolution on Oversight of Study Abroad Courses

Whereas it is crucial that the faculty maintains high academic standards for all WKU course offerings;

Whereas SACS rules state:

- The University must “[demonstrate] that each educational program for which academic credit is awarded is approved by the faculty and the administration;” and
- The University bears “responsibility for the academic quality of any course work or credit recorded on the institution’s transcript;” and
- “The institution [must employ] sound and acceptable practices for determining the amount and level of credit awarded for courses, regardless of format or mode of delivery;” and
- “The institution [must place] primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty;” and

Whereas the University Senate Charter states that the University Senate is charged with reviewing and approving all credit-bearing undergraduate and graduate course offerings at the University; and

Whereas the University Senate does not currently review credit-bearing study abroad coursework offered by the University; and

Whereas the University’s study abroad programs are expanding, and it is important that the University Senate design and implement appropriate review procedures for study abroad offerings sooner rather than later; therefore

Be it resolved that the University Senate shall exercise oversight over study abroad coursework offered by the University; and

The University Senate, working through its appropriate standing committees, shall devise and implement appropriate review procedures for credit-bearing study abroad offerings.

The resolution did not pass; 5 voted yes in approval of the resolution and the majority voted against the resolution.

VII. New Business

Senator Andrew McMichael presented his three-part resolution regarding the Faculty Ombudsman, Revisiting Plus/Minus, and SITE Evaluation review. A friendly amendment by Dan Myers suggested breaking it into three separate resolutions.

The resolution to revisit plus/minus grading passed following a brief discussion, with 27 voting “yes” to revisit plus/minus and 18 voting “no” to revisit plus/minus.

Following a brief discussion, McMichael’s resolution on the Faculty Ombudsman passed by majority vote with a friendly amendment to move the time line up.

The resolution on reviewing SITE Evaluations passed unanimously without discussion.

VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

A motion by Andrew McMichael “that the meeting adjourn” was carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary