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November 29, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Julie Shadoan
Chair University Senate

FROM: Barbara Burch
Provost and Vice President
For Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: November 15, 2007 University Senate Minutes

I endorse without exception the actions of the University Senate at its November 15, 2007 meeting.

/lsw

The Spirit Makes the Master

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WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

November 15, 2007

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, November 15, 2007, at 3:45 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, Barbara Brindle, Stuart Burris, Jeff Butterfield, Judy Davidson, Terry Dean, Uma Doraiswamy, Constance Edwards, Tim Evans, Michele Fiala, Douglas Fugate, Jim Fulkerson, Andrea Grapko, Denise Gravitt, Kim Green, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Skylar Jordan, Debbie Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Scott Lasley, Yanmei Li, Jim Lindsey, Sherry Lovan, Karen Mason, Andrew McMichael, Richard C. Miller, Patricia Minter, Sharon Mutter, Steve Nagy, Mark Pickard, Keith Phillips, Heidi Pintner, Sherry Powers, Matt Pruitt, Jeff Samuels, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheeley, Kayla Shelton, ,Shane Spiller, Sandra Starks, Louis Strolger, Samanta Thapa, Rico Tyler, Stacy Wade, Christopher Wagner, Carol Watwood, Richard Weigel, Jacqueline Wofford, Zhonghang Zia.

Alternates present were:

Jeffrey A. Barefoot for Barbara Brindle, Ed Bohlander for Jerry Daday, Joe Hardin for Niko Endres, David Zimmer for Dan Myers, Donna Renaud for Holly Payne, and Ryan Arnold for Tammie Stenger-Ramsey.

The following members were absent:

Mostafa Atici, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Scott Bonham, Richard Bowker, Barbara Burch, Janice Chadha, Walter Collett, Eddy Cuisinier, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, James Gary, R. Reagan Gilley, Jens Harlander, Kathleen Hennessey, Kate Hudepohl, Heather Johnson, Kaveh Khatir, Aaron Kindsvatter, Mary Kovar, Dominic Lanphier, David Lee, Nathan Love, Timothy Mullin, Roger Murphy, Thanh Lan Nguyen, Ken Payne, Katharine Pettit, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Heather Strode, Don Swoboda, William Tallon, Luella Teuton, Michelle Trawick, and Paul Woosley.

II. Minutes

The Minutes of the October 18, 2007 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. Reports

a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, went over the procedure for signing in -- cross out your name on the left. If you are subbing for someone, write your name to the right of the person you are subbing for. Anyone who speaks at the meeting must speak directly into the microphone so it can get recorded. Individuals giving reports should limit their reports to ten minutes or less.

The Senate Charter Revision Committee will have its first meeting on Nov. 26 at 3:30 in the large conference room of Academic Affairs. Feel free to email Julie Shadoan or anyone on this committee with suggestions you might have.

Julie Shadoan stated that she is trying to get a copy of the Senate budget.

The resolution regarding tables and water for the meetings was withdrawn because Dr. Ransdell said that he transfers money (\$1884.00) over to the Senate on July 1 of each year for the tables and water.

Revisions of the 18th handbook are complete and will be available to the Faculty Welfare committee by Dec. 15.

Shadoan stated that she received numerous emails related to salary compression. Faculty Welfare is researching this and will report back. Anyone affected by compression should let Julie Shadoan (or Dr. Atwell and her committee) know.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, reported that the Faculty Continuance and Grievance pool is now complete and their two-year term begins in January, 2008. The only other item of business is University Complaint Committee election.

Denise Gravitt distributed ballots to the Senators at the end of the meeting in order to elect 2 faculty members and 1 student member of the University Complaint Committee. Some Senators requested more information about each candidate for future elections.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, reported on the Nov. 2 Board of Regents meeting. The Board of Regents voted on a contract extension for Dr. Ransdell until 2022. Over the next 5 years, the President will have the same percentage increase as the faculty, and by 2012 will have 15%, and 2017 10%. A 25,000 annuity by the WKU Foundation and long term care insurance for President Ransdell and his wife are also part of this deal. Patricia Minter stated that she voted for it but has serious questions about a twenty-five year run and feels it is an odd business practice. She added that she felt it was strange that there was no copy of the contract for the Board of Regents to see and said she will continue asking for it. She stated that Dr. Ransdell has come up with some great ideas and hopes it will continue and that it will continue to be a great arrangement. She also added that the annual review of the President is in need of revision because there is no room for actual evaluation. There will be an effort to devise a more meaningful revision process.

Dennis George gave a report on strategic planning – we need to achieve benchmark level on salary compression for Associate and Full Professor levels. Minter stated that this is the time to move on compression issues because it has the attention of the Board of Regents.

Minter feels that the Senate is the representation of the faculty and she will present any issues to the board.

c. Provost

Dr. Miller reported for Dr. Burch that the Faculty Handbook revisions are under way. Julie Shadoan is the chair of this committee and the revisions will be presented to the Council of Academic Deans and the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee in January. He stated that the committee has done a great job of updating it. It is currently on Blackboard and will be completed by April/May. The Senate will have a chance to give input.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Andrew McMichael, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented with one change; the Technology Management Program agenda is pulled. The course proposals (minus the Technology Management Program agenda) passed unanimously as presented without discussion.

b. General Education

The General Education Committee did not present a report.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

Nedra Atwell, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, stated that and felt it was appropriate. The committee identified the committee met on Oct. 25. The committee reviewed the Ombudsman job description several topics that they intend to address this year: (1) benchmark salary compression; (2) salary compression; (3) faculty handbook; and (4) faculty work load. The next meeting is November 29 and they will be dividing into sub-committees to attack various agendas.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented.

e. Graduate Council

Sherry Powers, the Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for support and approval of the Graduate Council agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

IV. Old Business

Dr. Jim Flynn addressed the Senate about the University College Resolution that he and Dr. Jane Olmsted brought forth to integrate the University College into faculty governance for this transitional year. The resolution's main goal is to have two representatives from University College on the Charter Committee and the Curriculum Committee. Following his motion, Andrew McMichael proposed a friendly amendment to clarify: Whereas the University College does not currently have Senate representation, and whereas, University College houses several units that offer academic programs and which provide homes for a number of faculty, and whereas this is a transition year in the development of University College as an interdisciplinary home for program and faculty, we propose that *"the University Senate temporarily waive the relevant sections of their bylaws in order that"* the University College be granted immediate inclusion in Senate Governance, for the 2007-2008 academic year, as follows: *One representative (voting) on the University Curriculum Committee and *One representative (voting) on the Executive Committee. The vote on the friendly amendment and the resolution as amended passed unanimously.

Dr. Greer, the appointed Ombudsman, is not officially taking the position until January 2008 through Spring 2008. He met with the Executive Committee

about the expectations. As a charter member of the Senate when it was first established in the 1970's, he sees the position as a facilitator of communication on any grievances and as a problem solver. The Ombudsman position is on a trial basis and will be evaluated by faculty and staff by the end of the school year. Jeff Samuels, a member of the Executive Committee, suggested having one Ombudsman for faculty and one for Staff. Dr. Greer said that this is something that will be looked at after the trial semester. Dr. Samuels expressed concern that conflicting interests might arise. A motion by Chris Wagner to approve the resolution that includes both faculty and staff in the review process was voted on and passed unanimously.

The SITES Revision Committee concluded that the current SITE evaluations are not doing their job for a variety of reasons outlined in the report. There are seven recommendations that the committee made about the review process. Regarding a time line, the committee members felt that this is a long-term process and that it would take a minimum of one year to collect and review data. Reassigned time would be one course load for those working on it. The committee wants a vote with Senate support and Provost support prior to commencing the study. Sharon Mutter made a motion for acceptance of the report, for approval of the recommendations 1-7 by the Senate, and to place them in Senate record. The Resolution passed unanimously.

V. **New Business**

See the Vice Chair report above (section IIIB) for the University Complaint Committee Election. Those elected to serve on this Committee are:

Faculty: Michelle Hollis and Danita Kelley

Faculty Alternates: Jim Berger and Lakeisha Meyer

Student: Ryan Graham

Student Alternate: Megan Hershey

Doug Minton's presentation was withdrawn from the agenda.

No new business was presented.

VI. **Announcements**

Andrew McMichael mentioned that the AGR Fraternity was let off probation a year and a half early and he finds this fact disturbing.

Richard C. Miller commented on the step show at homecoming and urged the Senate to acknowledge and congratulate the winners.

Skylar Jordan thanked the faculty for their support of the walk-out and stated that over 300 students participated.

Chair Shadoan announced that there is a December University Senate meeting scheduled.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary