WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES  
September 18, 2008

I. Call to Order
The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 3:51 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Julie Shadoan. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Alternates present were:  
Kristi Branham for Paul Markham.

The following members were absent:  
Melanie Autin, Mark Berry, Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Barbara Brindle, Audrey Cornell, CiCi Edwards, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Kim Green, Debbie Kreitzer, David Lee, Qi Li, Karen Mason, Steve Nagy, Jane Olmsted, Les Pesterfield, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Donald Swoboda, Samanta Thapa, Stacy Wade, Carol Watwood, Paul Woosley, and Zhonghang Xia.

II. Minutes
The Minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting were approved as read with no additions or corrections.

III. Resolution Honoring H. Philip Constans
Dr. Greer and Dr. Pulsinelli, who were charter members of the University Senate, presented a resolution honoring Phil Constans, the founding member or the WKU Faculty Senate. A motion to support this Resolution by Chris Wagner was seconded and the resolution passed unanimously. A moment of silence honoring Dr. Constans followed.
A RESOLUTION HONORING H. PHILIP CONSTANS

Whereas, Phil Constans was, through his efforts and leadership, the "founding father" of the Western Kentucky University Faculty Senate; and Whereas, He served as the first Chair of the Senate; and Whereas, His efforts to give faculty a real voice in university matters through the Senate have been his long-lasting legacy; and Whereas, He served as a faithful faculty member at Western Kentucky University from 1969 to 1990; and Whereas, He is remembered by all his colleagues with great affection and respect; and Whereas, He left this life on August 19, 2008, leaving a wife, Evalyn, and two daughters, Leigh and Phyllis; therefore Be it resolved, That the Western Kentucky University Senate extend its condolences to the family; and Be it further resolved, That the Senate observe a moment of silence in his memory; and Finally, be it resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to his wife and his daughters. Enacted by the Western Kentucky University Senate on September 18, 2008

IV. Reports

a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, voiced the need to appoint committee members to the following standing committees: Faculty Welfare (needs 2 members), Academic Quality (needs 2 members), and Student Research (needs one member). The newly-formed Environmental Committee also needs members. Interested parties or those with recommendations should send an email to Julie.shadoan@wku.edu.

Dr. Shadoan attended the General Education Forum. The task force deadline is April 2009; General Education Programming as a whole will be looked at and the General Education Committee is aiming to have this completed two months ahead of time.

b. Vice Chair

No report was presented.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, stated that she received many responses following the Third Quarterly Meeting in July. There were 83 responses received within three days; 81 were positive and in agreement and two were not. Dr. Minter said she was happy to hear from them; many communicated what they thought was wrong. Dr. Minter tried to reply to everyone. Some things that will be difficult to change and many feel that they are not better off than they were four years ago. Many are concerned about having to do more with less. There was a discussion of style over substance. Our debt service is quite large (budget woes, larger classes, etc.). Minter fears that private money uses become an excuse to do the things you want to do and she wants to use donor management skills for things that will be of substance. Minter feels that the focus needs to be on all of us speaking loudly about
what leadership wants and what faculty/staff/students need. We will try to spend the rest of this year getting that back on track.

Minter is attending the Trustee’s Conference sponsored by CPE in Lexington. The Board Committee meeting is on Oct. 10th and the Fourth Quarterly Meeting is on the 30th. If anyone has concerns, don’t hesitate to get in touch.

d. Provost
The Provost, Barbara Burch, reported that colleges, departments, faculty, and the administration have done a good job of targeting enrollment and helping students to find ways to success in spite of lost positions. Over 20,000 are enrolled, which is the highest number ever. However, the number is expected to decrease after students are dropped for non-payment. The business plan with enrollment growth in the academic division that has been in place for two years means that with enrollment growth, we have growth dollars. The President says the growth money will go back to academic units. Dr. Burch is optimistic that there will be growth money and that staff requests will get attention.

Numbers are up in undergraduate and graduate in every single college.

2,600 registrants will attend the Focus on Western this weekend and Dr. Burch hopes there will be return on these recruiting efforts.

The Provost addressed the article in the Herald that was about the General Education Committee chaired by Dr. Snyder. Snyder and the committee stated that the committee values and welcomes student input. Some students expressed a desire for a strong liberal arts base.

A group has been appointed to work on developing recommendations based on the pros and cons of moving to the new 120-hour credit degree requirement (instead of the current 128). Some other sister institutions are already doing this or are moving toward this. There is some expectation at the Council level that we will look at this seriously. Doug McElroy and Frieda Eggleton are leading this group and they will have good points for Senate consideration. Implementation will be a collaborative process.

Dr. Burch commended those involved in Constitution week. Every college is involved and Dr. Burch noted that the work of Dr. Ardrey and her committee, as well as the Kentucky Museum and Library, have been exceptional.

Dr. Burch is attending a meeting tomorrow on an assessment instrument commitment. CAP and CLA are the two principle ones on the table. More information is forthcoming.

There will be committee work on the state requirement that is changing requirements for identifying students with special needs (developmental work in reading, math,
etc). The dollars promised to implement this across the state are not forthcoming. The mandate has been adopted with strong legislative support. What we do and how we do it is still being worked on. Essentially, if we admit a student into the university, we have an obligation to do everything we can do to help make students successful. Last year, 42% of our graduating students took one or more developmental class. Based on the given criteria, 1/3 of all of this year’s freshmen would have been fully qualified based on criteria; many would need special assistance. This does not necessarily mean that they do need it though; we would need to do additional assessment and document whether or not they need it before we could move them on. 80% of these students are enrolled on the main campus. It is important that we ensure that incoming students are placed in ways that they have opportunities to be successful and that we revisit our admission criteria. This is a national problem. The biology department has increased the number of successful students by 10%. The CPE states that we have to identify the student, the intervention, and the course that they will be placed in following the intervention that will document the degree to which we successfully intervened. In the coming year, we will be looking at curricular implications, delivery implications, cost implications, and time implications.

This is a year where budgetary matters are central; Academic Affairs is working with the deans and hopes that the tuition growth dollars will give us some relief.

V. Standing Committee Reports
   a. University Curriculum Committee
      No report was presented.
   b. General Education
      No report was presented.
   c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities
      No report was presented.
   d. Committee on Academic Quality
      No report was presented.
   e. Graduate Council
      Dr. Bowker 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.

VI. Old Business
    SITES Committee Report
    Sharon Mutter met with Bob Cobb and ETS this summer and asked several questions that are summarized in the report. Cobb has a new plan on how this would be administered at WKU; it is very similar to the way the current SITE is administered.
but it comes with a cost. The committee recommendations are summarized as follows: (1) to proceed with adopting the SIR II as the method of student evaluation; (2) that Senate recommendation for validity continue; (3) that a sample be administered for instructors to evaluate; (4) there is an online and a paper version; (5) the committee wants to use this fall as a pilot study and go university-wide in Spring 2009 (6) a committee will be appointed to decide how these reports will be used for tenure and promotion.

A selective sample of instructors will help to cut down on the cost. Students are not motivated to do these forms over and over and many do not take the process seriously. Each faculty member will be evaluated for one course in the fall and one in the spring and faculty members will be able to choose at least one course that is to be evaluated. Any remaining courses would be chosen randomly by the department chair.

The committee also recommends that departments and SGA look at this instrument to make sure it will satisfy the requirement. If not, items can be added.

Anthony Harkins (History) asked Mutter to provide a copy of the SIRII for the faculty to look at. He added that he felt that 45 questions was too many questions and that it would use too much class time. Mutter responded that the online version can be delivered through Blackboard but it costs more. Harkins asked if we are voting on this and Mutter responded that this is the committee’s final report.

Mutter moved for approval of the committee’s report, which was seconded. Harkins recommended tabling it definitely until the next meeting so that the Senate could have time to examine it; this motion was seconded. Mutter commented that the committee has given the faculty ample time to look at it. The motion to postpone definitely passed with 8 in opposition. The motion will be voted on at the next meeting.

Jeff Samuels (Religion/Philosophy) requested a link to the SIRII.

Barbara Burch said she believes there must be a better way than the current SITE. She added that $140,000 per year can be used for people. This is not a year when resources are readily available for discretionary use. Mutter responded that Cobb’s cost is for every class every semester; the selective sampling will help to control this cost. Burch also expressed concern for the needs of those going up for tenure and promotion. Mutter replied that it be administered one time for each instructor per semester.

Jim Lindsey suggested doing the SIRII online, tying it to TopNet. He said that there would not be any paper wasted, and suggested requiring every student complete the SIRII before registering for their next semester of classes. He added that this would be cheaper over time because we are currently paying people to administer it.
Lou Strolger asked Mutter to clarify what the cost is. Chair Shadoan reminded them that the motion was tabled and the discussion ceased.

**Charter Revision and Faculty Handbook 18th Edition Committee Report**
Julie Shadoan met with Dr. Burch today and is meeting with Dr. Ransdell next week regarding two issues with the Faculty Handbook. Both documents will be put forth to the Senate this fall. New information is being worked into this and the final version will be brought to the Senate soon.

**VII. New Business**
Denise Gravitt, Vice Chair, reminded departmental senators to check their departmental voting lists for accuracy. The upcoming Regent election will be Oct. 1 in the dean’s offices by paper ballot. Departmental senators are responsible for the voting box.

Jeff Samuels suggested doing this online. Denise Gravitt stated that we cannot officially do this because state law currently prohibits this.

**VIII. Announcements**
There were no announcements.

**IX. Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M. Following the meeting, the Executive Committee met to finalize the Regent Election and validate Patricia Minter as the only candidate for the upcoming election.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary