

To: Freida Eggleton, Registrar

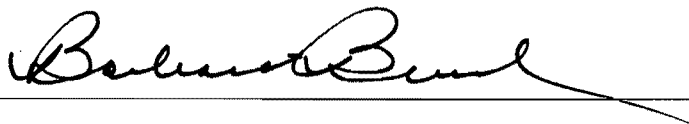
From: Barbara Burch, Provost

Cc: Dennis George, Lou Stahl-White, Sherry Powers, Beth Plummer, Julie Shadoan

Date: February 19, 2009

Re: Approval of Senate Actions

By my signature below, I hereby endorse the actions of the Senate, at its February 19, 2009 meeting, on all curriculum. All other actions are subject to my final review.



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Barbara G. Burch, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

March 18, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dr. Julie Shadoan  
Chair University Senate

**FROM:** Barbara Burch  
Provost and Vice President  
For Academic Affairs



**SUBJECT: February 19, 2009 University Senate Minutes**

I endorse without exception the actions of the University Senate at its **February 19, 2009** meeting.

/lsw

## WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

February 19, 2009

### I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, February 19, 2009, at 3:50 P.M. in the Faculty House by Chair Julie Shadoan. A quorum was present.

**The following members were present:** Cathy Abel, Janet Applin, Kristina Arnold, Melanie Autin, Mark Berry, Schott Bonham, Barbara Brindle, Dorothea Browder, Audrey Cornell, Mark Doggett, Molly Dunkum, Cici Edwards, Michele Fiala, Douglas Fugate, Dawn Garrett, Reagan Gilley, Andrea Grapko, Denise Gravitt, Anthony Harkins, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Tom Hunley, Molly Kerby, Debbie Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, David Lee, Jim Lindsey, Nathan Love, Kathleen Matthew, Michael McIntyre, Patricia Minter, Sharon Mutter, Rachel Neal, Jane Olmsted, Holly Payne, Les Pesterfield, Heidi Pintner, Beth Plummer, Sherry Powers, Lisa Proctor, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Jeffrey Samuels, Roger Scott, Mark Schafer, Julie Shadoan, Shane Spiller, Heather Strode, Louis Strolger, Francesca Sunkin, Rico Tyler, Stacy Wade, Christopher Wagner, Richard Weigel, Kenneth Whitley, Zhonghang Xia, and David Zimmer.

**Alternates present were:** Becky Tabor for Terry Dean, and Tadayuki Suzuki for Luella Teuton.

**The following members were absent:** Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Kim Botner, Richard Bowker, Kelly Burch-Regan, Stuart Burris, Pitt Derryberry, Uma Doraiswamy, Andrew Eclov, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Tim Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Kim Green, Skylar Jordan, Aaron Kindsvatter, Qi Li, Paul Markham, Timothy Mullin, Roger Murphy, Dan Myers, Steve Nagy, Johnston Njoku, Ken Payne, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Philips, Mark Pickard, Gary Ransdell, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Vanessa Scott, Kayla Shelton, Nevil Speer, Sandra Starks, Donald Swoboda, William Tallon, Samanta Thapa, Carol Watwood, and Paul Woosley.

### II. Minutes

The Minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting were endorsed by Dr. Burch and approved as read with no additions or corrections.

### III. Reports

#### a. Chair

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the Senate, announced that there was a unanimous vote to suspend the charter rules in order to address the textbook resolution electronically. The textbook resolution regarding House Bill 226 passed with an unopposed majority. Andrew McMichael attended meetings on behalf of the faculty and met with representative Rollins, who agreed to table his bill temporarily in order to talk to the contingencies who were affected by the bill. This bill is being aggressively

pushed by SGA students across the state, specifically a Pre-Law student at the University of Kentucky who has aspirations of becoming a politician. Certain publishing contingencies are also pushing them very hard. Publishing lobbyists have been in Frankfort for several days, and we asked for equal time to share faculty concerns about this bill and we were told "no". This does not mean that the resolution that this university passed did not get to representative Rollins, but it does mean that he will not give us any additional time to state our concerns at this point. Dr. McMichael did express that he is not seeing a draft of the amended bill and there is not anything different posted than the original version of House Bill 226. Representative Rollins is intending to remove any punitive language that is pertaining to faculty from the bill, but the deadline language will not be removed, but the penalty for faculty reporting adoption will be removed. The bundling language is expected to stay in some form, but nobody knows how at this point. The amended draft of this bill has not been submitted at this time by Representative Rollins. There is a relatively short window before our regular session ends, so this will go straight from the education committee to the floor. We will not have much time to review it if it is amended. Shadoan thanked the senators who were prompt in handling this vote by email.

Jeffrey Samuels asked if there was a way of finding out which publishers are behind this with the possibility of refusing to use their materials. Shadoan stated that she does not know if Andrew McMichael has information about who is lobbying, but she will try to find out. She pointed out that there is some current support from our campus SGA President and that she was leery of the language that was used in this bill and will voice her opinion when it comes appropriate time.

Dr. McMichael seemed to think that others will take the same stance that our resolution has. There were two representatives from U. of L, one from UK and one from Kentucky State, and not other representatives from higher education were present.

Shadoan gave a quick report from the Governor's Council workshop. Certain things are coming up through CPE that were addressed through this body. Some are relevant to what we are concerned with on our campus. In times of extreme budget crisis, faculty participation in university governance tends to get lost in the shuffle and decisions are made without the proper channels of faculty opinion and vote, and obviously concern was expressed to the CPE representatives. The front page of the Chronicle mirrors this same position of faculty governance on higher education campuses. This is something that is very pertinent and something that we need to be watching very closely.

Shadoan is intending to appoint a 5-6 member contingency from the Senate at Large who will be responsible for trying to keep up with what is going on with the coalition legislatively and around other campuses in the state. They meet frequently. We can participate in the meeting by I-TV (Hollis, Shadoan, and Minter have both

done this on occasion to get information). It is important for WKU to take a more active interest in what is going on.

Certain issues that are being pushed by the CPE such as time to complete degrees, transfer credit, and developmental education programming were also addressed at this meeting. There is more of a move toward collaborating with K-12 so that students are prepared before they get to the campus so that can reduce expenses and time and effort with dealing with these students who have underprepared needs.

The Executive Committee made some decisions regarding the appointment of the Academic Complaint Committee. Many options were looked at and pool will come out of the Faculty Grievance Committee and they will be drawn randomly from Academic Affairs.

The Faculty Handbook will be presented at the March meeting; revisions are completed, with the exception of some new language on faculty ranking that will be included in the new edition of the handbook. Shadoan thanked the Faculty Welfare committee for their diligence.

Shadoan is the President's Task Force on Quality and Access and they are having lengthy meetings twice a month since December to address admissions requirements, and other substantive issues that will affect this university into the future. Shadoan says there is an April deadline to have some sort of written recommendation.

**b. Vice Chair**

The Vice-Chair, Denise Gravitt, reported that March is departmental senator representative election month. Each senator needs to have the department chair put it on the agenda to elect new departmental senator to serve starting in August for the next two years.

The University Energy Committee will be looking at the policy that the university sub-committee put together to be agreed upon and sent up to President Ransdell. This committee is only an advisory committee, but it has some strong suggestions that will get to the seriousness of the energy consumption problems on this campus. After it goes to President Ransdell, it may change before it is distributed to the faculty in August.

The election of the Academic Complaint Committee will take place at the end of the meeting today under "Old Business". Candidates who were nominated were asked to submit voluntary information about why they would like to serve on the committee. These were posted on the Senate website and those who posted after last week had their statements handed out at the meeting.

**c. Faculty Regent**

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, stated that she is proud to be part of a faculty governance organization that responded so quickly to the textbook bill, which she

sees as a serious threat to academic freedom. Minter emphasized that faculty need to be consulted on anything that involves what we assign to our courses.

The SGA has been more than willing to listen to faculty concerns about academic freedom and they pulled back their support on House Bill 226 (they were the only SGA in the state to do this). Minter thanked them for recognizing that we all play for the same team and we want what is best for our academic community.

Minter thanked Johnathon Boles for his service to SGA as a great comrade in fighting for the rights of faculty, staff, and students at WKU. She appreciated the change that he brought to SGA in not viewing the faculty as an enemy and hopes that this will continue because it was the right track and all of us will benefit from working together.

The Board met on January 30<sup>th</sup> and most of the meeting was consumed with budget issues that have been resolved this week with the passage of the cigarette and alcohol taxes. This reduces WKU's cut to 2%.

There are some internal issues that deal with transparency. As a public university, there needs to be full and accurate reporting to members of the board about where the money goes. Minter tied the bookstore issue into this. One of the reasons that faculty are encouraged to use the WKU bookstore because the profits go toward projects that help students and help the university. The profit margin and where the profits go need to be accurately stated. The profit margin is 20% profit generated by the bookstore (\$1.3 million last year). As a member of the Board of Regents at a public university, Minter wants to be able to report what is happening with this money.

Our budget cut is 4%. The Frankfort cut is 2%. Our raise pool is being generated from the other 2%. Why are we losing faculty lines and why are IT and other things that support academics being cut in order to generate a raise pool? The start date for benefits for new hires will be 30 days later than previous because it will save money. Why is it coming out of the hide of the faculty? We had a break-even year with benefits. Does this mean that we could have a tough year next year? If so, where will the money come from? This should not come from the employee's hides.

In an environment where we are asked to do more with less, Minter encouraged the faculty to continue insisting that we get our turn, as we look at the cranes and the bonds and other things that provide fire for our kings. It is our turn because the faculty are the constant at the university. She urged the Senate to help her to make it clear to the President, the Board, and the community at large that is not just one annoyed faculty member who serves on the board, but it is 800 faculty members who say, "it is our turn".

#### **d. Provost**

The Provost, Barbara Burch, added a few additional points to the textbook bill. There are several pieces of legislation that will disallow bundling. Burch says she

will be surprised if bundling does not stay in there. Expressing views makes a difference, and this point illustrates it. Burch thinks it is regrettable that there was no faculty voice on the governor's task force and having a student voice there is how this textbook bill emerged. Burch thinks that students wanted lower textbook prices.

On the budget situation, the council is going to take 2% from the state. The new monies coming out will not be funded below the 2006 level because they would be not be eligible for some of the additional monies. The president indicated that he will keep the 4% that we have already submitted with whatever is left to go toward compensation. Burch reminded the faculty that every time we cut the budget, it generates \$800,000 because it only cuts state money. Our budget is much bigger than what is cut. The only thing that gets cut is state money. If programs are dependent on state revenue, that generates \$800,000. Every time we raise tuition 1%, it generates a million. Every time we raise salaries 1%, it costs \$1.2 million. There is not a direct match.

The anticipation is strong that the second year of the biennium will be less favorable than the first year of the biennium. If 2% was this year, it will depend on what happens nationally and globally. Many of us get funding through pass-through programs and will lose money at the 4% rate.

On the transfer, there was a bill and resolution. This resolution will likely go forward that will direct CPE to appoint committees before a certain date to study transfer issues and propose some solutions. The alternative was to make an assumption as to what the problem was, and it assumes the problem is that we are not transfer friendly. Dr. Burch went to our website and pulled down transfer. There are 263 single-spaced pages on what we will accept. Faculty will be appointed to this committee, and Dr. Burch urges us to stay involved.

We have completed the revenue distribution from growth dollars this fall, which is roughly a million dollars. This is good news with the given economy. \$600,000 will be allocated to departments for new positions and this is being allocated on a one-time basis. A large portion (80%) goes to departments and 20% goes to the college level. There is another \$400,00 that will be distributed over the next few weeks. Burch hopes that we are able to retain this commitment for enrollment growth as we graduate more and retain more that we will get to keep the excess revenue.

WKU's overall growth was 2.6%, which was why we had money to distribute. Only 4 institutions besides us increased: EKV went up 1.2%, NKU went up 2.0%, UK 1.0%, U of L .3%. Everyone else went down. State enrollments dropped .9%. Burch attributes WKU's growth to the recruiting efforts of faculty and staff, and this is why the growth money is being spent the way it is.

We have met with city and county schools about college readiness. There will be a meeting with our faculty and staff on March 4. ACT scores for junior year will address areas of readiness for the senior year. Burch feels many good things will come from this.

Dr. Burch hopes all of the changes to the faculty handbook can be done at once and hopes that it can be printed over the summer.

The benefits piece has been on the table for three or four years to save the money. Each year, Dr. Burch has been against it, saying that it will hurt the recruiting of faculty members. When faculty come in, their starting date is August 15, and in order for them to be covered from the beginning, their benefits would start August 1. Mr. Glisson wanted to move it so that new faculty and staff members are covered on the first day of the month following their start date. The new decision means that new faculty and staff members would not be covered by the university for the first 15 days of their contract. Glisson tracked new faculty to see how many of them were covered under some other policy, and it appears from his data that most were not affected. Dr. Burch said that she thinks this is something that our benefits committee might want to look at.

A team of 7 from SACS will be visiting March 17-19 to look at the new doctoral program. This is a visit to take us to level 5. They will look at things like faculty qualifications and Burch urged the faculty to say they know of this doctoral program and that it is important to us. They will look at the Quality Enhancement Plan and several other issues like that.

#### **IV. Standing Committee Reports**

##### **a. University Curriculum Committee**

Beth Plummer, the Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented the UCC Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously without discussion.

##### **b. General Education**

Richard Weigel, the Chair of the General Education Committee, made a motion for approval of the General Education Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously without discussion.

##### **c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities**

Kelly Reames, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, put forth a previous resolution on faculty travel insurance. The motion from the standing committee was seconded, along with some new additions, which are the last two "whereas" statements. The rest is from the previous resolution. The Resolution was approved unanimously without discussion.

##### **d. Committee on Academic Quality**

No report was presented.

##### **e. Graduate Council**

Sherry Powers, the Chair of the Graduate Council, made a motion for approval of the Graduate Council Agenda. The motion was passed unanimously without discussion.



**V. Old Business**

New ballots were handed out and an election took place for the new Academic Complaint Committee members. Brief biographies were handed out to familiarize the Senate with the candidates. The two elected faculty members were Vijay Golla and Rick Thompson with Liza Kelly and Barbara Bush as alternates. The elected student was Kallie Rogers, and the student alternates were Amber Christian and Mark Bowers.

**VI. New Business**

There was no new business.

**VII. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A motion by \_\_\_\_\_ "that the meeting adjourn" was carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary