



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Paul Markham
Chair University Senate

FROM: Barbara Burch
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Cc: Sylvia Gaiko, Lou Stahl-White

DATE: September 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Minutes from September 17, 2009 University Senate Meeting

I endorse without exception the actions of the University Senate at its **September 17, 2009** meeting.

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

The Spirit Makes the Master

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A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH

MEMORANDUM

To: Freida Eggleton, Registrar
From: Barbara Burch, Provost
Cc: Sylvia Gaiko, Lou Stahl-White, Paul Markham
Date: September 17, 2009
Re: Approval of Senate Actions on Curriculum

By my signature below, I hereby endorse the actions of the Senate, at its September 17, 2009 meeting, on all curriculum. All other actions of the Senate are subject to my final review.

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

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WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

September 17, 2009

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 3:50 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Paul Markham. A quorum was present.

The following members were present:

Darlene Applegate, Janet Applin, Greg Arbuckle, Eileen Arnold, Kristina Arnold, Melanie Autin, Mark Berry, Lauren Bland, John Bonaguro, Scott Bonham, Dorothea Browder, Barbara Burch, Barbara Bush, Audrey Cornell, Pitt Derryberry, Uma Doraiswamy, Scott Droege, Jill Duba, Melanie Duke, Molly Dunkum, Nikolai Endres, Douglas Fugate, Dawn Garrett, Anthony Harkins, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Kate Hudepohl, Molly Kerby, Randy Kinnersley, Joan Krenzin, Alex Lebedinsky, Qi Li, Kelly Madole, Paul Markham, Michael McIntyre, Vicki Metzger, Steve Miller, Roger Murphy, Steve Nagy, Kumiko Nemoto, Ivan Novikow, Holly Payne, Les Pesterfield, Yvonne Petkus, Keith Philips, Heidi Pintner, Lisa Proctor, Gary Ransdell, Kelly Reames, Mark Schafer, Gary Schallert, Richard Schugart, Roger Scott, Nevil Speer, Mark Staynings, Liz Sturgeon, Francesca Sunkin, Tadayuki Suzuki, Adrian Switzer, Samanta Thapa, Megan Thompson, Justin Thurman, Dave Vickery, Carol Watwood, Kenneth Whitley, David Zimmer. *Rich Weigel present*

Alternates present were:

Colton Jessie for Stuart Kenderes, Melissa Stewart for Nathan Love, Marc Eagle for Beth Plummer, and Cheryl Lewis Smith for Angela Robertson.

The following members were absent:

Mike Binder, Kim Botner, Richard Bowker, Kelly Burch-Regan, Aaron Celestian, Ahmed Emam, Sam Evans, Blaine Ferrell, Andrea Grapko, Johnston Njoku, David Lee, Jim Lindsey, Mac McKerral, Patricia Minter, Jane Olmsted, Mark Pickard, Sherry Powers, Christy Spurlock, Heather Strode, Donald Swoboda, and William Tallon.

II. Minutes

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

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. Chair

Paul Markham, Chair of the Senate, described the sign-in process to new senators (If you are present, cross out your name. If you plan to be absent, remember to send your alternate so that your college can be represented when voting takes place. The alternate should print their name legibly on the line to the right of the person they are subbing for).

Chair Markham then described the format of the new University Senate Website, and announced that Garrett 106B has been secured as the new University Senate office.

Due to the changes in CEBS in July 2009, there was a recommendation that one senate representative remain and the other will become an at-large senator. When Chair Markham brought this to the floor of the Senate, there were no objections to this change.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, Holly Payne, is soliciting volunteers/recommendations for a part-time faculty representative on the Faculty Welfare Committee, and one regional campus representative on the Faculty Welfare Committee. At-Large appointments are still being made. As committees have agendas and reports ready, they should be posted to the website.

When the officers were elected last Friday for the Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership in Higher Education, Molly Kirby was elected as the Treasurer.

The KCTCS support system Governor's Task Force was summarized for the new senators (what the group does, what some hot current topics are, when the meeting is, and who can vote). The next meeting is Oct. 2, and four people from WKU can vote on issues.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Patricia Minter, is out of town at a conference and will send her report via faculty-all email.

d. Student Government Association

Kevin Smiley, the new SGA President, addressed the University Senate and talked about how the SGA wants to talk progressively and work together with the faculty. He introduced the student representatives who were in attendance at the Senate meeting, and said that he will be giving monthly reports on SGA activities to the University Senate. He then talked about current SGA initiatives: (1) The SGA is forming a Food Services Committee, which will be comprised of three students and one faculty member, and will meet monthly; (2) SGA is discussing lobbying tactics in Frankfort; (3) SGA is working to get the word out to help students with their concerns each week; (4) SGA will hold monthly forums on South Campus; and (5) SGA continues to support their vote regarding Domestic Partnership Benefits and wrote a letter to the Benefits Committee regarding this.

e. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, congratulated the faculty and staff on recruiting and retaining students and moving them toward graduation. She then talked about the

College Readiness Bill and the national common standards committee to ensure that where high school ends, college picks up.

She then clarified how carry forward on the Senate Budget will work.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Julie Shadoan, the Chair of the Curriculum Committee, made a motion for support and approval of the UCC agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

b. General Education

Richard Weigel, the Chair of the General Education Committee, made a motion for support and approval of the General Education agenda items for University Senate consideration. The consent agenda passed unanimously with no discussion on the items.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

No report was presented.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

No report was presented.

e. Graduate Council

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

V. Old Business

Chair Markham went over the parliamentary procedure with new senators.

A discussion took place on the clinical ranks proposal that was postponed per senate vote until this meeting. After going over a memo from Dr. Miller and the description of clinical rank practitioner for ranks, Dr. Siegrist cited reasons for developing the clinical rank in nursing. The floor then opened for discussion. Kate Hudepohl made a motion to consider an amendment that the clinical ranks would only apply to CEBS. Dr. Burch said that any other college who would want to use this would need to develop criteria for using it. Dr. Miller said that he does not want to limit it to any one college. He stated that it is available to any department as long as they express the criteria, and that he wants any department who meets the criteria for clinical ranks to be able to petition for it. Dr. Burch said that the clinical rank needs to be approved generically so other groups can be approved. Dr. Weigel said that he wants to pass it for nursing now and wants other colleges who think that it pertains to them can bring it forth separately and have it approved. A motion to call

the question carried. The ^{Amended} original proposal and the ^{passed} amendment passed with 30 voting yes and 19 voting no.

David Zimmer provided a report on the status of domestic partnership benefits (See below).

VI. New Business

A special election took place for University Senate Secretary because of the recent vacancy that occurred. Nominations from the floor included Kate Hudepohl from Potter College and Megan Thompson from the Community College. Kate Hudepohl was elected as the new University Senate Secretary, with a 30/22 vote.

On behalf of another faculty member, Vicki Metzgar from Teacher Education brought forth the issue of creating a smoke-free university and asked if this issue had already been brought forth. The SGA representatives stated that they will have some ballot results from last spring's survey regarding enforcement of current provisions. Senator Metzger made a motion to refer this question to the Executive Committee to find the proper channel for the possibility of exploring a university-wide smoking or tobacco ban. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion by Paul Markham "that the meeting adjourn" was carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Text from Domestic Partner Benefits Report (Senator David Zimmer)

I have been asked to provide a brief report on the current status of the proposal to extend health benefits to domestic partners. As many of you recall, the Faculty Senate voted to approve the resolution last spring.

Three other campus bodies have also voted on the issue. Last spring the Student Government Association voted to approve the resolution. This summer, the Staff Council rejected the resolution in an email meeting. Finally, the Employee Benefits Committee, which consists of a mix of faculty and staff, voted, by way of secret ballot, to reject the resolution.

The Employee Benefits Committee has conducted thorough reviews of the relevant academic research and policy reports. In addition, the committees have collected information on other institutions of higher learning within the Commonwealth, as well as government and private competitors with which we compete in hiring markets.

These investigations have produced several areas of agreement, including issues related to cost containment, as well as potential impacts on the process of recruiting and retaining faculty. There are also areas of disagreement, including specific mechanisms through which such a plan might

be implemented. To help resolve these issues, the Committee intends on learning from the experiences of UK, U of L, and NKU, all of which have Domestic Partner benefits programs. It is not yet clear how the differing responses from various organizations and committees across campus will affect the resolution. But what I can tell you is that the Employee Benefits Committee, which will ultimately be charged with designing and implementing any plan, intends to revisit this issue eventually. First, the Committee must address matters concerning potential adjustments to plan design and premiums. There is concern that if plan adjustments must be implemented, and if these adjustments occur at the same time that a Domestic Partner plan is implemented, then some might conclude that the two are related. These are independent topics. For this reason, the Domestic Partners issue is on hold for now, to be revisited at an unknown future date.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Pintner, Secretary