

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 3:45 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Andrew McMichael. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Approval

The Minutes of December 15, 2005, were presented by Secretary Douglas Clayton Smith. The minutes were approved.

Reports

Chair

Chair McMichael reported the following:

- Elections for at-large senators will occur in March.
- Patricia Minter has been reappointed to the Benefits Committee
- Dan Myers has been appointed to the Hiring Committee
- A nomination is needed for service on the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach's Committee to Evaluate Winter Term
- A Faculty/Staff Open Forum on KTRS/ORP will be held on March 2, 2006 at 3:00 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom. All involved parties are being encouraged to attend.

Vice Chair

Vice Chair, John All, was not present. No report was presented.

Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, reported:

- The Board of Regents held its quarterly meeting in Frankfort.
- The state budget is quite frugal regarding higher education.
- Newspaper reports that the state budget gives WKU money to build the football stadium were incorrect. As it currently stands, the state budget would allow WKU to sell bonds to finance the stadium.
- The football coach's contract now includes clauses for bonuses for wins if we move to I-A football. Moreover, if the football coach stays five years he gets a piece of lake-front property that has been donated to the football endowment.
- Although no decision has been made yet, all signs suggest that we are going to I-A football.
- The money that is set aside by Western Kentucky University for the Insurance Reserve Fund is part of faculty and staff compensation and should be treated accordingly. There is a claim that the university's contribution is the university's money. That is false. When it was decided to bailout the insurance fund, the money came out of the salary pool. Faculty and staff have paid for that. The notion that they can treat the bailout as a loan is false. A second claim being made is that the money is all state money. While this is true, it does not prevent Western for protecting that fund for use just for insurance.
- On the insurance fund issue, the University Senate stands alone in its insistence that the university should not dip into the fund. There is no one on the dean's council or the administrative council that supports putting the insurance reserve fund in a lockbox. The silence has been quite uniform.

Provost

Provost, Barbara Burch, reported:

- The dollars that the university had hoped for in the

state budget are going to be much less than anticipated.

- The state legislature is concerned about educational affordability. A recent study showed that Western Kentucky University's tuition was still very affordable compared with our benchmarks.
- The state government is moving toward caps on tuition. These are not solid caps. It is likely the university will still have some discretion as to its tuition.
- There is an effort to "decomplicate" the number and types of reports and action plans required during the fall semester.
- The administration is still translating the strategic plan outcomes into budget items.
- There is still an effort to improve our salaries in comparison with our benchmarks.
- A meeting of the joint committee on evaluation is scheduled in the next few days to look at the levels of participation on the SGA evaluation as compared with the SITE evaluation.
- Providing feedback on the budget is important.

*University
Curriculum
Committee*

It was moved by UCC chair, Julie Shadoan, that the University Senate approve the consent agenda from their December and January meetings. No item was moved from the consent agenda to the action agenda. The consent agenda was unanimously approved.

*Committee on
Academic Quality*

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Quality was not present. Chair McMichael presented their report on their January 18, 2006 committee meeting. At the meeting they:

- Discussed the status of the plus/minus grading system evaluation project.
- Discussed faculty workload calculation
- Discussed advising on campus with Ellen Bonaguro

*Faculty Welfare and
Professional
Responsibilities
Committee*

Mary Wolinski, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, reported on the committee's January 26, 2006 meeting. At the meeting they:

- Discussed the University Senate Survey implementation
- Discussed several issues that may appear before the University Senate as resolutions:
 - Collegiality as tenure and promotion criteria
 - Faculty Ombudsman position
 - Idea of Stopping and Starting the Tenure Clock
 - Rewriting the Faculty Handbook Complaint procedure

Graduate Council

Dean Elmer Gray, Chair of the Graduate Council, announced that the Graduate Council as a subcommittee of the University Senate has approved the concept of the elected chair. The new wording has been added to the Graduate Council working paper and will begin in the Fall.

Dean Gray moved the consent agenda be approved by the University Senate. No items were moved from consent to action agenda. The consent agenda passed unanimously.

Old Business

INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Health Plan Agreement

Based on a formal motion by the executive committee, Chair McMichael opened the floor to informal consideration and discussion of the university administration health plan agreement signed by President Ransdell in response to the resolution previously passed by the University Senate requesting that Western Kentucky University administration refrain from raiding the insurance reserve fund. The university resolution was presented and Tony Glisson and Jim Kernings were present to answer questions. The question and answer discussion continued for 15 minutes. The discussion resulted in no motions.

Chair McMichael requested the following be included in the minutes:

Tony Glisson and Jim Kernings agreed that they would not sign off on expenditures outside of those listed in the health care agreement without sending

notification to the faculty and staff.

ORP/KTRS

Based on a formal motion from the executive committee, Chair McMichael opened the floor to informal consideration and discussion of the ORP/KTRS retirement issue and the White Paper developed by WKU entitled, "The Declining Status of the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) at Kentucky's Comprehensive Institutions." The discussion continued for 24 minutes. The discussion resulted in no motions.

Email Invitation to Join Sam's Club

This discussion was postponed by Chair McMichael without motion until the March meeting.

Stipends for on-line course development and on-line teaching summer camp

It was moved by Senator Khatir that the University Senate discuss informally the issue of stipends for the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach's on-line teaching summer camp and the stipends that had been available for faculty developing web-based courses to clarify the relationship between the two. Discussion continued for 2 minutes and was terminated by statements from the Provost clarifying that the stipend for DELO's summer camp was an additional stipend and that stipends previously awarded for developing a web course were now being awarded only for developing web courses that lead to putting an entire WKU program on line.

Announcements

Chair McMichael announced that the executive committee officially asked Secretary Smith to follow Stugis' guidelines for minutes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Dan Myers, "that the meeting adjourn." Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M. Douglas Clayton Smith, *Secretary*

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Smith, Secretary

NOTE: The agenda with its attachments for this meeting can be found on the University Senate website: <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Org/FS/meetings.htm>