

WKU UNIVERSITY SENATE MINUTES

February 15, 2007

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the WKU University Senate was called to order Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 3:50 P.M. in the Garrett Ballroom by Chair Michelle Hollis. A quorum was present.

The following members were present: Johnathon Boles, Scott Bonham, Charles Borders, Tim Brotherton, Stuart Burris, Mike Carini, Jerry Daday, Robert Dietle, Richard Dressler, Freda Embry, Janice Ferguson, Tim Gilbert, Deana Groves, Anthony Harkins, Joe Hardin, Kathleen Hennessey, Michelle Hollis, Kate Hudepohl, Kaveh Khatir, Debbie Kreitzer, Dominic Lanphier, Scott Lasley, John Long, Sherry Lovan, Cynthia Mason, Karen Mason, Laura McGee, Andrew McMichael, Patricia Minter, Richard C. Miller, Roger Murphy, Dan Myers, Thanh Lan Ngugen, Johnston Njoku, Laurin Notheisen, Holly Payne, Katharine Pettit, Keith Phillips, Krist Schell, Peter Sepanski, Julie Shadoan, Vernon Sheeley, Nevil Speer, Carol Stowe-Byrd, Samanta Thapa, Tom Tutino, Judy Walker, Carol Watwood, Jeff Willis, Jacqueline Wofford, and Mary Wolinski.

Alternates present were: Steve Kenworthy for John All, Denise Gravitt for Greg Arbuckle, Ahmed Emam for Mustafa Atici, Cindy Houston for Marty Boman, Richard C. Miller for Barbara Burch, Ray Blankenship for Jeff Butterfield, Daniel Carter for Terry Dean, Andrew Ernest for Blaine Ferrell, Jeanne Fiene for Bud Schlinker, Tammie Stenger-Ramsey for Peter St. Pierre.

The following members were absent: Mike Binder, John Bonaguro, Robert Bowker, Janice Chadha, Walter Collett, Eddy Cuisinier, Judy Davison, Nancy English, Sam Evans, James Gary, Jerry Gotlieb, Jens Harlander, Heather Johnson, David Lee, Terrence McCain, Timothy Mullin, John Musalia, Katrina Phelps, Heidi Pintner, Gary Ransdell, Eric Reed, Sherry Reid, Angela Robertson, Jeffrey Samuels, Sandra Starks, Don Swoboda, William J. Tallon, Michelle Trawick, and Stacy Wade.

II. Minutes

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

III. Reports

a. Chair

Michelle Hollis, Chair of the Senate, reported that The KTRS Resolution that passed Senate was taken to the Coalition of Senate Faculty and Leadership. It is comprised of Faculty Senate Chairs and Past Chairs from around the state along with regents. We sent out a proposal to them and several of the schools around the state have used our resolution as a template to create their own resolutions. KCTCS and Kentucky

State have already passed similar ones. EKU and Murray State are working on their resolutions this week. These resolutions will be sent to the Governor once all of the schools' resolutions have been completed.

As an informational item, there is presidential search for the CPE president; if anyone is interested, send Michelle Hollis an email and she will send you a link that will guide you to all of the information that is needed.

In the Executive Committee meeting, we discussed the possibility of having electronic votes for the faculty regents' election this year, so this will probably happen.

Dr. Burch also expressed an interest in having Senate availability during the summer months. The Executive Committee discussed having a representative group like the Executive Committee to vote on anything that may happen to come through in the summer that needs approval. They also discussed the possibility of voting electronically during the summer if something comes up in the summer that we feel we should have access to before it is just passed without any faculty input.

Senators are still needed on the Faculty Handbook Committee from Ogden College and Gordon Ford College of Business. Nevil Speer has volunteered to be a Senate Representative on this committee from his college. However, once these revisions to the handbook are made, they will be passed on to the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, of which he is the chair. Michelle Hollis is hoping that another Senator from Ogden will step forth. The committee will happen regardless of whether these colleges are represented. The committee as is stands is comprised of Julie Shadoan and Francesca Sunkin from the Community College, Timothy Mullin and Roxanne Spencer from the Library, Patricia Minter and Elizabeth Winkler from Potter, Janice Ferguson and Sam McFarland from the College of Education, Sherry Lovan and Beverly Siegrist from the College of Health and Human Services, Cate Webb from Ogden, John Wassom from College of Business. The administrators will be Dennis George and Retta Poe. Adjunct will be Wren Mills, and Jim Fulkerson from the University College.

Several Department Heads expressed concern about not being represented on the Faculty Handbook Committee. They are faculty, so they can be represented. She reminded departmental senators to report back to their department (including department chairs) what is happening in the senate meetings. This committee was first presented at the December executive committee meeting and then at the January Senate meeting. Some department heads were not aware of this committee, so this means that not all senators are reporting on the Senate meetings to their department.

People who are appointed to university-wide committees are supposed to give reports from their meetings to Michelle Hollis. She failed to get a report from the benefits committee and from the athletics committee representatives. However, the representative to the budget council did give a report. Dr. Ransdell's strategic

priorities for funding included libraries expansion in Owensboro and Elizabethtown, the EDD Leadership Doctoral Program, Honors Program, Study Abroad, Nursing, and permanent funding for the clinical education complex, an associate vice president for economic development, a rural mobile health unit, and environmental health and safety unit. Other unavoidable funding commitments such as maintenance and operating costs for opening new facility rate increases and faculty promotions will be funded in addition to the projected amount for the minimum wage increases. One of the biggest decisions for the budget council this year was to ask that every budget cycle include an increase for operating costs. This would be a new policy and would mean that operating costs increases would become a recurring budget item. This year the council proposed that each division receive a one-percent pool for operating expenses. The staff regent requested that additional staff positions be added to the budget. The total required to fund all positions requested was large and needs to be addressed in several different budget cycles. However, there will be an amount in the new budget to address those needs. Dr. Ransdell is supporting the budget council's recommendation of a four-percent pool for faculty salary increases. This includes both cost of living and merit considerations. The pool is generated or filled in vacant budgeted positions and an increase in the part-time faculty pool and graduate assistant pool.

b. Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair, John All, was not present. There was no report.

c. Faculty Regent

The Faculty Regent, Robert Dietle, stated that there was no report.

d. Provost

The Provost, Barbara Burch, was not present. Richard C. Miller reported in her place.

During the January SACS (Southern Association for Colleges and Schools) Meeting, there was a vote taken to revise SACS guidelines for faculty credentials. There are 7-8 guidelines on this list that institutions must follow to credential faculty to teach at the institutions that are accredited. All of these guidelines have been removed. The Provost has not had an opportunity to sit down with department heads and deans to talk about how we at WKU will take a look at this. Until such time, WKU will continue to follow the guidelines that SACS indicated prior to the indicated change, along with some flexibility. There are no more stringent guidelines that are mandated by SACS; their preference is that all teaching individuals have a terminal degree and they leave it up to the institutions to determine any alternative criteria.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

a. University Curriculum Committee

Julie Shadoan, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, moved for approval of the January consent agenda. The course proposals passed unanimously as presented without discussion.

b. General Education

Patricia Minter, Chair of the General Education Committee, reported that there was one agenda item that was passed. There is one amendment. The agenda item was passed on the January 29th meeting. She moved for approval on this item and it passed unanimously without discussion.

c. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities

Nevil Speer, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee, reported that Bob Cobb's Office, Institutional Research, has been working for the past months on the annualized faculty workload report, which our department heads are supposed to be taking care of. The original email went out to them on November 20. The system is still open and will be closed sometime this week. Nevil Speer reiterated the importance of that because it is a new process to look at workload from an annualized standpoint instead of a one-semester snapshot issue. He urged the senators to go back and talk to department chairs about what is your workload and what are you accountable for. In a month or two, there should be an assessment of what that looks like across campus. Workload is not just teaching load; it is all of the other things that you are doing there. There are 25 different categories set up by Bob's office to attribute your time.

d. Committee on Academic Quality

The Chair of the Committee on Academic Quality, Andrew McMichael, stated that there is no formal agenda, but there are several reports under new business.

e. Graduate Council

Tim Gilbert, the Chair of the Graduate Council, reminded graduate faculty and those who work with graduate students on a regular basis that nomination packets for the John D. Minton Award, as well as the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, have been emailed. Please fill those out if you feel that you have either a graduating senior or graduate student who should be honored this spring or someone who graduated last fall. They would like as many nominations as possible.

He then 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.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business