Call to Order:

- Chair Mac McKerral called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 3:45 pm in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.

- **Members Present:** Cain Alvey, Shahnaz Aly, Roberto Jimenez-Arroyo, Kirk Atkinson, Lauren Bland, Charles Borders, Kristi Branham, Christa Briggs, Chris Brown, Amy Cappiccie, Ismael Civelek, Christopher Costa, Bruce Crawley, Brittany Crowley, Tucker Davis, Robert Dietle, Cory Dodds, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Barbara Fiehn, Ron Gallagher, John Gottfried, Peggy Gripshover, Jennifer Hanley, Nancy Hulan Angela Jerome, Guy Jordan, Randy Kinnersley, Sonia Lenk, Qi Li, Kelly Madole, James May, Mac, McKerral, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Samangi Munasinghe, Matt Nee, Ngoc Nguyen, Kristin Polk, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Kelly Reames, Verdon Sheeley, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Mark Staynings, Fred Stickle, Janet Tassell, Paula Trafton, Carrie Trojan, Rico Tyler, John White, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski

- **Alternates Present:** Janet Applin (Sam Evans), Melanie Autin (Richard Schugart), Chunmei Du (Tamara Van Dyken), T. Scott Lyons (John Bonaguro), Martin Stone (Becky Gillifen)

- **Absent:** Darlene Applegate, Diane Carver, Ashley Chance-Fox, Patricia Desrosiers, Connie Foster, Mary Jane Gardner, Dennis George, Steven Gibson, Frederick Grieve, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Jeffrey Kash, Jeffrey Katz, Richard Keaster, Ed Kintelz, Debra Kreitzer, Joan Krenzin, Molly Kirby, Alison Langdon, Suellyn Lathrop, Alex Lebedinsky, David Lee, Ingrid Lilly, Gustavo Obeso, Keith Phillips, Gary Ransdell, Kateri Rhodes, Nancy Rice, Janice Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Dana Sullivan, Samanta Thapa, Evelyn Thrasher,

**A. Approve January Minutes**
- approved

**B. Reports:**

1. Chair – Mac McKerral
   - Senate site, under **Senate Updates**—please review
     - 2 QEP proposals sent by Doug McElroy
     - Improving Student Learning
   - Spring Break: SEC agenda posted February 25, March 4 meeting
   - March meeting very important:
Handbook update

Pres Ransdell will visit to discuss WKU budget

Plus-minus grading: considered by graduate council and curriculum committee

2. Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley

Time to start thinking about Faculty Senate elections, coming up soon

Changes in representation require an election

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education Representative – Molly Kerby

COSFL meeting Monday 12:30 pm in Frankfurt

Chair invites feedback and input from faculty

4. Advisory:
   a. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter
      
      As reported in local press—Board of Regents met on January 25
      
      Contract for Coach Petrino passed, vote was 6 to 1
      
      Meeting was anti-climactic; little discussion
      
      Report of enrollment included no hard numbers
      
      looking forward to receiving full enrollment report
      
      If enrollment declines, funding will suffer
      
      Reminds all constituencies that we should not be funding entertainment when we face budget shortfalls
      
      Everyone must speak out
      
      Entertainment is nice, but we should fund first for academic priorities
      
      Will keep everyone informed, and thanks to all for support
   
   b. Provost – Gordon Emslie
      
      6 recommendations approved
      
      Grad council report…had to revise implementation dates
      
      SACS—preparing for report coming up soon
      
      Asking faculty to clarify credentials for every course
      
      SACS requires revision of several campus policies…working on this
      
      SACS has reduced some requirements (such as distance learning, no longer requires separate approval for different areas)
      
      QEP: please review proposals sent out by Doug McElroy
      
      One for Writing/Communication and the other for “Information Mastery”
      
      Seeking feedback
      
      Bi-term course response
      
      Appreciate possibility to discuss with many parties
      
      Overwhelming majority of students/faculty do not support this
      
      Many point out potential risks, such as impact on ability to write papers, time to recover from illness, increased stress, loss of 5th week assessment, possibility of drop in student retention
      
      Deliberate move to bi-term is not in the best interest of WKU
      
      However, we will continue to explore enhanced use of accelerated learning, and other scheduling plans
      
      Will pursue opportunities to increase enrollment for winter and summer programs
      
      Various means of learning evolve, and other changes may merit our attention
MOOCs may represent an opportunity/threat to educational landscape
Online courses may offer good opportunities for alternative schedules and strategies
Adult learners particularly may find such alternatives useful
  - Thanks to all for participation and feedback

c. SGA President – Cory Dodds
  - Student Government: Vote on Plus-Minus Grading Proposal was scheduled, but has been postponed
  - Will keep Faculty Senate informed of progress
  - Study abroad scholarship application is now online, deadline approaching

C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
   - Approved with minor exceptions (due to discrepancies in start dates)

2. UCC: (Report Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
   - Approved

D. Old Business

1. Selection, Appointment and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs (Posted: Endorsed by SEC)
   - Took up last meeting, moved to this month
   - See Revised Amendment to this policy, below

2. Revised Amendment to Old Business Item 1.0214
   - Previous amendment rescinded; new amendment presented
   - First new amendment: Head of committee should have experience as Dept. Head, AND, search committee should operate independently of hiring official
     - Comment: Would this include forwarding the recommendation to the Dean
     - Comment: amended to refer to output from each stage of the process
     - Approved
   - Second new amendment: Person chosen as interim Department Head should be tenured, preferably in the department (Section 6D)
     - Comment: This amendment answers a particular situation, so maybe we shouldn’t make this a policy
     - Comment: any move we can make to insure the integrity of searches is a good thing, and I don’t think it is an exceptional situation
     - Approved
   - Vote on policy as amended
     - Approved

E. New Business:

1. Colonnade Implementation Committee course recommendations (university college versions of courses) MA 109C, MA 116C, and MA 117C; ENGL 100C, ENGL 200C; COMM 145C
   - Approved
2. Recommendation in Response to the IEC Letter Concerning a new $150 SAGL Study Abroad Fee
   • Should not create new fee after students have already planned trips and finances—this recommends that implementation of the fee be delayed until summer of 2014
   • Approved

F. Information items:
   1. Memo on Plus-minus Grading, 2007 (Posted)

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm
Respectfully submitted: John Gottfried, Secretary