

University Senate Meeting
Thursday, August 27, 2015 -- 3:45 p.m.
Faculty House

A. Call To Order

- Chair Hudepohl called to order a regular meeting of the WKU University Senate on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 3:45 P.M. A quorum was present.

- **Members Present:**

Cathy Abell, Heidi Álvarez, Farhad Ashrafzadeh, Dora Babb, Jim Berger, Erika Brady, Barbara Brindle, Jill Brown, Barbara Burch, Thaddeus Reed Crews, Susann Davis, Martha Day, Laura DeLancey, Richard Dressler, Lisa Duffin, Marko Dumancic, Loretta Dye, Claus Ernst, Travis Esslinger, Ann Ferrell, Marilyn Gardner, Frederick Grieve, Anne Heintzman, Don Hoover, Kate Hudepohl, Michelle Jackson, Muhammad Jahan, Dean Jordan, Molly Kerby, Hanna Khouryieh, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Stephen King, Eric Kondratieff, Dominic Lanphier, David Lee, Fenghelen Liang, Ching-Yi Lin, Ling Lo, Jeremy Maddox, Kelly Madole, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marston, Andrew Mienaltowski, Richard C. Miller, Patricia Minter, Bella Mukonyora, Kurt Neely, Anthony Paquin, Katherine Pennavaria, Yvonne Petkus, Shura Pollatsek, Bryan Reaka, Jeffrey Rice, Nancy Rice, Jay Todd Richey, Tiffany Robinson, Julie Shadoan, Johghee Shim, Beverly Siegrist, Michael Smith, Larry Snyder, Sandy Staebell, Cheryl Stevens, Rebecca Stobaugh, Heather Strode, Elizabeth Price Sturgeon, Dick Taylor, Tamara Van Dyken, Elizabeth Winkler, and Dawn Garrett Wright.

- **Alternates Present:**

Michael Carini for Keith Andrew, Danita Kelley for Neale Chumbler, ??? for Lauren McClain, and Michael Seidler for Grace Hunt.

- **Guests Present:**

Colette Chelf, Margaret Crowder, Joshua Marble, Andrew McMichael, Aaron Mudd, April Murphy, and Tamela Smith.

- **Members Absent:**

Kristi Branham, Patricia Desrosiers, Robert Dietle, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Dennis George, Tom Hunley, Thomas Kingery, Joshua Marble, Gregory McAmis, Doug McElroy, Megan Miller, Evelyn Oregon, Gary Ransdell, Douglas Smith, Kevin Thomas, Tanya Vincent, Blairanne Williams, and Zhonghang Xia.

B. Approve May Minutes

- Molly Kerby made a motion to approve the May 2015 University Senate Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Gayle Mallinger. There was no discussion. The minutes to the May 2015 meeting were approved as posted.

C. Reports:

1. Chair – Kate Hudepohl

- Chair Hudepohl welcomed new and returning senators, as well as the guests who were present.
- She clarified the sign-in procedure, which is to simply put a line through your name. If you are a substitute, legibly print your name to the right of the person you are subbing for. If your name is left off of the sign-in sheet, please write your name at the bottom of the sheet.
- The Senate ListServ will be corrected soon.
- Please use the microphone any time you speak in order to make yourself heard by others in the room and because the meeting is being recorded.
- Speak your last name prior to speaking so it can be recorded accurately in the minutes.

2. Vice Chair – Julie Shadoan

- Vice Chair Shadoan is in the process of populating standing committees and other university committees that require senate appointment. One college needs an at-large appointment.
 - If elected in 2014, she needs to know if it is your second term or your first term. Please notify Vice Chair Shadoan via email which it is for you. The current website is not accurate. If you are a departmental senator, are you in your first year of your first term or are you in your first year of your second term? Vice Chair Shadoan wants to make sure the records are accurate.
 - In terms of standing committees, college representatives are all filled except for colonnade. This was not a standing committee last year. College representatives and alternates need to caucus today. Please stay. Several alternate representative positions are open and need to be filled.
 - Most at-large positions have been appointed or nominated; a few are vacant.
 - Anything not highlighted on the list must be filled. The caucus includes colonnade and CEBS departmental senator.
 - Vice Chair Shadoan is still sorting out university committees that do not require senate appointment and will communicate via faculty all email.
 - Please let Vice Chair Shadoan of any corrections that need to be made to these lists.

3. Secretary – Heidi Alvarez: No Report.

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

- Molly Kerby is WKU's representative for the Coalition of Senate Faculty Leadership, an advisory from all universities in the state. There is a meeting on the 28th or 29th; anyone is welcome to be present.

5. AAUP President - Margaret Crowder

- Margaret Crowder is WKU's representative for the American Association of University Professors.
- The publication for this association is called "Academe"

- Crowder implores the faculty of the university to become members, as the AAUP is a representative protecting academic freedom and shared governance. WKU needs to grow our membership in order to become a responsive, proactive group on campus.
- Please become a member, you can register at aup.org – AAUP can be our vehicle to quickly respond to issues.
- Contact Margaret Crowder with any questions.

6. Advisory:

a. Faculty Regent – Barbara Burch

- There were two board meetings this summer; one for budget approval and the other for the summer retreat.
- Many things are happening on campus. In terms of the budget approval, the details were outlined Friday at the President’s convocation. We are at crossroads. The University Budget and Academic Affairs are all taking cuts. We cannot move forward in the year without a balanced budget. This is a tight year due to multiple years of shortfalls.
- Attention to budget, enrollment, and compensation are all on the Board’s agenda.
- If we do not find a way to grow enrollment or live as a smaller institution, there are some significant budgetary decisions that will have to be made.
- The status of the budget will require prioritization down the road. There are issues with compensation and compression. Dr. Burch said her personal opinion is that there is no “win” in terms of budget. Other than a slightly increased athletic fee, it was all cuts or reallocation. The distribution of scholarships for next year is being changed to avoid overspending; this process will take several years to play out.
- There are many viewpoints on compensation and not much increase in recent years; this is happening across the country.
- The Board of Regents elected officers. Frederick Higdon is the new Board Chair. Gillard Johnson is the new Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee; the committee will be examining compensation starting immediately this fall. Faculty Regent Burch is on the Finance Committee and The Academic Affairs Committee.
- Regarding the Confucius Institute Building, funds are scarce. It is a fifty-year commitment; Regent Burch is not sure how this will work out.
- Regent Burch congratulated Provost Lee on his appointment as Provost.

b. Provost – David Lee

- Provost Lee said he is surprised and excited about his new position as Provost. These are not easy times in the 109-year history of the institution. Provost Lee stated that he is satisfied that he likes to sit down with various groups to talk about how to fix things, make things better, and move forward. He said that we can do significant things to make a difference in the coming year, and referred to “trim tabs” in a rudder that change direction; small collective and accumulative behaviors make an impact, and day-to-day activities are what will make a difference. He stated that he is gratified with the response in the last week and that it reinforces his commitment to make a difference in what happens down the road.

c. SGA President – Jay Todd Richey

- Jay Todd Richey, the new President of SGA, and a Junior at WKU this year, notified senators that he gets out of class at 3:40. He stated that this is his first University Senate meeting at that he is excited about learning how the governing body of all faculty on campus operates.
- Richey gave a brief overview of what SGA was working on over the summer:
 - (1) The Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) approved SGA's \$30/semester fee on tuition to construct a new parking structure. This fee has a sunset clause and will end after completion of the structure.
 - (2) The university also made a deal with a company called RAVE and their app known as "Guardian." RAVE Guardian will be a campus safety app that students can download to their smart phones and they will have direct contact to the police department on campus as well as their other friends who have the app.
- Richey added that he also went to China this summer.
- SGA will be working very hard this year on pressing issues across many college campuses in Kentucky as well as in the United States.
- SGA's goals this year include: campus safety, campus inclusion, campus sustainability, sexual assault prevention, college affordability, and college accessibility. Richey stated that "if we are truly going to be a Leading American University, the students need to play a significant role in leading these efforts."
- Tuesday, September 1st is the first meeting of the year for SGA; there are many interested freshmen, and Richey stated that he is hopeful that this year will be a very active year for the organization.
- Richey is the Vice Chair on the Board of Student Body Presidents of Kentucky, and they have discussed lobbying the state legislature for more funding for higher education through the lottery funding. This was recommended by the CPE and has been popular for many involved members of SGA. Last year, 83% of total revenue generated from the lottery went to higher education; whereas in the past, it was 100%. This means 17% of lottery funding has been diverted to the General Assembly's general fund. As college students and particularly student body presidents, we hope to restore more funding to higher education in the form of KEES money and grants. This is not 100% concrete, but Richey and his colleagues feel it is a worthwhile endeavor for all Kentucky students.
- Richey's message as student body president to the faculty is that we are united in governance. He wants to see better interaction and better legislative coordination between the faculty and the students and wants to work together. He said to use Dr. Lee's metaphor, the students, faculty, and staff can be the trim tabs for the university.

D. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council: No Report.
2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: No Report.

3. Colonnade General Education Committee: No Report.
4. Academic Quality: No Report.
5. Budget and Finance Committee: No Report.
6. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility: No Report.

E. Old Business

There was no old business.

F. New Business

1. A motion on the floor by Molly Kerby to move Information Item #2 to New Business was seconded by Gayle Mallinger. Following a unanimous vote, Information Item #2 was moved to New Business.
 - A motion by Molly Kerby for the University Senate to endorse the **August 17, 2015 SEC motion to reconsider Confucius Institute Building Contract** was seconded by Martha Day. Discussion then followed.
 - Kate Hudepohl said that in discussing fixed costs in the SEC meeting, the Confucius Institute Building came up. The SEC unanimously approved this motion that asks Dr. Ransdell to reconsider the terms of the contract.
 - Kelly Madole stated that she is willing to endorse the resolution, and would appreciate it if the most knowledgeable person could discuss the contractual obligations and costs.
 - Laura DeLancey, who was the Chair of the Academic Quality Committee last year, said that the committee requested a copy of the contract. One area of concern was the fifty-year contract for exclusive use of the building. Another area of concern was that ½ of the money was put forth by the Chinese government. She mentioned foundation and spending for utilities.
 - Molly Kerby added that we don't know 100% of the details, and it is a transparency issue.
 - Patricia Minter said that the Board of Regents approved the contract prior to actually seeing the contract. She would like the Board of Regents to be able to see the contract and reconsider it. He hopes they will unanimously endorse the motion.
 - Martha Day said that in April 2015, an advisory board was appointed by President Ransdell. She wants to know why they were not informed of the terms of the contract.
 - Regent Burch said there was competition. The Confucius Institute is funded by Hanban, which is an arm of the Chinese government that stresses language and culture around the globe. Some money goes to the campus and Chinese teachers are placed out in the public schools. With competition, Hanban offered money to build a Confucius Institute building on campuses. President Ransdell applied and was selected. \$1.5 million was awarded. This was determined last fall. President

Ransdell went to China and signed the contract on December 8. In January, the Board of Regents met. The President indicated that it came up late in the year, and that we were selected for the grant. The contract was not available at the time to the Board. It was not unanimous, but it did have approval of the Board. The building is exclusive to the Confucius Institute for Hanban-approved activities. It is a fifty-year contract. If we default, we are obligated to return a proportion of the grant. For example, if we default in 10 years after paying 20%, we will owe 80% of \$1.5 million. The \$1.5 million that was granted has to be matched. \$800,000 came from research in the Foundation. The balance is in-kind (planning, equipment, etc.). It is a commitment for the building. This covers the cost of the building and obligates the university for 50 years. Regent Burch added that Patricia Minter's point is that ground will be broken this fall; the point is that any reconsideration would need to happen soon.

- Someone asked to clarify the usage of the building, because they heard President Ransdell say that it is open to any group on campus. This is different than what the contract says. Regent Burch said, "the fact is that it cannot be converted for some other purpose without specific approval from Hanban; however, that would not preclude giving permission for someone to use the meeting on an occasionally basis."
- There was no further discussion.
- The motion in favor of supporting the **August 17, 2015 SEC motion to reconsider Confucius Institute Building Contract** passed with unanimous approval.

2. Caucus for Colonnade General Education Committee Members

- Vice Chair Shadoan led a caucus for committee members. Results will be posted.

G. Information items

3. **Budget Presentation by Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration - Ann Mead**

- Because of last year's budget shortfall and reallocation, Chair Hudepohl invited Vice President Mead and President Ransdell to attend the University Senate meeting in early fall. Hudepohl felt that Senators would want to have more information and would find a presentation useful. Hudepohl attended the Board of Regents meetings this summer. At the May meeting, Ann Mead gave a detailed powerpoint presentation on the budget, which Hudepohl found helpful. Vice President Mead's presentation is intended to educate and inform the faculty. President Ransdell will give a question and answer session in September. Kim Read from Ann Mead's office gave a dry run of the presentation to the Senate Executive Committee. Information and feedback was used to modify Information Item #1. The Senate Executive Committee agenda from August 17 is the original one; today's powerpoint is updated. President Ransdell still plans to attend the September Q&A session; please have meaningful questions for him. Chair Hudepohl wants the faculty to have time to digest information and take action as necessary. Kelly Madole asked if the Senate Chair would be willing to collect questions ahead of time for President Ransdell. Chair Hudepohl stated that this is a good idea, and that she will get the agenda out faster with a reminder

to the faculty.

4. **August 17, 2015 SEC motion to reconsider Confucius Institute Building Contract**
 - A motion was made at the August 17, 2015 Senate Executive Committee meeting regarding the Confucius Institute Building Contract. Regent Burch cannot endorse or act on this motion until it goes through Senate. It needs to move to new business, have a motion to endorse, and requires a vote.
5. **Standing Committee Membership of University Senate**
 - a. **At-large standing committee members appointed by SEC on August 17, 2015**
6. **President Ransdell and Provost Emslie joint written response to the May 2015 University Senate Resolution for Appropriate Emphasis: Academics**
 - The Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities Committee made a resolution from the floor in May 2015. The link above contains the original resolution and a joint response from President Ransdell and Provost Emslie. Please read, as it is related to compensation.
 - a. **May 2015 University Senate Resolution for Appropriate Emphasis: Academics**
7. **Senate Budget**
 - The University Senate Budget is housed under Academic Affairs.
 - Chair Hudepohl plans to give an update on the Senate Budget every month.
 - Some funds have already been expended for 2015-16 and listed here: \$105 for external hard drive for this year and to pass on to the next chair (a thumb drive is no longer the best solution); Acrobat Pro (one copy for Chair Hudepohl and one copy for Vice Chair Shadoan); Books on Parliamentary Procedure; and Tea and Beverage Service (which can be discussed for the future).
 - The carry-forward number is not accurate; it is actually less due to taxes. Chair Hudepohl will try to find the exact number by the next meeting.
 - A stipend for the UCC Recorder for \$1752.92 can be discussed going forward. The stipend goes to a staff member in the Registrar's office for this job. There is a huge amount of highly detailed information and material that flows through this committee. This stipend can be discussed going forward.
 - The University Senate office, which is currently located in Garrett (the door on the lobby level next to the information desk), might need to change location. If the location moves, there might be an expense associated with that.
 - The Provost's Office pays for the person who maintains the University Senate website.
8. **University Athletic Committee candidates**
 - Due to two terms which expired on the the University Athletic Committee (those held by Foster and Basham), the Senate Chair (Kate Hudepohl) contacted the Deans of Colleges for names of new representatives. The Senate Chair then sends these names to President Ransdell, who has the final say. The two names sent

forth were Sue Lynn McDaniel from Libraries and Lee Emanuel from University College.

a. Libraries – Sue Lynn McDaniel

b. University College – Lee Emanuel

9. **Results of 2015 Faculty Welfare Study**

- The results of the faculty worklife survey are posted in these minutes as well as on the University Senate website.

10. **21st Edition of the Faculty Handbook**

- The new version of the faculty handbook is out. Margaret Crowder sent a copy over the summer via Faculty All email.

Following a caucus that began at 4:40, a motion to adjourn by Molly Kerby was seconded by Gayle Mallinger. The meeting adjourned around 4:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Álvarez
Secretary