

WKU University Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2015 -- 3:45 p.m.
Faculty House

A. Call To Order

- A regular meeting of the University Senate was called to order by Chair Kate Hudepohl at 3:48 PM on October 15, 2015 in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.
- **Members Present:** Heidi Álvarez, Farhad Ashrafzadeh, Dora Babb, Barbara Brindle, Jill Brown, Barbara Burch, Thaddeus Reed Crews, Susann Davis, Martha Day, Laura DeLancey, Richard Dressler, Marko Dumančić, Loretta Dye, Claus Ernst, Travis Essinger, Marilyn Gardner, Said Ghezal, Barrett Greenwell, Frederick Grieve, Timothy Hawkins, Anne Heintzman, Don Hoover, Kate Hudepohl, Grace Hunt, Michelle Jackson, Muhammad Jahan, Pam Jukes, Molly Kerby, Hanna Khouryieh, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Stephen King, Eric Kondratieff, Dominic Lanphier, David Lee, Fenghelen Liana, Ching-Yi Lin, James Line, Ling Lo, Jeremy Maddox, Kelly Madole, Gayle Mallinger, Joshua Marble, Lauren McClain, Andrew Mienaltowski, Megan Miller, Richard C. Miller, Patricia Minter, Kurt Neely, Anthony Paquin, Katherina Pennavaria, Yvonne Petkus, Shura Pollatsek, Bryan Reaka, Jeffrey Rice, Nancy Rice, Jay Todd Richey, Julie Shadoan, Jonghee Shim, Beverly Siegreist, Mellony Simerly, Doug Smith, Sandy Staebaugh, Rebecca Stobaugh, Heather Strode, Elizabeth Price Sturgeon, Dick Taylor, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken, Adam West, Aaron Wichman, Elizabeth Winkler, Dawn Garrett Wright, Zhonghang Xia.
- **Substitutes Present:** Michael Carini for Keith Andrew, Danita Kelley for Neale Chumbler, Michelle Trawick for Jeffrey Katz, Sawyer Coffey for Nolan Miles.
- **Guests Present:** Stuart Burris, Sylvia Gaiko, Shay Harney, Michelle Hollis, Chris Jenson, Merrell Price, Mark Ross, Andrew ???.
- **Members Absent:** Cathy Abell, Jim Berger, Erika Brady, Kristi Branham, Patricia Desrosiers, Robert Dietle, Lisa Duffin, Sam Evans, Ann Ferrell, Connie Foster, Dennis George, Tom Hunley, Dean Jordan, Thomas Kingery, Sean Marston, Doug McElroy, Bella Mukonyora, Evelyn Oregon, Gary Ransdell, Tiffany Robinson, Michael Smith, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Stevens, Kevin Thomas, Tanya Vincent, Bairanne Williams.

B. Approve September Minutes

- A motion by Dick Taylor to approve the September 17, 2015 University Senate Meeting minutes as posted was seconded by Molly Kerby. Lauren McClain made a clarification that the question mark on the very last page was her. The minutes were approved unanimously with Lauren McClain's friendly amendment.

C. Reports:

1. Chair Report – Kate Hudepohl

- The attendance sheet is on the back table. Please sign in. If speaking, please state your name and use a microphone so your comments can be audible and so they can be captured in the minutes.
- **Feedback on Compensation and Other Spending Priorities:**
Chair Hudepohl gave feedback on compensation and other spending priorities. She compiled comments from faculty regarding salary, compensation, and other budget issues. This was forwarded to Mr. Gil Johnson for distribution to the Board of Regents Finance Committee. This was sent prior to the Board of Regents meeting in a bound copy with additional copies for the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Board of Regents (Higdon).
- **Prayer resolution response:**
The President's response to the Prayer Policy from the May meeting of the Senate is included below in information items 2 and 2a. The SGA had a prayer policy and the Senate endorsed the SGA resolution. This is the President's response to this.
- **President Ransdell letter with attachments regarding the Confucius Institute:**
The President sent a letter to Chair Hudepohl with attachments. (See information Item #1) Chair Hudepohl encourages faculty to read through the information, and then went over the basic contents. Among other things, the memo and attachments include information about: (1) The maintenance and operations of the Confucius Institute building, once it is built; (2) the use of the Confucius Institute building, once it is built; (3) the Board of Regents response to the Senate resolution to revisit the Confucius Building Contract; (4) the plans for the new Confucius Institute Building. Members of the Senate Executive Committee Should look over this information for discussion. It was received after the SEC meeting.
- **Senate Budget**
 - a. **Senate budget - October**
There are no major changes since last month. Chair Hudepohl will be purchasing copies of Sturgis for the Chairs of the standing committees dealing with curriculum. This is the only change that will happen.

2. Vice Chair Report – Julie Shadoan

- a. **Faculty Mentoring Award Committee**
 - Gail Mallinger made a motion to approve the members of the Faculty Mentoring Award Committee as posted (2nd Gardner).
 - The members of the committee as posted are: L. Smith, M. Day, D. Dahl, R. Spencer, M. Kerby, S. Leguizamon, R. Hale.
 - The list of members was approved unanimously.
- b. **Senate Election for Vacancies**
 - Benefits Committee:

- On October 6, Nominations were solicited via email on faculty-all for a new member of the Benefits Committee. On October 13, nominations were closed.
- There were two nominations, Marguerita DeSander and Quentin Hollis. Only Dr. DeSander submitted a bio; this information was attached to the agenda and the ballot.
- Vice Chair Shadoan distributed the ballots to the Senators in attendance and instructed them to elect one name. She stated that the faculty member with the highest vote will be forwarded to President Ransdell for consideration to serve on this committee.
- 62 ballots were counted by the Vice Chair and Secretary of the University Senate at the conclusion of the meeting. Dr. Marguerita DeSander received the highest number of votes, and her name has been passed on to Dr. Ransdell for consideration to serve on the Benefits Committee.

- Parking and Transportation Committee:

- There are three vacancies on the Parking and Transportation Committee. On October 6, Nominations were solicited via email on faculty-all for a new member of the Parking and Transportation Committee. On October 13, nominations were closed.
- There were ten nominations, and letters of interest were not required. The ballot had these names on it: R. Brown, M. Gardner, C. Haynes, N. Iraniparast, C. Lin, A. Robinson-Nkongola, D. Schafer, J. Shankweiler, M. Staynings.
- Vice Chair Shadoan distributed the ballots to the Senators in attendance and instructed them to check only three names. Following the vote, ballots were collected.
- 62 ballots were counted by the Vice Chair and Secretary of the University Senate at the conclusion of the meeting. Reagan Brown, Marilyn Gardner, and Nezam Iraniparast received the highest number of votes. These top three votes will be sent to the Parking and Transportation Committee Chair to populate the pool whenever an issue arises.

- Library Council:

- Vice Chair Shadoan solicited nominations/volunteers from the floor for a two-year term. Barbara Brindle volunteered. There were no other nominations from the floor. A motion to approve Barbara Brindle as a member of the Library Council by Bryan Reaka was seconded by Molly Kerby. Kelly Madole asked if this two-year term really has to be filled by a Senator. Vice Chair Shadoan said that Dr. Kirscher stated it needed to be a Senator, and stated that she will send another email. Shadoan added that she encourages clear bylaws for the future. There was no other discussion. The vote to approve Barbara Brindle as a member of the Library Council passed unanimously.

- Professional Education Council:

- Vice Chair Shadoan solicited nominations/volunteers from the floor for a two-year term. Though no one volunteered immediately, Thad Crews volunteered for the committee after the meeting after getting clarification to a few questions about the committee.

3. Secretary – Heidi Alvarez

- No Report.

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

- No Report.

5. AAUP President - Margaret Crowder

- No Report.

6. Advisory:

a. Faculty Regent Report – Barbara Burch

- See Dr. Burch's report from the October 5th SEC meeting for additional details on the items below in her report.
- Regent Burch followed up on Chair Hudepohl's report on the Confucius Institute. Chair Higdon sent the Senate Resolution to the Board of Regents Executive Committee along with a statement from the University Parliamentarian Randy Capps. The Board of Regents dismissed the Senate resolution, stating that they would not address the motion from the Senate due to Roberts Rules of Order. They added that commitments and expenses had already been made and that this would set a bad precedent for the future. It was a complex response. Regent Burch then pointed out the positive side. Several positive things did change as a result of the Senate's voice. Hanban has agreed to pay maintenance and operation expenses that recur every year. Originally, it was a dedicated building; now, it will be accessible to anyone who wants to use it, though the Confucius Institute has to be housed in the building.
- The Standing Committees of the Board of Regents met at the end of September. Items discussed were personnel action, university budget and the number of deficit. Each institution has to show its liability. WKU's is \$402 million. This is quite a deficit and is a key element.
- The new Physical Therapy Department was created.
- Emeriti Faculty were recognized.
- Next year's scholarships are essentially merit-based and will go to a greater number of students.
- The Regents will be looking at a recommendation over next year Conference USA scholarships to athletes. The average cost of attendance is \$2500; athletics is working with the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and a private fundraising effort to make this possible.
- The Regents Conference Report compares 2000-2009 with 2009 to the present. WKU has declined in multiple areas (see Regent's report in the October 5 SEC meeting minutes). This is a case for more funding. One major distinction is that WKU along with West Virginia was rated the worst for funding. WKU is at the very bottom.
- Drafts for the 2016 Strategic Plan are being developed. The Provost is developing academic indicators, and this is available online. Paul King is the President of the Council on Post Secondary Education. WKU has opportunity to weigh in on strategic planning.
- The Board of Regents meeting will be at 2:00 next Monday. Regent Burch welcomes questions and feedback.

b. Provost Report – David Lee

- Provost Lee is delighted to announce Eric Reed as the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies.
- The Dean of Potter College Search Committee met this week and designed the advertisement for a national search. The Committee will be using Interview Exchange and encourages strong applicants by December 1.
- Provost Lee thanked Dean Stevens for the Research Foundation funding of \$300,000 (\$100,000 for RCAP – Research and Creative Activities Program and \$200,000 for libraries and colleges QTAG – Quick Turn-Around Grants).
- Provost Lee no longer views CPE as a galaxy far away, as he is working with the strategic planning process and performance metrics process (this has funding tied to it). He plans to report on it later.

c. SGA President Report – Jay Todd Richey

- SGA is having a “Dub the Pub” competition to officially name the new pub coming to campus next semester, so please encourage your students to submit their ideas on SGA’s Wordpress. SGA will consolidate the suggestions and put them out for the student body to vote.
- Student Regent Richey is going to be looking into the current state of Student Legal Services. SGA is not sure from where it is receiving funding right now since the \$2 student fee/semester SGA approved last year was never voted on by the Board. It is in a strange state of limbo where the students are unaware of the services it offers and it’s not really under any office other than the president’s office. Student Regent Richey hopes to soon schedule a meeting in the near future with President Ransdell, Deborah Wilkins, Julie Shadoan, and others to see how to best move forward for both the students and the university.
- Student Regent Richey is in talks with Ms. Ann Floresca, the new director of the WKU Store, to see the possibility of creating a WKU SGA Student Store that is like eBay/a consignment store combined where students can have an online/physical store to buy, trade, and sell potentially school supplies, apartment furniture, decor, potentially clothes. It will be a partnership with the store rather than detracting sales from it. SGA is still looking into it.
- As the representative of all students, Student Regent Richey told faculty that if at all possible, the students would love if textbooks could be ordered at the WKU Store as early as possible for the Spring semester. This would lower costs for student purchasing of books, would allow students to get the most used books on the market, and would put the most money in the students’ pocket during buyback.
- Finally, as Dr. Burch and Provost Lee mentioned, President King with the CPE is extremely passionate and dedicated to more higher education funding in Kentucky. He wants 1,000 students to be in Frankfort on one day to lobby for higher education—and that’s 1,000 students in Kentucky, not just from WKU. He also expressed to the Board of Student Body Presidents that he would be willing to visit any university if he’s requested. Student Regent Richey wants to bring him to WKU. If you would be interested in doing so to hear his plan about higher education funding, please email jaytodd.richey823@topper.wku.edu The students are mainly concerned with lottery funding for student grants. 83% of funding goes to students; 17% is diverted to the

general fund; SGA is lobbying for students to get 100%.

- As always, all faculty are invited to attend SGA meetings every Tuesday at 5 PM on the 2nd floor of the Downing Student Union.

D. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council Report: Kurt Neely

a. **May 2015 Report (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)**

b. **September 2015 Report (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)**

- Kurt Neely made a motion to bundle the May and September 2015 Graduate Council Reports and made a motion for approve of the Graduate Council Reports as Bundled. There was no discussion. The reports were unanimously approved as a bundle.

3. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Report: Liz Sturgeon (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Liz Sturgeon made a motion to approve the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee report as posted. There was no discussion. The report was approved unanimously.

4. Colonnade General Education Committee: Marko Dumančić (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Marko Dumančić made a motion for approval of the Colonnade General Education Committee report as posted.
- There was no discussion. The report passed unanimously.

4. Academic Quality: Jeremy Maddox (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Jeremy Maddox made a motion for approval of the report as posted.
- Lauren McClain stated that since the committed would not move forward without a charge for changes to the SITES from the SEC, she would like SEC to move on this in November.
- Lauren McClain made a motion for the SEC to bring up the question of reevaluating the SITES in November (2nd Marilyn Gardner). There was no discussion. The motion passed.
- Jill Brown asked if when the SITES went through Academic Quality, did they look at benchmarks and teaching? Can there be open-ended questions on the SITES? For example, “What do you like the most about the class?” And “What would you like to see changed?”
- Academic Quality said they won’t look at it further without a charge from the SEC.
- Chair Hudepohl said the motion was written to have Academic Quality look at SITES for revision.
- The Chair of Academic Quality said that SITES were discussed at length, and unless there is something specific or new to address, then they don’t want to rehash again what was done last year.
- One suggestion was to look at the format used by Benchmark Schools.
- A suggestion was made that as people rotate off of Senate, look at past research with the SITES.
- Dick Taylor said that when WKU moved from paper to electronic, the trend line went steeply down; there is a very negative trend line in quality.

- Molly Kerby added that the timing of the actual SITES might be too early.
- Doug McElroy said that electronic SITES were launched, this allowed lead time. He stated that he is willing to move the date.
- Julie Shadoan said that in 2008-2009, Senate looked at everything, including benchmarks. The research is already out there in the minutes. She recommends looking at this. Chair Hudepohl will attach it to the SEC agenda.
- Jill Brown said there are three potential issues to modify the report guidelines. She suggests looking at a new way of looking at the reports. She agrees that less people are filling them out online. She really does not want to waste paper, but thinks we should look at bringing them back into the classroom.
- Patricia Minter asked Provost Lee if he has looked at shifting the timeline for administering SITES to closer to the end of the semester. He responded yes. Doug McElroy said “yes, this is possible.”
- There was no discussion on the Academic Quality report. The report was approved unanimously.

5. Budget and Finance Committee: No Report

- Claus Ernst provided the context for the work of the committee.

6. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility: Patti Minter (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Patricia Minter, Chair of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility Committee, stated that she had one action item for consideration, and plans to take two votes – one vote on the action item and one vote on the entire report as posted.
- Minter brought forward the action item: “requesting endorsement for the Faculty Welfare Committee to study active shooter training, including data on practices and programs by other institutions. The committee plans to collaborate with appropriate university officials.
- Lauren McClain made a motion for approval of Minter’s proposed action item. The motion was seconded by Laura DeLancey.
- Shura Pollatsek mentioned an email that she received that was promoting a service for active shooter training, and suggested that we do not hire this company. Patricia Minter responded that there are many things at the university that are in place that don’t outsource.
- McClain’s motion for approval of Minter’s action item passed unanimously as stated above.
- Patricia Minter made a motion for approval of the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities report as posted. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

E. Old Business

- There was no old business.

F. New Business

- There was no new business from the floor.

G. Information items

1. President Ransdell Memo Regarding Confucius Institute
2. President Ransdell Response to Prayer Policy Resolution
 - a. SGA Prayer Policy Resolution endorsed by University Senate on May 14, 2015

Molly Kerby made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Doug Smith. The meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Álvarez, Secretary