

**Western Kentucky University**  
**University Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 16, 2017 -- 3:45 p.m.**  
**Faculty House**

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**A. Call to Order**

1. A regular meeting of the Western Kentucky University University Senate was called to order by Chair Kate Hudepohl on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 3:8 P.M.
  
2. A quorum was present:
  - a. Members Present: Heidi Álvarez, Audrey Anton, Farhad Ashrafzadeh, Jim Berger, Barbara Burch, Pamela Chandler, Marko Dumančić, Loretia Dye, Ann Ferrell, Marilyn Gardner, Jennifer Walton Hanley, Timothy Hawkins, Gary Houchins, Kate Hudepohl, Andrea Jenkins, Jarrett Johnson, Soleiman Kiasatpour, David Lee, Jeremy Maddox, Yvonne Petkus, Leslie Plumlee, Matt Pruitt, Dale Rigby, Tiffany Robinson, Julie Shadoan, Matt Shake, Michael Smith, Sandy Staebell, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Shannon Vaughan, and Dawn Garrett Wright.
  
  - b. Substitutes Present: Michael Carini for Keith Andrew, Qingfang Song for D'Lee Babb, Danita Kelley for Neale Chumbler, Douglas Smith for Jerry Daday, Nathan Love for Susann Davis, Samangi Munasinghe for Claus Ernst, Tim Brotherton for Anne Heintzman, Kandy Smith for Lynn Hines, Michelle Trawick for Jeffrey Katz, Aquesha Daniels for Fenghelen Lee, and Heather Payne-Emerson for Adam West.
  
  - c. Guests Present Who Signed In: Amber Scott Belt and Jack Montgomery.
  
  - d. Members Absent: Lori Alexander, David Bell, Barbara Brindle, Jill Brown, Thad Crews, Fred DeGraves, Laura DeLancey, Lisa Duffin, Ali Er, Keri Esslinger, Travis Esslinger, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Dennis George, Dominique Gumirakiza, Kate Hart, Don Hoover, Grayson Hunt, Dean Jordan, Pam Jukes, Molly Kerby, Stephen King, Eric Kondratieff, James Line, Ling Lo, Gayle Mallinger, Joshua Marble, Sean Marston, Edmund Martelli, Lauren McClain, Doug McElroy, Mac McKerral, Richard Miller, Patricia Minter, April Murphy, Sharon Mutter, Hannah Neeper, Katherine Pennavaria, Shura Pollatsek, Beth Pyle, Gary Ransdell, Bryan Reaka, Jeffrey Rice, Jay Todd Richey, Melloney Simerly, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Stevens, Dana Sullivan, Kevin Thomas, Tanya Vincent, Aaron Wichman, Maribeth Wilson, Paul Woosley, and Zhonghang Xia.

## **B. Approve Minutes**

### 1. [Special Called Meeting, January 26, 2017](#)

- a. Doug Smith took minutes at this meeting because Heidi Álvarez was absent for a WKU recruiting event.
- b. Jennifer Hanley made a motion to approve the January 26 special called meeting minutes.
- c. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gardner.
- d. There was one correction from Mac McKerral: the second line in the minutes says “but it did get the job done” and it should say “did not”.
- e. There was no more discussion.
- f. The January 26, 2017 Special Called Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously with Mac McKerral’s correction.

### 2. [Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2017](#)

- a. Ann Ferrell made a motion to approve the February 16, 2017 meeting minutes.
- b. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hanley.
- c. There were no comments or corrections.
- d. The February 16, 2017 meeting minutes were approved unanimously as posted.

## **C. Reports - part I (non-standing committee and advisory in section F):**

### 1. [Chair – Kate Hudepohl](#)

- a. Chair Hudepohl’s report is posted; click on the link above to read it.
- b. Chair Hudepohl thanked Jessica Steenburgen, David Lee, and Amber Scott Belt for finding a space in Helm 108B for the University Senate. Chair Hudepohl thanked the libraries for adopting the senate.

c. Chair Hudepohl met with the furniture vendor for an estimate on furniture for the new senate office space in Helm 108B. There were some low desks left and they can be used until the new furniture is procured. We need enough furniture to seat 22. We are making efforts to order the furniture with carry forward money. Chair Hudepohl wants to move quickly on this and is making effort to access the money. She will bring this to the Senate Executive Committee instead of carrying it through to the April University Senate Meeting.

d. Dr. Caboni, the next president of WKU, is making visits to the WKU campus to set the stage for his transition. He met with Chair Hudepohl and Vice Chair Shadoan. He also met with the students, SGA, and the Staff Council Chair. There is nothing concrete to report at this time. There is a transition committee that includes faculty members. Different teams deal with different topics. Eric Reed from History and Sharon Mutter from Psychological Sciences are the two faculty representatives.

e. The Senate Charter is under information items. The table of contents and page numbers have been updated since the Senate Executive Committee meeting. Chair Hudepohl is compiling a list of future charter changes for the next senate leadership.

f. President Ransdell responded to the University Senate resolutions; his response is included in this agenda under information items. There were two resolutions by Patricia Minter and two resolutions by Budget and Finance. Please look at his responses to the resolutions under information items. Chair Hudepohl forwarded the letter where President Ransdell asked to have his name added to the resolution. He endorsed parts of the Sanctuary Resolution. The Budget and Finance Resolution is a mixed bag.

g. Based on feedback, Academic Affairs created a syllabus information website. This came up in terms of adding Title IX. Molly Kerby suggested having one landing pad with a link to add to syllabi. Amber Scott Belt has put together a link. It was not publicly available at the time of the Senate Executive Committee meeting, but it was shown at the SEC meeting. Chair Hudepohl showed it to the University Senate to show them what it currently looks like. The Senate Executive Committee gave some feedback and Amber Scott Belt made those changes. The link is now live and senators can put a link to this page; if anything needs to be changed, email Amber Scott Belt. There were no questions from the floor.

## 2. Vice Chair – Julie Shadoan

a. Departmental Senator elections should have been completed in February. There are still outstanding senators (meaning that no one has yet been reported) for CEBS (two departments); CHHS (two departments); Ogden (two departments); and PCAL (two departments). The Senate Charter requires this information by the end of March. If nothing is reported by then, these departments will be vacant and will not have senate representation.

b. The Academic Complaint Committee is now a two-year term and will begin populating in the spring. The pool will come from the College Complaint Committee membership.

Ogden and PCAL are still needed. There should be faculty and students on this committee. Shadoan will push the election to April; these deans need to get the information to Vice Chair Shadoan sooner than later.

c. The Faculty Mentoring Award Committee will be populated by May 1. Vice Chair Shadoan solicited volunteer. The colleges with more than one volunteer will be drawn by Chair Hudepohl at the Executive Committee Meeting.

### 3. Secretary – Heidi Álvarez

a. Heidi Álvarez thanked Doug Smith for completing the January 26<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes. The minutes are very time consuming and are a lot of work, especially for Doug, who is a department chair. Heidi Álvarez expressed appreciation for Doug Smith and his willingness to step in as a substitute in the role of secretary.

## **D. Committee Reports and Recommendations**

### 1. [Graduate Council: Shannon Vaughan \(Report posted; Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

- a. Shannon Vaughan made a motion to approve the Graduate Council report as posted.
- b. There was no discussion.
- c. The report was approved unanimously by graduate faculty only.

### 2. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Liz Sturgeon \(Report posted; Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

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

### 3. [Colonnade General Education Committee: Marko Dumančić \(Report posted; Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

- a. Marko Dumančić made a motion to approve the Colonnade General Education Committee report.
  - b. There was no discussion.
  - c. The Colonnade General Education Committee report passed unanimously.
4. Academic Quality: Ann Ferrell (No Report)
5. Budget and Finance Committee: Claus Ernst (No Report)
6. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities: Patti Minter (No Report)
- a. Patricia Minter is not here today but gave an informal oral report at the Senate Executive Committee meeting so say that the Faculty Work Life Survey will come out soon.
7. Faculty Handbook Committee: Margaret Crowder (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)
- a. [FH Meeting Report 1/30/2017](#)
  - b. Laura Moore is representing the committee because Margaret Crowder was unable to attend the meeting today.
  - c. Marko Dumančić made a motion to approve the Faculty Handbook Committee meeting report.
  - d. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gardner.
  - e. There was no discussion.
  - f. The Faculty Handbook meeting report was endorsed unanimously.
  - g. [05-2017 Faculty Transitional Retirement Program](#)
  - h. Marko Dumančić made a motion to endorse 05-2017 Faculty Transitional Retirement Program.

- i. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hanley.
- j. Laura Moore gave the context of the item; it was an oversight from last term. One word was left out from the revision. This brings it in line with that which was approved by the Board of Regents.
- k. 05-2017 Faculty Transitional Retirement Program was approved unanimously.
  
- l. [06-2017 Tenure Eligible vs. Tenure Track](#)
- m. Marko Dumančić made a motion to endorse 06-2017 Tenure Eligible vs. Tenure Track.
- n. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Gardner.
- o. Laura Moore gave the context of 06-2017; this change aligns the language in the handbook. The wording “tenure track” is changed to “tenure eligible.”
- p. There was no discussion.
- q. 06-2017 Tenure Eligible vs. Tenure Track was approved unanimously.
  
- r. [07-2017 Process for Committee Selection](#)
- s. Marko Dumančić made a motion to endorse 07-2017 Process for Committee Selection.
- t. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Hanley.
- u. Laura Moore said that this clarifies the terminology “by lot” and clarifies the process for selecting these committees.
- v. There was no discussion.
- w. The motion passed. 07-2017 Process for Committee Selection was approved as posted.

## **E. Old Business**

- 1. There was no old business.

## **F. New Business**

1. There was no new business on the agenda and there was no new business from the floor.

## **G. Reports - part II**

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

a. No report.

2. AAUP representative - Margaret Crowder

a. No report.

## **H. Advisory Reports:**

1. Faculty Regent – Barbara Burch

a. Regent Burch stated that there is not a lot to report.

b. The Board of Regents is meeting one week from Friday. There will be committee meetings and budget discussion going forward. The administration is doing a lot of work on that.

c. Dr. Caboni has a transition committee to make sure that we are ready for him and to make sure he is ready for us. He wants to collaborate with the faculty and work together in shared governance. There is opportunity for the faculty to use this as a good way of communicating the strengths and ideals of the faculty. Chair Hudepohl added that as a reminder, the Faculty Welfare and Academic Quality had a meeting to put together a document that lists that which the faculty feels is important along with our concerns. This will be passed on and forwarded to Dr. Caboni and the new University Senate officers.

2. Provost – David Lee

a. The Kentucky General Assembly is winding down. The Performance Funding Bill made it through the General Assembly and will be on the Governor's desk to be

- signed. The Advanced Practice Doctorates passed and will also be on the Governor's desk to be signed.
- b. Provost Lee echoed Chair Hudepohl's comments about Amber Scott Belt's landing page. He thanked her and said that it is helpful and constructive.
  - c. The Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) is moving across from Potter Hall to Wetherby. Enrollment Management is moving to Potter Hall. Student Financial Assistant will take up the entire third floor of Potter Hall.
  - d. Provost Lee spent a few days snowbound in New York. He talked to an alumna who is in a musical. It was nice to see a talented woman in a good place professionally. She was gracious. On our best days, we at WKU make some great things possible for our students.
  - e. Tim Brotherton expressed concerns about the Performance Funding Model and asked what Provost Lee's opinion was on this.
    - Provost Lee responded that WKU will play the hand they are dealt to the best of their abilities.
    - Regent Burch said that she thinks of it as a way of saying that part of our budget will be taken away and if we perform well, it will be given back. The best we can do is hold onto what we have.
    - Chair Hudepohl said she thinks it is 25% that is held back. Provost Lee said it will be 100% very soon. Student success and retention is crucial to us winning the performance funding game. Whoever performs the best gets a percentage back.
    - Audrey Anton asked if retention is one of the important criteria, and asked whether we should reconsider how we admit students. Provost Lee responded that student success is measured through 30-60-90 hours in each year and total number of degrees awarded. Audrey Anton pointed out that some might not have a record to support their success, and wonders if the model is sustainable. The best way to retain well is to be a competitively successful school. Provost Lee responded that it is the number of folks in the cohort who are making progress toward a degree. Another piece is underrepresented minorities and low income students, and accepting students whom we are their best chance at getting a degree. We need to define more successful and creative ways to define how these students can succeed.
    - Audrey Anton said that she worries about sustaining a 97% success rate. She asked if we will have to be in a place where we are expected to pass people who are not yet prepared to pass? Provost Lee said that he agrees that some are not ready for college, but some have financial problems. If we move from graduating 5/10 students to 6/10 students, that is 60%. Our challenge is to continue to do better. Provost Lee thinks that we can do better through applying standards and helping students to meet those standards. This is what WKU does best as an institution.



- Regent Burch added to the perspective with two big things to look at: (1) budget revenue and (2) retention/graduation. Right now, we retain 72% of first-time, full-time freshmen -- give or take +/-1000 students are lost. In recognizing standards and expecting to educate students to achieve dreams and work toward goals, if we lose 28%, this is \$10 million per year in tuition. If we keep 100 more students, the reality is that it affects budget by \$10 million. The conversation is about how to help students succeed so the dollars are there to help up do what we need to do.
3. SGA President – Jay Todd Richey
    - a. SGA President Jay Todd Richey is away for spring break. He sent a report to Chair Hudepohl via email to say that he is working with the student representative on the Council on Postsecondary Education to ensure the CPE places a reasonable tuition cap on comprehensive universities. Richey personally would like to see that lower than last year's cap because he is deeply concerned about the rising cost of college being the result of both state cuts and internal university decisions.

## **I. Information Items**

1. [Senate Charter](#)
  
2. [DACA Resolution](#)
  - a. [President Ransdell response](#)
  - b. [President Ransdell DACA Pledge](#)
  
3. [Sanctuary Campus Resolution](#)
  - a. [President Ransdell response](#)
  
4. Budget & Finance Committee Resolutions
  - a. [Budget Council](#)
  - b. [Collaborative Budget Process](#)

- c. [President Ransdell response](#)

**J. Motion to Adjourn**

1. There was no more business on the floor.
2. A motion to adjourn by Marko Dumančić was seconded by Jennifer Hanley.
3. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Heidi Álvarez, Secretary**