

FACULTY REGENT REPORT  
Submitted: Barbara G. Burch  
January 22, 2015

BOR Meeting – First Quarterly meeting scheduled for Jan 22, 2015

**Agenda (noted below) is posted online with additional information.**

- **Approval of MFA degree/MFA in Creative Writing program**

Note: As further affirmation of the value and readiness for this program Potter College has reported that Finalists for Fulbrights (WKU sent 25 applicant to National Screening committees. Ten have been recommended to their individual country committees. Of the ten finalists, five are English majors or minors.

Saeed Jones, an English alum fro WKU and a former WKU Forensics Team standout, is a finalist for National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. (This is a 'big' deal). Saeed also ha a powerful piece in the NYT this week, (A POET'S BOYHOOD AT THE BURNING CROSSROADS), and it can be found at <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/19/a-poets-boyhood-at-the-burning-crosroads>

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- **Other programs/proposals up for approval:**

MFA in Education Gifted Education and Talent Development  
BS in Special Education Learning and Behavioral Disorders and Elementary Education

Minor – Psychological Sciences

Change Dept. Name to Information Systems

Approval of 14 Sabbatical Leaves

Approval of 4 Emeriti Appointments:

Dr. Donald Nims, Professor of Counseling and Student Affairs

Dr. Janice Ferguson, Professor of Teacher Education

Mr. James LeTourneau, Asst. Prof. of Journalism and Broadcasting

Dr. Edward Wolfe, Professor of Finance

- **Finance and Budget** - Auditor's report; approval of 2014-15 operating budget revisions; approval of personnel actions; acceptance for filing First Quarter Statement of Revenues & Expenditures

Information: Employee Health Plan

- **President's Report**

Athletics Mid-Year Repot; construction Progress Report; Development Calendar year end report; 2015 General Assembly Preview

- **Executive Committee**  
Approval of Honorary naming of WKU Child Care Center as Colleen B. Mendel  
Child Care Center  
Approval of Confucius Institute Design/Build Project
- **Executive Session**

**REGENT NOTES: Following are some of the topics/issue/areas of concern that have been shared with me.**

- Question/concerns about changing university research structure and directions.  
On this note, compliments are due to Dr. Crowder and SEC for their leadership in creating the Ad Hoc Research Committee. This creates the opportunity for ensuring meaningful and thoughtful faculty responses to help inform the decisions that will help shape the 'research' future for our faculty and university.
- Views/concerns surrounding a possible salary increase funded from within the Academic Affairs budget.
- Health care benefits.
- Discussions relating to various aspects of institutional priorities
- Preparing for BOR Agenda for First Quarter, and hearing views re several agenda items.
- Presenting request to President for change in policy on use of discretionary development funds for recognizing retiring faculty. (I am pleased to note that President Ransdell was not aware of the current restrictions regarding this use, and has indicated that this will be changed.

Submitted:

Barbara G. Burch  
Faculty Regent