

**University Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2013 -- 3:45 p.m.**  
**Faculty House**

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**Call to Order:**

- Chair Margaret Crowder called the regular meeting of the WKU Senate to order on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 3:45 pm in the Faculty House. A quorum was present.

- **Members Present:**

Heidi Álvarez, Shanaz Aly, Lauren Bland, Imelda Bratton, Mike Carini, Ashley Chance-Fox, Yining Chen, Robert Choate, Ismail Civelek, Bruce Crawley, Margaret Crowder, R. Tucker Davis, Robert Dietle, Karin Egloff, Gordon Emslie, Joseph Evans, Jody Evans, Barbara Fiehn, Lloren Foster, Marilyn Gardner, John Gottfried, Jennifer Hanley, Nancy Hulan, Don Hoover, Angela Jerome, Samantha Johnson, Dean Jordan, Jeffrey Kash, Stephen A. King, Alison Langdon, Sonia Lenk, Qi Li, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marstin, Lauren McClain, Richard Miller, Steve Miller, Patricia Minter, Isabel Mukonyara, Samangi Munasinghe, Ngoc Nguyen, Yvonne Petkus, Pam Petty, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Attila Por, Tammera Race, Mark Reeves, Nancy Rice, Nancy Richey, Janet Nicky Seay, Julie Shadoan, Junghee Shim, Berly Siegrist, Michael Smith, Dana Sullivan, Dick Taylor, Rico Tyler, Tamara Van Dyken, Adam West, and Blairanne Williams.

- **Alternates Present:**

Danita Kelley for John Bonaguro, James Asare for Jill Brown, Janet Applin for Sam Evans, Art Falls for Ann Ferrell, Elizabeth Alsop for Jeff Rice, and Eric Reed for Mary Wolinski.

- **Absent:**

Cain Alvey, Charles Borders, Kristi Branham, Christa Briggs, Chris Brown, Amy Cappiccie, Diane Carver, Christopher Costa, Brittany Crowley, Laura Delancey, Patricia Desrosiers, Amanda Drost, Marc Eagle, Frieda Eggleton, Connie Foster, Ron Gallagher, Mary Jane Gardner, Dennis George, Steven Gibson, Becky Gilfillen, Frederick Grieve, Peggy Gripshover, Jeffrey Katz, Richard Keaster, Joan Krenzin, Suellyn Lathrop, David Lee, Ling Lo, Alexandria Manglaris, Catherine Martin, Doug McElroy, Jane Olmstead, Inma Pertusa, Gary Ransdell, Kelly Reames, Kateri Rhodes, Janice Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Janet Tassell, Kevin Thomas, Paula Trafton, Carrie Trojan, and Aaron Wichman.

**A. Approve May Minutes**

- A motion to approve the May minutes by Margaret Crowder was seconded by Jennifer Hanley. The minutes were approved as posted.

**B. Reports:**

1. Chair – Margaret Crowder

- Chair Margaret Crowder welcomed new senators and introduced Robert Dietle, the

parliamentarian.

2. Vice Chair – Jennifer Hanley

- Vice Chair Hanley shared the results of the recent elections Yvonne Petkus from Art and Les Pesterfield from Chemistry were elected to membership in the Faculty Handbook Committee. She also stated that members of standing committees are still being recruited.

3. Secretary - Heidi Alvarez

- Sign-in procedure: Please cross out your name if you are a regular member (this includes voting and non-voting). If you are subbing for someone, write your name legibly to the right of the name you are subbing for. If you are a visitor, sign on the last page of the attendance roster.
- When contributing ideas at meetings, please state your name and speak clearly into the microphone so that you may be heard and so that your ideas can be accurately recorded in the minutes.

4. Faculty Regent – Patricia Minter

- The Board of Regents met twice since the last Senate meeting, first at a called budget meeting and committee meeting on June 21, and later on July 26 for its third quarterly meeting.
- At the June meeting, Minter spoke against the agenda item which authorized the issuing of agency bonds for a new Honors College/International Student Services building, as well as raising concerns about the proposal. She made three points. It won't retain students, it won't attract them, and we cannot afford it.
- At the full Board meeting which followed, Minter voted "no" on the university budget for the first time ever, and was joined in dissent by Student Regent Cory Dodds, so the budget was approved 8-2. Minter said they opposed it because the budget included 1.5 million dollars in annual debt service for the agency bonds next year. This represents a major departure from President Ransdell's assurances in 2011 that tuition dollars would never be used to fund capital projects. Even though there were assurances from the president and provost that any leftover monies would be used for future salary pools, Minter thinks this speaks volumes about the university's priorities. The faculty should not have to wait for leftovers.
- After a one-day board retreat the full board met on July 26. When the agency bond and property purchases came before the full board, they passed 8-3. The three negative votes on all three agenda items came from the three regents who represent every employee and student on this campus: Minter, Staff Regent James Kennedy, and Student Regent Keyana Boka. As Minter said during the discussion, if this debt service draws money away from academic funding priorities such as upkeep for existing academic spaces, recruitment and retention of excellent faculty with competitive salaries and benefits, and funds we need for academic programs, it hinders all of our action plan goals.
- To briefly summarize other actions, Minter voted against the contract extension for Ray Harper, who is now making \$500,000 and had no competing offer on the table. There was also a spirited discussion between President Ransdell and Regent John Ridley at the board retreat concerning the name change for Downing University Center to Downing Student Union, which did not go through the board. There was also a spirited discussion between Regent Larry Zielke, President Ransdell, and

Regent Minter at the full Board meeting on why the faculty handbook did not go to the Board for approval, as Regent Zielke thinks it should. I agree. Even though Minter disagrees with some of the Board's recent decisions, it the university's governing board responsible for all fiscal decisions, programs, and policies. The buck stops there, and the board should have been involved in both decisions.

- The words of our founder Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry appear on campus stationery, t-shirts, bridges, and even buses. But as Dr. Cherry wrote in the 1932-33 annual report describing how the university would survive the Great Depression, he declared that all non-academic expenditures must temporarily cease because Western "believes that during the economic crisis it is now experiencing its success in carrying on depends largely upon the faculty it will be able to maintain. It believes that this is true not only during a period of depression but at all times. It realizes that school systems, organizations, courses of study, buildings, grounds and equipment are dead and useless things unless they are vitalized by a faculty that has vision, character, leadership and the spirit of service." Minter said, "Now that's something I'd like to see on the side of a bus."

#### 5. Provost – Gordon Emslie

- The Provost endorsed the May 2013 Graduate Council Report.
- The Provost approved the University Senate's recommendations to the Provost to amend the WKU faculty handbook as suggested pertaining to tenure at appointment, faculty appointments, promotion decisions, continuance recommendations, clarification of appeal, mandatory tenure year, tenure and promotion in mandatory year. Conflict of Interest in Evaluations was not considered, per Senate recommendation. Require board of regents approval for handbook was not approved.
- Center for Faculty Development Report: Dr. Emslie outlined the highlights of the CFD: 1. Evaluation of Research Projects in work/development (ie. Biology (new technologies), Communication (social networks and retention), English (experiment to assess cheating in online and face-to-face courses, and Blackboard General Education Outcomes assessment). 2. Innovations in Teaching, Learning, and Technology (ie. ADA compliance, using multimedia, best practices in discussion boards, electronic grading). 3. New Faculty Mentoring Program (16 new faculty were paired with mentors, and existing programs of this type are being studied at other universities). 4. Workshops (Internal & External Grants, Administering Grants, Grant & Contracting Accounting). 5. BPMCT (13 workshops are scheduled)
- Cohort size/ACT/diversity: reflecting on the incoming freshman class; numbers are up but there is a decline in part-time. The average ACT score of the class is up (22.0, the highest of any class ever). The 2017-18 diversity goal is met.
- This summer KAHEA (KY Higher Education Alliance) discussed earning a degree from an institutional conglomerate. Dennis George was the WKU representative. The Provost outlined main points of the draft, including how the program works and what the qualifications for a KAHEA eligible student are (23 years or older; or on active military duty; or a military veteran; or an earned GED and whose HS class graduated at least 3 years ago; or is financially independent, as defined by Title IV). The working draft has been accepted by the Provost's group, and the President's group is currently reviewing it. The working draft will come in a more concrete form. Funding will come from state scholarships and employer contributions.

- U.S. News Rankings 2014: WKU went up 3 ranking points among Regional Universities (South) to 30. The Provost outlined some reasons why our number improved: 1. Average graduation rate increased from 49-50%. 2. The percentage of freshmen in the top 25% of their high school class increased from 40% to 44%. 3. The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile ACT score increased from 24 to 25.
- Sabbatical Reports Report: 15 faculty were awarded sabbaticals last year. The Provost gave a brief overview of feedback from these faculty and talked about the value of a sabbatical.

#### 6. SGA President – Keyana Boka

- SGA President Keyana Boka introduced Samantha Johnson from Glasgow, Janet “Nicki” Seay, and Mark Reeves.
- Members of the SGA went to DC to speak about issues in higher education and what they would like to see in the future.
- Last week’s fall elections were successful.
- The SGA committee report will be on the BOR agenda.

### C. Standing Committee Reports and Recommendations

#### 1. Graduate Council (Beth Plummer):

- May report (Report posted; endorsed by SEC)
- August report (Report posted; endorsed by SEC; final item (Temporary Course Proposal) was withdrawn)
- Beth Plummer made a motion to endorse the items with the changes as noted. The items were seconded by Jennifer Hanley. Both were approved unanimously by the Graduate Faculty.

#### 2. University Curriculum Committee: No report

#### 3. Academic Quality: No report

#### 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility: No report

#### 5. General Education: No report

### D. Old Business

No old business to report.

### E. New Business:

1. Policy 1.1120: Graduate Assistant Instructor Credentials, Supervision, and Evaluation (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: R. Dietle; Second: A. Langdon; discussion: still being revised within Graduate Council; item retracted from the Senate agenda.)
2. Policy 1.5031: Selection, Appointment, Evaluation and Reassignment of Deans (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: A. Langdon; Second: R. Dietle; no discussion; passed unanimously.)
3. Policy 1.2150: Short-term, Faculty-Led Study Abroad Compensation for Summer and Winter Sessions (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: J. Hanley; Second: R. Dietle; no discussion; passed unanimously.)
4. Policy 1.5041 Selection, Appointment, and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve A. Langdon; Second: R. Dietle; no discussion; passed unanimously.)

5. Policy 1.4033 Engagement Requirements for Hour of Credit (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: Plummer; Seconded: Dietle; no discussion; passed unanimously.)
6. Policy 1.3140: Priority Registration Schedule (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; motion to approve: Plummer; Seconded: Dietle; no discussion; passed unanimously.)
7. Policy 1.1064: Access to Academic Affairs Electronic Personnel Files (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: Matt Pruitt; Seconded: Alison Langdon; no discussion; passed unanimously.)
8. Policy 1.3130: Advising Relative to Declaration and Change of Program of Study (Posted; Endorsed by SEC; Motion to approve: Matt Pruitt; Seconded Alison Langdon; discussion centered around the rationale for the change, the potential deluge of paperwork and how it would affect students; Dr. Emslie responded to the questions saying that currently a students can change majors any time they wish and this would allow the receiving department to make necessary changes and would allow time for advising prior to the next semester. He stated that research shows that students who declare a major are more likely to be retained by the university. One senator commented that there may be confusion between correlation and causation and wanted to see clear data to support the Provost's assertions. A comment was made that students should think intentionally about their program of study. A comment from the Theater and Dance Department centered around that this could be counterproductive in their department. A few questions from the floor centered around whether or not faculty changes would need to be made during this period. A comment from Sociology centered around the fact that it should be as easy as possible for a student to make a change of major. Someone else thought it could cause confusion. Someone from nursing asked what a student who is unsuccessful in the program should do when they need to make a change outside of the Week 5-7 window. Emslie addressed these questions, and said that he wants to streamline and ensure that any student who wants to change has a chance to discuss it with the department and be accepted by the department. Langdon asked if the wording of the policy could be revised to encourage students to make these changes with an advisor. Dick Taylor said that if the goal is to keep people from changing majors all of the time, then can we have it so that they can only make one change per semester? The Provost said that after the 5<sup>th</sup> week would give them enough time to make changes. Dick Taylor stated that it was an administrative benefit but maybe not a student benefit. The Provost stated that the main reason for restricting the change of major paperwork is to encourage students to declare their major so they can get correct advising and make the change of major official. R. Dietle made a motion to refer this to the UCC due to a number of concerns that were raised. Motion was seconded by D. Taylor. The motion to refer the policy to a subcommittee of the UCC was unanimous; the motion carried.)
9. Colonnade Implementation Committee: Exploration Courses (ART 105, 106; ECON 150/150C, 202/202C; FILM 201; GEOG 103, 110/110C; LEAD 200/200C; MUS 120/120C; NURS 102; PS 110/110C, 250, 260; PSY 100/100C, 199/199C; THEA 151/151C; PH 100; PHIL 101, 102, 103; REC 200; RELS 101; SWRK 101) A motion by R. Dietle to bundle these items (due to redundancies with state approval for the C courses) and approve all items together was seconded by A. Langdon. There was no discussion. The motion to bundle items and approve passed unanimously.
10. New course proposal: (UC 100) Item had been previously passed by the UCC but had not been included within a UCC report for approval. A motion by M. Pruitt to approve was seconded by D. Taylor. There was no discussion. The motion passed

- unanimously.
11. Election: Senate representatives (2 faculty, 2 faculty alternates; 1 student, 1 student alternate) for the University Academic Complaint Committee (Ballot posted) Results of these paper-ballot elections will be posted by Vice Chair Hanley.
  12. Election: Senate representative for the Student Research Council (Ballot and one-page letter of interest from candidates posted) Results of this paper-ballot election will be posted by Vice Chair Hanley.
  13. Special meeting of the Senate proposed to respond to a request from President Ransdell for a Q&A session with Senate (available dates are Oct. 10, Oct. 31, or Nov. 7 at 3:45pm) Proposed topics include Health insurance, campus budget, and the general assembly. After discussion, Nov. 7 was the date that was chosen by the University Senate. R. Dietle requested that President Ransdell please post the items prior to his October senate meeting visit.

**F. Information items:**

1. Policy 1.5041 accompanying informational item; Senate recommendation from 2/9/13
2. Policy 4.2203: Recruitment and Selection (reviewed and commented upon by SEC) The SEC had a lengthy discussion with T. Glisson; following any discussion from the floor, written comments will be taken for T. Glisson to review. R. Miller noted that this policy precluded the use of waivers (exceptional cases of waivers in the case of last-minute situations); he suggested on p. 2 under C that the wording be changed to "up to 12 months in non-competitive situations". The Provost mentioned that under 3g in the previous version did not include waivers. Senators are encouraged to email their comments to M. Crowder for review.
3. Ad-Hoc Committee on Faculty Governance has been re-appointed; report in SEC review; this report is expected to come forth to the senate in the next few months.
4. Benefits Committee report expected in October  
Claus Ernst The Benefits Committee Report will happen at the Oct. Senate meeting.

Comment from the floor: Molly Kirby, the COSFL (Coalition of Senate Faculty Leadership) representative will attend a meeting in Frankfort on Oct. 4. Send any comments/items to her.

A motion to adjourn by R. Dietle was seconded by J. Hanley. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Álvarez  
Secretary