

Faculty Regent's Report

For Board of Regents Fourth Quarterly Meeting – October 31, 2014

**Prepared for
University Senate Meeting
November 20, 2014**

The Report from the Board meeting on October 31, 2014 was prepared and submitted by Dr. Minter, who was the official Faculty Regent on this date. My notes from that Board meeting are noted below, and are followed by some additional Comments/Information from me as your new Faculty Regent.

Fourth Quarterly Board Meeting – October 31, 2014

President Ransdell opened the meeting by sharing some recent highlights from various areas of the campus, and expressing his excitement and pride in the work that our faculty, staff and students are doing to enhance the quality of WKU.

Academic Affairs Committee

Action Items - Approvals:

- Doctor of Psychology in Applied Psychology (will now go to CPE)
- Emerita Faculty Appointments
Dr. Lou-Ann Crouther, Associate Professor of English
Ms. Laurin Notheisen, Professor of Art
- Honorary Doctorate or Public Service ---Mr. Donald R. Dizney
Founder and Chair of Board of United Medical Corporation (UMC).
Resides in Palm Beach, FL. Member of investment group that purchased Bowling Green Hot Rods, and one of original pioneers in development of US Football League. A WKU transfer student at WKU in 1962-1964, he worked at BG-Warren County Hospital (now Medical Center), where he was mentored by Ms. Helen Turner. In 2013, Mr. Dizney made a gift to name the Dizney Clinical Learning Center in memory of Ms. Turner, at the WKU-Health Sciences Complex.

Information Items:

- Report on Study Abroad (Ms. Laura Monarch)

Numbers of participants are up.

Students in credit-bearing education abroad: (+4.1% - 556 in 2014, compared with 534 in 2013)

Who participated:

3.7% had previously studied abroad
9% were from Appalachian region
10.6% were non-traditional students
21.7% were first generation students
37.2% were honors students

Increase in one year among African American students went from 2.8% of total to 7.9% of total.

In OPEN DOORS ranking report, WKU was #32 of top 40 master's institutions for total number of study abroad students (up from #39 in prior year).

Participants by college: PCAL (35.5%); OCSE (18.5%); CEBS (17%); CHHS (13%); GFCB (12%); UC (3%); Exploratory Studies <1%)

- Enrollment Report (Dr. Brian Meredith)

Fall Census – 2014 Trends

Second year of enrollment decline - 1.6% decline equates to approximately \$592,000 budget impact.

Number enrolled – 20178 (-278 = -1.4%) Undergraduate (-58 = -0.3%); graduate (-220 = -7.5%); PT (-191 = -3.1%); Freshmen (-234 = -5.1%); Doctoral (+30 = +14.2%); Non-traditionals (-191 = -6.0%); Non-resident alien (+336 = +30.6%)

Retention: Areas of Improvement: Sophomores, Non-degree PT;\, Undergraduate FT, High School students PT

Areas needing increased focus: Graduate FT students, FT undergrads, PT grad students, overall PT students

Retention by average ACT for FTFT baccalaureate degree seeking students:
Fall 2014 = 22.7 – 73.10% (compared with Fall 2013 of 22 – 71.72%)

- Comments by Committee Chair Dr. Philip Bale:
Dr. Bale discussed the research relative to sleep patterns of adolescents and youth (up to early 20's), noting that the research runs counter to the realities of school attendance schedules. Dr. Bale noted the potential impact on student performance that may be negatively affected as a result of typical scheduling of school times and classes.

Executive Committee

Action Items - Approvals:

- Revised statement of Purpose – includes changes recommended by University Senate
- Resolution of Appreciation of Dr. Patricia Minter
President Ransdell made a special presentation to Dr. Minter, Recognizing her seven years of service as Faculty Regent; and acknowledging her many contributions and diligence; presentation with award.

Information Item:

- Social Media Presentation (Ms. Robbin Taylor/ Ms. Corie Martin)

Finance and Budget Committee

Action Items – Approvals:

- Personnel Actions
- Acceptance for filing of First Quarter Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

OTHER BUSINESS

- Special Recognition of Dr. Minter (previously noted)
- Oath of Office for new Faculty Regent, Barbara Burch

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/INFORMATION FROM FACULTY REGENT
November 20, 2014

(Sharing just a bit about what I have been doing and learning as Faculty Regent).

1. Have been meeting with various individuals to better understand the opportunities/needs for enhancing **support of faculty** (a WKU Action Plan priority goal).
2. Considering impact of institutional priority goals in terms of realities of resources available and competing priority interests. It is an obvious fact that when it comes to allocation/reallocation of scarce and limited resources, choices must/will be made.
3. Gaining enhanced knowledge of degrees of progress made relative to recognition of achievement of strategic goals these and consideration of positive and/or unintended consequences on areas where progress is less evident
4. Revisited WKU's Strategic Goal 1: FOSTER ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE. It is defined in part as 'reinforce WKU as a destination of choice for faculty, staff and students'.

I am seeking clarification and answers from faculty as to what would be most helpful in advancing this goal .

- What is it that you need to sustain your commitment to WKU as a 'destination of choice'?)
- What is of most importance to you to enable you to do your work and find satisfaction in it? (e.g. relative priorities)

5. I am attentive to concerns over status of compensation and benefits. (Little progress on salaries in recent years, and increased costs re benefits). (As an FYI, the target for WKU faculty salaries is to be above the mid-point of BM institutions. However, we are not content to be 'average' at WKU in other significant areas, and this it seems important to apply this same measure to faculty salaries.)

6. I am attentive to the fact that faculty salaries have seen relatively little increase for several years, and this trend needs to be addressed in significant and impactful ways. While that the decisions relative to the questions that follow are complex and challenging, and are ultimately the responsibility of administrative leaders to decide in light of what is best for the institution and its goals, these are also questions that faculty need to think about in helping to inform these decisions as part of shared governance opportunities.

a. Whatever the dollars are that may become available for enhancing support for faculty and faculty work, most assuredly questions will be considered as to where available dollars for support of faculty should go. For example, when

increasing faculty salaries, where are these dollars to go? (e.g. to achieve benchmarks by rank; to achieve benchmarks that better align with equity and/or market salary rates; to augment salaries of existing faculty as a whole (assuming satisfactory performance); to increasing salaries based on 'merit'; or other ways of prioritizing allocations.

b. What is of greater importance: to faculty: reducing teaching loads; reducing class sizes; hiring additional FT faculty (which enables both of the two previously stated items); Increasing time for research, or other factors to be identified?

7. In influencing those areas that affect faculty satisfaction, ability to do their work well, and capacity to contribute to advancing institutional quality, well-being, and priority goals, the strength of the faculty voice lies within your University Senate - and those who are elected members and elected leaders have a special opportunity and responsibility to engage in appropriate ways in the shared governance opportunities. Faculty views are invited and welcomed, and essential to the strength and quality of the university, and to be most helpful and impactful, it needs to be based on informed views, transparent choices, and open communications.

As your Faculty Regent, I welcome the opportunity to learn from you and hear from you and your colleagues in ways that will enable me to most effectively serve in the role that I have been privileged to serve as your Regent.

Thank you.

Barbara Burch
Faculty Regent