

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting**  
**Monday, February 7, 2022**  
**Zoom**

**Introduction:**

- **Members present (Substitute):** Julie Lee, Janet Applin, April Murphy, Bangbo Yan, Francesca Sunkin, Provost Fischer, Shane Spiller, Dawn Garrett Wright, Anthony Paganelli, Kirk Atkinson, Melanie Autin, Matthew Wininger, Patricia Todd, Stacy Leggett, Trish Jaggars, Matt Pruitt
- **Guests Present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Rob Hale, Jennifer Smith, Beth Laves, Julie Shadoan, Molly Kerby
- J. Lee called a regular meeting of SEC to order at 3:16 pm CST

<https://wku.zoom.us/j/91998268859>

**A. Approval of previous month's SEC Meeting:**

1. [SEC Meeting Minutes 1.10.2022](#) F. Sunkin, M. Autin (10 y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.

**B. Officer Reports**

1. Chair - Julie Lee (Report posted)
  - a. [Charter revision to move Handbook to Standing Committee](#)
    - J. Lee reported on moving the Handbook Committee to a Standing Committee. J. Applin, M. Autin moved to approve first reading (10 y, 0 n, 0 abs)
    - M. Autin asked a question regarding the approval process moving forward. J. Shadoan reported that the revisions were already presented to and approved by Faculty Senate.
2. Vice Chair - Janet Applin
  - J. Applin reported on At-Large elections. Process has been started by contacting Amber in the Provost's office to get number of eligible faculty for each college. When it is determined how many senators need to be elected from each college, she will start sending out information requesting nominations.
3. Secretary - April Murphy

**C. Standing Committee Reports:**

1. Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin (Chair): (No Report)
  - F. Sunkin – no report, but a concern was raised by a faculty member regarding course cancellation due to weather, with some online students still wanting to hold classes because of accreditation issues.
  - Provost Fischer reported on Inclement Weather policy. Working on redoing the policy to cover all options.
2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): ([Report Posted](#))
  - K. Atkinson move to approve report (10 y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.
3. Colonnade/General Education, Patricia Todd (Chair): ([Report posted](#))

- P. Todd move to approve report (11 y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.
- 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Trish Jagers (Chair): (No report)
  - T. Jagers – no report, but working on gathering faculty activity reports to examine language, looking for consistency.
- 5. Graduate Council, Martha Day: ([Report Posted](#))
  - M. Autin, K. Atkinson move to approve report (9 y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.
- 6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Melanie Autin (Chair): ([Report Posted](#))
  - M. Autin move to approve report (11 y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.

#### **D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:**

1. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (Chair): ([Report Posted](#))
  - J. Shadoan reported one revision proposed by Dr. Lauren Bland. M. Pruitt, F. Sunkin moved to approve (11y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.
2. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson (No Report)
3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Robin Ayers (Chair): (No report)
4. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle (President): (No report)
5. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby (Chair): (No Report)
  - M. Kerby reported that the DEI fellows have been appointed. Monica Burke and Toni Symanski have been appointed as DEI fellows in the Provost Office.
6. Jennifer Smith, WKU Executive Director of Government & External Relations
  - J. Smith provided an update on the budget session and provided an overview of the budget process. The house passed their version of the budget, which was very higher ed friendly – put an additional \$50 million each year into the performance funding pool. Gave funding for increase in pension costs – gave subsidy to prepare for increases moving forward. Gave money in capital projects for the new Gordon Ford. House gave all universities funding for asset preservation – WKU gets \$34.4 million each year to handle deferred maintenance. The budget is now in the Senate, with the anticipated budget coming in March.
  - J. Lee asked question regarding HB 14 and 18. J. Smith reported that they are both sitting in the Committee on Committees, so they are waiting to be assigned.

#### **E. Advisory Member Reports:**

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller
  - S. Spiller recognized the passing of Dr. Capps.
  - Informed Provost was aware of administrator evaluations to ensure they were on his radar.
  - Had conversations with faculty and staff regarding the cleanliness of some of our buildings. S. Spiller reported that he will start asking questions.
2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer
  - UDP John Cipello was announced at last BOR
  - QEP proposals – we have time to move forward and do a pilot
  - Investigating using Chalk & Wire/Anthology for annual faculty evaluations

3. SGA President, Matthew Wininger
  - M. Wininger – no report

**F. Old Business:**

**G. New Business:**

1. Academic Affairs, Rob Hale
  - a. [AA Policy 1.4202 Amended WKU Textbook Adoption Policy](#)
    - R. Hale requested to pull this for now.
  - b. [AA Policy 1.5041 Selection Appointment and Reassignment of Department Heads Chairs](#)
    - Cosmetic changes for the most part – clarifying difference between interim and acting department head
    - K. Atkinson, M. Pruitt motion to approve (11y, 0 n, 0 abs) Motion Approved.

Additional Conversations:

- M. Kerby, K. Atkinson wanted to mention Elisabeth Volkman passed over the weekend.
- M. Pruitt asked about the percentage we are allowed to be online. Provost Fischer reported that we are just now discussing this in the Provost office – trying to figure out what is the best mix for this University. It is on the radar.
- J. Applin – Discussed how the charter talks about senators missing two consecutive senate meetings then that seat would be considered vacant. Do we want to consider having an alternate from the Graduate Council attend SEC meetings. K. Atkinson mentioned that there should be a Vice Chair and if the chair cannot attend, then the Vice Chair should be able to attend.

**Adjournment:** Atkinson, Pruitt at 4:14pm