

October Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes



Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, October 24, 2024 -- 3:45 p.m.
IN PERSON
Senate Chambers - DSU 2081

Present: A. Jerome, D. Smith (for C. Trojan), M. Reece, K. Neelly, J. Lindsey (for J. Erickson), P. Rusli, K. Schifferdecker, T. Seguin, M. Pruitt, B. Thomas, B. Elliott, M. Peterson, S. Riehn, T. Jenkins, M. Autin (for R. Ayers), K. Schmaltz, L. Plumlee, S. Leguizamon, K. Reames (for Y. Petkus), W. Perry (for C. Basham), P. Gunter, D. Strunk, J. Stewart, S. Herbert, M. Salvator, P. Otto, K. Smith, J. Logsdon, S. Flener, M. Travelsted, J. Burton, S. Scali, M. Crowder, A. Mienaltowski, J. Maddox, A. Wichman, Y. Ling Lo, S. Bonis, M. McKerral, D. Clark, S. Spiller, B. Fischer

Guests: J. Hammonds, R. Hale, B. Laves

[Copy of Agenda](#)

A. Approval of previous months Senate Meeting:

1. Faculty Senate Minutes 9-19-24

1st Pruitt/2nd Flenner; motion passes (unanimous)

B. Faculty Senate Guest

1. Susan Howarth, Executive Vice President, Strategy, Operations & Finance Office

Update on current year budget – shared slides of 1st quarter results plus update on 10% charge on overhead of revenue dependent units.

Discussed net tuition revenue – WKU made strategic decision to focus on net tuition revenue (rather than head count). Net tuition revenue has increased \$3.2 mil over the past year, partially due to our scholarship model starting to work.

State appropriation is up (direct result from budget session from legislature last fiscal year). Extramurally funded grants up 10% over prior year. Salary expenses are flat (while there is an increase in the fringe because of increased health insurance costs).

The benefits committee has been (and will continue to) work on ways to get better control of our insurance increases for next year. Likely going to have to look at plan adjustments (e.g., no penalty to an individual for not getting vaccinated right now, but maybe consider that – if you decide not to get them, you’ll pay a higher premium or similar for annual physical).

10% administrative overhead charge for revenue dependent and auxiliary update – Still working on how this will be implemented if/when it is. Will probably do it, but not until next year at the earliest because there are lots of questions around how you charge it, who will get charged, so many discussions and different ways of thinking.

C. Officer Reports

1. [Chair - Mac McKerral \(Report Posted\)](#)

2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark

A few remaining committee spots. Contact Dan to be put into spots.

3. Secretary - Sarah Bonis (no report)

D. Standing Committee Reports:

Motion to bundle and approve committee reports

1st Jerome/2nd Neelly; motion passes (unanimous)

1. Academic Quality, Tracy Jenkins (Chair): (No Report)

2. Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff (Chair): (Report Posted)

a. [9-5-24](#)

b. [10-3-24](#)

3. Colonnade/General Education, Angie Jerome (Chair): (Report Posted)

a. [9-3-24](#)

b. [10-1-24](#)

4. [Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Stephanie Riehn \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)
5. [Graduate Council, Jeremy Logsdon \(Chair\): \(Report posted\)](#)
6. [Graduate Curriculum Committee, Whitley Stone \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)
7. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener \(Chair\): \(Report posted\)](#)
8. Faculty Handbook, TBD (Chair): (No Report)

E. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC) - [See Chair's Report](#)
3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL)
4. ONE WKU, Molly Kerby (Chair)

F. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

Upcoming board of regents meeting – there is a committee meeting and then full board meeting. This can be confusing because some committee meetings will repeat on the agenda when they show up at full board.

Very minimal academic affairs items. A substantial portion of agenda is the external audit, including letter to management about things they didn't find.

Spiller reiterated that Susan and her team are truly open to conversations, happy to go over items in budget.

One-time payments are summarized in one report rather than quarterly, so that will be a small budget timing shift. Now that we have it tracked this way, we can start looking at year-over-year to see if we're having an increase in one-time payments (are there more adjuncts being used, etc.).

The board is reviewing and working on a change to the bylaws but haven't fully finalized that. This would include a change of name from Budget & Finance Committee to the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee.

Spiller followed up with President about merit raise goal that he voiced in last Senate meeting. Spiller is hearing from B&F and industry experts that a 2% raise pool isn't enough to do merit raises in a meaningful way. We wouldn't have enough for much of a spread/difference.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

VSIP comes to an end today and everyone will know by 11/1.

BEC made recommendation to President for 2% raise, approved and implemented.

ESE transitions are being worked on including centralized marketing and CRM.

Roughly 1,300 people on campus tomorrow (Friday 10/25) for Preview Day.

Calendar for next year was asked about and initial recommendations were handed to Provost today about possible changes. He will review and move on to the President.

Provost will go on tour again this year. He went to 31 departments last year and will be glad to visit departments again and answer any questions. He plans to be out and about in the spring.

3. SGA President, Sam Kurtz

Noted the loss of a student yesterday, SGA Health & Wellbeing Committee is exploring ways to better support students.

~150 participants at the breast cancer walk.

The SGA legislative cycle is underway which has included renewing veterans day 5K. All passed legislation can be found on SGA website.

Working on efforts to support civic engagement (voter registration pamphlets, school supplies were delivered to Jennings Creek) – lots of good events coming up.

G. Old Business:

H. New Business:

1. Action Item: Approval of Dan Clark to serve as a faculty representative on the BEC.

1st Jerome/2nd Pruitt; motion passes (unanimous)

I. Informational Items:

1. [SGA Resolution on Safety Training](#)

J. Items for the Benefit of the Body:

Margaret Crowder gave AAUP update - AAUP survey was discussed at conference. Faculty are leaving our region with the risks to DEI/etc. Also had conversations around what is happening around the state, including UK dissolving their faculty senate. WKU is thinking of reforming their AAUP chapter – has had a chapter before that was very active.

Mac is putting relevant articles on the shared drive – feel free to look at those. Faculty can access the full Chronicle through the library.

K. Motion to adjourn

1st Pruitt/2nd Crowder; motion passes (unanimous)