

Western Kentucky University
University Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 8, 2016 -- 3:45 p.m.
Faculty House

A. Call To Order

1. A regular meeting of the Western Kentucky University University Senate was called to order by Chair Kate Hudepohl at 3:46 P.M. on Thursday, December 8, 2016 in the Faculty House.

2. **A quorum was present:**
 - a. **Members Present:** Lori Alexander, Heidi Álvarez, Audrey Anton, Jim Berger, Jill Brown, Barbara Burch, Jerry Daday, Susann Davis, Lisa Duffin, Marko Dumančić, Lacreteria Dye, Claus Ernst, Keri Esslinger, Travis Esslinger, Ann Ferrell, Ann Heintzman, Don Hoover, Gary Houchins, Kate Hudepohl, Grayson Hunt, Andrea Jenkins, Jarrett Johnson, Pam Jukes, Molly Kerby, Stephen King, Eric Kondratieff, David Lee, Fenghelen Liang, James Line, Ling Lo, Jeremy Maddox, Gayle Mallinger, Sean Marston, Patricia Minter, April Murphy, Sharon Mutter, Hannah Neeper, Yvonne Petkus, Leslie Plumlee, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Beth Pyle, Jay Todd Richey, Dale Rigby, Matt Shake, Michael Smith, Sandy Staebell, Heather Strode, Liz Sturgeon, Shannon Vaughan, Adam West, Maribeth Wilson, Dawn Garrett Wright, and Zhonghang Xia.

 - b. **Substitutes Present:** Morteza Nurcheshmeh for Farhad Ashrafzadeh, Danita Kelly for Neale Chumbler, Michelle Trawick for Jeffrey Katz, Douglas Smith for Lauren McClain, and Dan Forrest for Katherine Pennavaria.

 - c. **Guests Present who signed in:** Amber Scott Belt, Sylvia Gaiko, Michelle Jones, Monica Kast, and Eric Reed.

 - d. **Members Absent:** Keith Andrew, D'Lee Babb, David Bell, Barbara Brindle, Pamela Chandler, Thad Crews, Fred DeGraves, Laura DeLancey, Ali Er, Sam Evans, Connie Foster, Marilyn Gardner, Dennis George, Dominique Gumirakiza, Jennifer Walton Hanley, Kate Hart, Timothy Hawkins, Lynn Hines, Soleiman Kiasatpour, Joshua Marble, Edmund Martelli, Doug McElroy, Mac McKerral, Richard Miller, Gary Ransdell, Bryan Reaka, Jeffrey Rice, Tiffany Robinson, Julie Shadoan, Melloney Simerly, Larry Snyder, Cheryl Stevens, Dana Sullivan, Dick Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Tanya Vincent, Aaron Wichman, Paul Woosley, and Jie Zhang.

B. Approve November Minutes

1. Gayle Mallinger made a motion to approve the November 17 meeting minutes.
2. The motion was seconded by Jerry Daday.
3. There was no discussion.
4. The November 17, 2016 meeting minutes were approved unanimously as posted.

C. Officer Reports:

1. Chair – Kate Hudepohl

- The December Senate Executive Committee Meeting took place on November 28th. The SEC made a decision to withdraw the second reading of the senate charter changes. A revised version is having a first reading at the January senate meeting. We will vote on the second revised charter changes at the February meeting. The catalyst had to do with one of three changes; altering the at-large senate representation. At the November senate meeting, there was a comment from the floor that the number of senators might be too large. The compromise will be equity, but not overwhelming the numbers in the senate body. The second reading will not be on the agenda today.
- The raw senate budget numbers from Academic Affairs were presented on the agenda. Chair Hudepohl met with LaDonna Hunton in Academic Affairs. There were no substantial changes. The breakdown of the \$5000 annual budget is listed.
- At the November 29 Senate Executive Committee meeting, there was a comment regarding Student Government Association President Jay Todd Richey's report; there was a comment about whether the University Senate can have actions or statements as a body due to the current climate on campus. There was a motion from the floor that a Senate Executive Committee member would draft a preliminary statement to bring to Senate; this will come forth in January or February.

2. Vice Chair – Julie Shadoan

- Vice Chair Shadoan is absent today. She sent a written report regarding current committee vacancies for 2016-2017, which Chair Hudepohl shared with the University Senate.

- **The following individuals have asked to be considered by President Ransdell to fill a committee vacancy created by the expired term of Dr. Richard Gelderman beginning January 1, 2017. These names will be forwarded to Dr. Ransdell immediately:**
- **University Benefits Committee: one member (need not be a senator) – term starts January 2017 (appointed by the President, recommended by the University Senate):** Daniel Clark (OCSE/Math); Richard Gelderman (OCSE/Physics and Astronomy); Sanju Gupta (OCSE/Physics and Astronomy); Mark Ross (GFCB/Accounting); Joseph Shankweiler (Libraries/Special Collections); Linda Brown (OCSE/Agriculture); Jean Neils-Strunjas (CHHS/Comm Sci and Disorders); Tim Brotherton (UC/School of University Studies); and Quentin Hollis (CEBS/Psych).
- The following individuals have volunteered to serve on committees requiring Senate appointment:
- **Faculty Mentoring Award Committee: one member per college (need not be a senator) (UC and CEBS have representation):** George Kontos (UC/SPS); Lauren Bland (CHHS/Com Sci and Disorders); Rob Hale (PCAL/English); _____(OCSE) and _____ (GFCB).
- **FUSE Mentoring Award Committee: one member per college (need not be a senator) (UC and OCSE have representation):** Darbi Haynes Lawrence (CHHS/Child and Fam Studies); Carol Watwood (Libraries/Health Sciences); Allison Langdon (PCAL/English); Qin Zhao (CEBS/Psych); _____ (GFCB).
- **Parking and Transportation Appeals Committee: Two members (to be added to pool) (need not be a senator):** Reagan Brown (OCSE/Psych Sci); and Trish Jagers (UC/SUS).
- **Student Research Council: One member (must be a senator):** Marilyn Gardner (CHHS)
- **Professional Education Council:** Thaddeus Crews (CFCB).
- **If there is no objection, I propose approval of these committee appointments by general consent. Hearing no objection, the appointments are approved and the appropriate committee chairs will be notified.**
- **There are still vacancies on the Faculty Mentoring and FUSE Mentoring Committees as follows: OCSE and GFCB (Faculty Mentoring) and GFCB (FUSE). Faculty interested in those positions should email Vice-Chair, Julie Shadoan.**

3. Secretary – Heidi Alvarez

No report.

D. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Graduate Council: Shannon Vaughn (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Shannon Vaughan made a motion to accept the Graduate Council report as posted.
- The motion was seconded by Molly Kerby.
- The Graduate Council report was endorsed unanimously by graduate faculty only.
- The Graduate Council report was approved as posted.

2. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Liz Sturgeon (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)

- Liz Sturgeon made a motion approve the November 2016 Undergraduate Curriculum Committee report.
- The report was approved unanimously.

3. Colonnade General Education Committee: Marko Dumančić (No report)

4. Academic Quality: (No Report)

5. Budget and Finance Committee: (No Report)

6. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility: Patti Minter (Report posted)

a. Proposal for Syllabi Statement

- Patricia Minter said that the Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibility committee has one action item; a statement to be put on all faculty syllabi. It was brought to the committee by Andrea Anderson in Title IX.
- Patricia Minter made a motion for approval of the proposal. The motion was seconded by Molly Kerby.
- Sharon Mutter expressed concerns about a mandatory addition to the syllabus. She feels that academic information should be on syllabi, but not university policy issues. She does not think it is the best way for information to get

across to the students. She feels it should be a separate document to give to students at the beginning of the semester, perhaps in the form of a brochure.

- Patricia Minter said that the university does tell us what to put on syllabi; such as the ADA statement and student resources center. Patricia Minter referred to Provost Lee. The Title IX coordinator (Andrea Anderson) came to the Faculty Welfare Committee because of federal guidelines. The committee talked about the fact that more information is powering for students in light of the current climate on campus. She thinks it is the best way for students to get the information on the first day of class.
- Provost Lee said that over some period of time the university community has made decisions as to what should be on the syllabus and how it should be distributed. It touches a sensitive issue and we should make every effort to get this to students. Provost Lee said that he understands Sharon Mutter's point about it being an academic document, but perhaps this should be added along with other pertinent information.
- Jerry Daday said that the syllabus policy does not include anything beyond academic. The disability statement is not actually included in it, though it is part of our campus climate.
- Sharon Mutter said that she agrees with the sentiment that students need to get this information, but students do not know what is in the syllabus even though she goes over it. She feels a separate document will be more effective. If the goal is to get the information to them, then we can give a brochure to the students.
- One question was who would be policing this and what would consequences be if it was not in the syllabus?
- Patricia Minter said her understanding is that the syllabus policy is going to be revised and thinks the chain of command will be revisiting the syllabus policy.
- Matt Pruitt said he is concerned and thinks a better method should be put in place. Students do not read the syllabus. He wants to do something more concerted and purposeful.
- James Line said he agrees that students do not read syllabi, but does not remember what professors go over on the first day of class in a general sense. He thinks if it is on the syllabus they are more likely to keep it. He would love to have this information everywhere on campus; he feels more is better. He thinks inclusion on syllabi is a good first step.
- Grayson Hunt agrees that it is important that we can distribute it in bigger ways in the future. He feels it is crucial that it be visible right now. If

students know it is on there, they can find it more easily Accessibility is important and will help in the future.

- Michael Smith said that the link on the proposed statement does not work. Other policies can be added. The more policies, the less and less students will look at it. We should be able to decide which policies are most important to put on our syllabi.
- Molly Kerby said even if it is not mandatory, most universities have a page that has suggested things for syllabi. Things can be listed on a website – applicable to what we are teaching can be included – having a university-approved statement would be appreciated.
- Patricia Minter asked if it is ok as a friendly amendment to correct the spelling of “discrimination?”
- Patricia Minter said that the Title IX Clery House website is under construction and cannot be done prior to next semester. There will be a link that will be part of a website.
- Ann Ferrell said that academic information is the responsibility of the faculty and students in the course. It makes it clear to the students that if they disclose information to us, we will report it.
- Audrey Anton said that the compromise is that if the students should know it is binding, she wonders if we can do something midway – can there be a link to a website where the link is all put in it and the student can go to the link? This will make the syllabus shorter. She suggested copying and pasting the link.
- Grayson Hunt said it is in the works but it won’t be done yet.
- Patricia Minter said that we cannot control the pacing. She loves the idea of the website but we cannot mandate that it exists and cannot mandate what is on there. It is not perfect, but it is a step in the right direction.
- Jill Brown said that four phone numbers three names, two web addresses will likely change. Can it be simplified? It is long. Every time there a change, faculty will have to fix it.
- Patricia Minter said that federal reporting requires that this is what it has to say. Sometimes a person might feel more comfortable contacting one person over another. It is not a negotiable point.
- The vote with friendly amendment is 30 votes of yes to endorse, 15 votes of no, and two abstentions.

- The action passed with 30 in favor, 13 against, and 2 abstentions.

7. Faculty Handbook Committee: Margaret Crowder (No Report.)

8. Ad Hoc Committee of Senate Charter Revisions (No Report.)

E. Old Business

There was no old business.

F. New Business

1. Policy 1.1034 Emeritus Status

- Susann Davis made a motion to endorse Policy 1.1034 Emeritus Status.
- The motion was seconded by Molly Kerby.
- Provost Lee gave the context. Emeritus status has existed for a while. It was created as a formal category. In terms of how it should read, item 2B creates the category. Ie. University Distinguished Professor in Mathematics.
- Michael Smith asked what about individuals who consider themselves another gender; will they self-define how they want to be defined?
- Perhaps genderizing is outdated; Provost Lee said he will research it. He asked to approve it and they will look back at it.
- There was no discussion.
- Policy 1.1034 Emeritus Status was approved unanimously as posted.

G. Advisory Reports

1. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education – Molly Kerby

- Molly Kerby said that wku.edu/cosfl is the website.
- The information is now posted, so go to the website and look at it.

2. AAUP representative - Margaret Crowder

No report.

3. Faculty Regent – Barbara Burch

- The Presidential Search Committee met last weeks in closed session.
- Both sessions that were help showed a good pool of candidates.
- The open vs. closed search is still not clarified but the Board of Regents is well aware about the campus community wanting to give input. Most candidates are in more than one search and most are in positions where they would want it closed. Regent Burch said that she has no idea yet what will happen.
- Regarding the discussion on RFP for the indoor practice facility, no one responded on the RFP. Noone met the criteria and it will not move forward.
- In working on an RFP for the health center, anyone can submit on that.
- There was a roundtable on what the Board oif Regents should be thinking about with the new president. There will be another Board training session. The focus will be on how the Board of Regents will function going down the road and they will be looking at different committee structures.

4. Provost – David Lee

- Provost Lee acknowledged the work of Drue Belcher, the Office Associate in Folk Studies and Anthropology. Drue died unexpectedly yesterday; the student workers and first responders were outstanding. Drue was a very important presence in her department, in PCAL, and on campus.
- There are 1,370 students graduating on Saturday.
- Scott Lyons will be the next Dean of the Graduate School. He will take the job on January 1. Provost Lee thanked Eric Reed for his work over the past 14 months.
- There is one last note on the reaffirmation process of SACS. We came through it with a follow-up with the assessment of courses. Doug McElroy worked very hard to get this in. It was formally approved last week. 2021 is when we will submit more information to them.
- Provost Lee extended his best holiday wishes to the faculty.

5. SGA President – Jay Todd Richey

- “Happy Finals Week, everyone. I have two information items for you all today. The first is the creation of a new SGA scholarship and the second is a personal statement concerning recent developments with the University of Louisville.
- At our last Senate meeting of the year last Tuesday, the WKU Student Government Association Student Senate, with a 27-4-1 vote, approved Bill 14-16-F, which will allocate \$750.00 to create the WKU SGA Jonesville Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship fund for incoming African American students who are recent graduates from the Warren County Public School System or Bowling Green School System. For decades, the African American community in Bowling Green has witnessed demolition of housing and displacement of residents due to commercial or university expansion. In 1963, residents of Jonesville, a historically African American neighborhood, were forced to disperse and abandon their homes in order for WKU to expand. This scholarship is dedicated to the Jonesville community and is a monetary reparation to right the university’s past wrongs. The SGA Executive Council approved the creation of this scholarship unanimously.
- Authors of Bill 14-16-F: Chase Coffey, Jody Dahmer, Josh Knight, Francisco Joel Serrano, Andi Dahmer
- Secondly and lastly, I issued a statement yesterday as the chair of the Board of Student Body Presidents of Kentucky concerning the probation of the University of Louisville, and I wanted to share it with you all.
- The University of Louisville (UofL) has been placed on a one-year probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) because the independence of the Board of Trustees has been undermined by the Governor of Kentucky. While the accreditation of the institution will remain for one year with a possible extension, probation signifies that the university is on track to lose accreditation.
- Although UofL remains a respected university that affords its students high standards of academic quality, potential loss of accreditation means that the university will be regarded as an institution of higher learning that does not meet basic standards of credibility and competency. Needless to say, for the second-largest state university in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to lose accreditation would have devastating economic consequences.
- The impetus for this designation by SACS-COC was Governor Matt Bevin’s unilateral abolition of the UofL Board of Trustees and replacement of its members with his own, an unprecedented move. In July, a circuit court judge invalidated this action, saying that if the governor’s interpretation of the law was correct, then “any university trustee or group of trustees, can be removed for no reason or any reason –

good or bad, well-intentioned or malicious.” Despite this ruling and the governor’s appeal, the new composition of the Kentucky legislature may grant the governor this unchecked power. This would be a grave mistake.

- To be very clear, Governor Bevin — or any governor — should not have unchecked power.
- While it is normal for governors to appoint trustees/regents at state universities, undue interference from the governor’s office that undermines institutional governance, shared governance, and academic freedom is not appropriate, and we should not normalize this behavior. And while it is impossible to ignore the unethical practices by some members of the UofL administration and problems with institutional governance, these issues should be addressed through the processes already in existence.
- As the chair of the KRS-authorized Board of Student Body Presidents of Kentucky, I stand with UofL and condemn our governor’s actions to jeopardize the academic mission of the University of Louisville.
- This concludes my letter. Are there any questions?”
- One faculty member asked how people could donate to the specific scholarship. He responded that anyone can make a donation to SGA and specify how it be used. \$119,000 is their operating budget, and they use senate discretionary spending.
- Yvonne Petkus commended the Student Government Association for all they have done. She commended the Safety Bus and all they are doing to make it a safer and more inclusive campus.
- Jay Todd Richey said that this means a lot to him, but he cannot take all of the credit for it. He then thanked the faculty for a wonderful semester and said that he looks forward to working with everyone for one final semester.

H. Motion to Adjourn

1. There was no more new business from the floor.
2. A motion to adjourn by Jennifer Hanley was seconded by Molly Kerby
3. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Álvarez, Secretary