

**Western Kentucky University**  
**University Senate**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**15 November 2018, 3:45 p.m.**  
**Faculty House**

**A) Call to order**

- A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order by Chair Kirk Atkinson at 3:45 p.m.
- Members present (substitute): Janet Applin, Kirk Atkinson, Melanie Autin, Terry Ballman, Leslie Baylis, Jim Berger, Jason Bergner, Kristi Branham, Tim Brotherton, Dan Clark, Aquesha Daniels, Susann Davis (Yufen Chang), Pitt Derryberry, Carl Dick, Michelle Dvoskin, Loretta Dye, Claus Ernst, Travis Esslinger, Colin Farrell, Stacey Forsythe, Dawn Garrett-Wright, James Gary, Steven Gibson, Elizabeth Gish, Dominique Gumirakiza, Lance Hahn, Tim Hawkins, Lawrence Hill, Jean-Luc Houle, Tom Hunley, Angie Jerome, Guy Jordan, Pat Kambesis, Jim Lindsey, Kim Link, Lauren McClain, Mac McKerral, Patti Minter (Jennifer Hanley), Kurt Neely, Morteza Nurcheshmeh, Heather Payne-Emerson, Matt Pruitt, Dianna Ransdell (Joseph Evans), Ron Rhoades, David Serafini, Jo Shackelford (Jean Neils-Strunjas), Joe Shankweiler, Christy Spurlock, Ajay Srivastava, Tammie Stenger-Ramsey, Heather Strode, Carol Watwood, Mary Wolinski, Alison Youngblood, Jay Gabbard (guest), Danita Kelley (guest), Amber Belt (guest)

**B) Approve October 2018 minutes**

- A. Jerome motioned to approved. H. Strode seconded. Passed unanimously.

**C) Reports, Part I**

- **Chair – Kirk Atkinson**

- 1) Dr. Phillip Bale, Chair of the Board of Regents – made general remarks to Senate

- M. McKerral – I appreciate you being here. On the faculty-life survey, the Board took a hit in terms of the faculty's confidence in the Board's work. One of the concerns I have is that I thought the Board (in the past) would have been more vocal to some of the spending issues (have greater scrutiny). I hope the Board will pay attention to Senate resolutions regarding financial matters. I also hope the Board will be more proactive with spending/financing issues going forward.
- P. Bale – Anyone coming to our meetings now would see a big difference. Your comments are well taken.
- C. Dick – With the new budget model, would you summarize some of the strengths and challenges with this model?
  - P. Bale – Faculty often assume all members of the Board are experts in this. I am not. My understanding is that a lot of decisions will be pushed down and not made at the level of the President, Deans, etc. That's what I've been told, and I hope that's true.
- A. Jerome – There was angst among faculty about merit raise, and I wanted to know how much the Board knew about and/or had input on that issue.
  - P. Bale – very little
- L. McClain – Some of lack of trust / low morale about the Board comes from previous issues that have left faculty feeling they don't have a voice. I hope you take these things into consideration into the future, and I encourage all Board

members to become more experts (e.g., the budget model) because the decisions the Board makes has significant implications.

- P. Bale – You have to be careful about micromanaging. That’s not the role of the Board. We oversee the President and the work he does. No one wants him to be more successful than I do. The President would be foolish to bring something to the Board that was controversial or that had no work done beforehand. Everyone on the Board has WKU’s best interest at heart. Student success is our focus, and it’s what we have to base our decisions on.
- D. Clark – I think there’s a difference between micromanagement and providing oversight. We want more collaboration, but there’s differential access in how collaboration. The Board can contact us anytime, but I would think most faculty don’t feel like they can contact Board members. If we want more collaboration it’s probably going to have to come from the Board.
  - P. Bale – There are 800 faculty on campus [approximately]. I’d like to have 800 new best friends, but that probably isn’t going to happen. I think there can be ways to interact.
- ***Vice Chair – Dan Clark***
  - 1) Explained the process for voting for people who want to serve on the key committees as requested by the Provost (CAPE and RAMP)
    - Anyone getting over 50% will be submitted to the Provost. The Provost will select members from that list.
    - Passed out ballots and collected
- ***Secretary – Jason Bergner (no report)***
- ***Coalition of Senate/Faculty Leadership for Higher Education – Molly Kirby (no report)***
- ***AAUP Representative – Margaret Crowder (no report)***

#### **D) Committee Reports and Recommendations**

- ***Academic Quality – Heather Strobe (no report)***
  - 1) CITL classroom observation will be on the next agenda as a consent item.
  - 2) Our intent is to have a proposal next month for the withdrawal date change.
- ***Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities – Lauren McClain (no report)***
- ***Budget and Finance Committee – Jim Berger (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)***
  - 1) J. Berger motioned. Unanimous approval.
  - 2) We have met and identified three areas that we would like to address
    - Compensation, merit pay, salary compression
    - Gathering faculty questions about RAMP and funneling those to HURON
    - Budgetary comparisons to examine how our budgets are faring
- ***Colonnade General Education Committee – Mary Wolinski (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)***
  - 1) M. Wolinski motioned. Unanimous approval.
  - 2) We approved 15 new Colonnade courses for Connections (existing courses added to the Colonnade list).
  - 3) J. Hanley - We are an advising subcommittee. We are looking on crafting a 4<sup>th</sup> column in Colonnade. It would give students who study abroad give them the option

of counting one of those courses towards Colonnade. It would not be a required element, but be added as strictly an option.

- **Graduate Council – Carl Dick (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)**
  - 1) C. Dick motioned. Unanimous approval.
- **Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Janet Applin (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)**
  - 1) J. Applin motioned. Unanimous approval.
- **Faculty Handbook Committee – Kate Hudepohl (no report)**

#### **E) Old Business**

#### **F) New Business**

##### **1) Senate Charter changes – First reading**

- The SEC has gone through two readings before bringing this to the Charter. The changes are simple. We don't have the University College, so the wording of the Charter needs to be changed to reflect this. There are also changes that refer to a specific number of senators, and these numbers are impacted by the removal of the University College.
- M. McKerral – Is there a hard deadline for when Charter changes to be done?
  - K. Atkinson – No.
  - M. McKerral – So we can bring proposed changes later in the year?
  - K. Atkinson – Yes.
- L. McClain motioned and A. Jerome seconded to consider this the first reading. Unanimously approval for considering this the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

#### **G) Reports, Part II**

- **Advisory Report, Faculty Regent – Claus Ernst**
  - 1) I thank the group for the way the Senate interacted with Dr. Bale.
  - 2) Two Board members have made large donations to WKU this year.
  - 3) Board meeting
    - 3.8 acres would be transferred to WKU Residence Life Foundation. WKU will be compensated for this with some space. The transfer is part of the Freshman Village project. This is another construction project and is paid for by housing fees. The Senate passed a resolution that there should be no new construction unless it is fully paid. S. Mayer said he SGA would not be opposed to this.
    - Our housing rates are lower than most of our competitive in-state universities and substantially lower than UK. Resident Life's belief is that higher-quality dorms will be met with demand for them. The President has gone on record as saying we will maintain lower-cost dorms in addition to the newer, higher-cost ones.
    - I believe the committees we just voted for are tremendously important to the future of WKU.
    - The decline in enrollment has gone down more dramatically than I thought. The overall revenue has remained constant despite increasing fees.
    - C. Farrell – Are there any plans to ensure that income disparity doesn't become a consequence of new v. old dorms?
      - C. Ernst – I haven't looked into that or heard anything about it. Once the transfer is complete, then the Board won't have oversight anymore.

- M. McKerral – National trends are forecasted to be flat for the next several years and then declining. We can't hang our hats on tuition revenue. I would suggest that the Board start thinking more broadly going forward. We need to closely scrutinize the Foundation.
  - C. Ernst – We are more dependent on tuition revenue than ever before. The state's contribution is at an all-time low, and I don't see that changing.
- **Advisory Report, Provost – Terry Ballman**
  - 1) Textbook adoption information is due immediately.
  - 2) Additional data for the CAPE process has been issued to Deans and Department Chairs.
  - 3) The search committees for the two new Deans have recently met.
    - A. Youngblood – How many departments on campus are doing a search for tenure-track positions?
      - T. Ballman – There is a temporary freeze. Hopefully, after CAPE, there will be a long list of approved positions for next year.
    - M. McKerral – Last year, the Senate passed a resolution asking admin to look into scholarships for low-income students. Could somebody bring something back to us in the future to let us know that someone is listening to us?
      - T. Ballman – There's a \$50M campaign underway, and some of that money can be funneled towards that issue. I'll be happy to look into that.
- **Advisory Report, SGA President – Stephen Mayer**

#### H) Information Items

##### 1) National Council of Faculty Senates meeting (Austin, TX)

- We are tentatively a charter member based on recommendation from SEC.
- Three areas this council is focused on:
  - Higher education is overvalued (fixing this perception)
  - Creating a shared database for shared governance
  - Share ideas and collaborate

##### 2) Preston Center, Phase III

- This is not happening. President Caboni said this was not authorized to go forward.

#### I) Adjournment

- Hanley motioned. Unanimous approval.