

University Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 15, 2018 -- 3:45 p.m.
Faculty House

Called to order 3:48

Attendance

Andi Dahmer (Savannah Molyneaux), Susann Davis (Nathan Love), Pitt Derryberry, Mark Dumancic, Michelle Dvoskin, Travis Esslinger, Elizabeth Gish, Timothy Hawkins, Lawrence Hill, Jean-Luc Houle, Guy Jordan, Jarrett Johnson (Nancy Rice), Stephen Locke, Donielle Lovett, Mac McKerral, Patti Minter, Elizabeth Norris, Kim Link, Beth Pyle, Ron Rhoades, Tiffany Robinson, Matt Shake, Melloney Simerly, Christy Spurlock, Heather Strode, Carol Watwood, Claus Ernst, Erin Margarella, Jen Hanley, Eric Kondratieff, Liz Sturgeon, D'Lee Babb, Laura Bain-Selbo, Scott Bonham, Dan Clark, Jerry Daday, Aquesha Daniels, Colin Farrell, Jim Fulkerson, Kate Hudepohl, Ben Lennertz, Pat Kambesis (Michelle Trawick), Heather Payne-Emerson, Leslie Plumlee, Matt Pruitt, Jo Shackelford, Joe Shankweiler, Ajay Srivastava, Dana Sullivan, Mary Wolinski, Amber Scott Belt

A. [Approve January 18th, 2018 Minutes](#)

Motion to Approve: Watwood, Clark

B. Reports - Part I (non-standing committee and advisory in section F)

1. Chair – Eric Kondratieff

Met with President Caboni, we should be expecting budget news next week. The senate designated member on Budget Steering committee is Kirk Atkinson.

Atkinson: I attended the Tuesday forum. Unfortunately, this was not well-attended and I basically saw the same faculty and students and they were asking the same kinds of questions. Paula Potter directed everybody towards the website, working groups had power points posted, still available for review. We should try to post a link on the senate website. The forums were basically a summary of where they are now in the process. There were questions from extended campuses as well. A representative from each working group presented their information and summarized what was on their slides. The slides are a general lay out of what the white papers will contain--creative content in a standardized format. Drafts by mid-march

Daday: More likely early March, drafts due to Paula on Tuesday.

2. Vice Chair – Liz Sturgeon

Upcoming At-large election Feb 26-28, nominees due Monday, Feb 19.

3. Secretary – Jen Hanley

C. Committee Reports and Recommendations

1. Academic Quality: Kirk Atkinson (No Report)

-No report, upcoming meeting

2. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities: Patti Minter (No Report)

3. Budget and Finance Committee: Jim Berger (No Report)
4. Colonnade General Education Committee: Jerry Daday (No Report)
Daday: In the interest of full transparency, we will be reviewing the language proficiency next week. We are putting this together using recommendations from Doug MacElroy and it is available on the university shared drive in the Colonnade folder. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 20. Grise Hall 441, 3:45.
5. Graduate Council: Kirk Atkinson for Kristin Wilson (Report Posted; Endorsed by SEC)
Atkinson—All grad council reports are included but there is a summary page, that indicates which courses, programs, etc. are being revised.
Motion to Approve, Atkinson. Passed
a. [Report](#)
6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Janet Applin (Report posted; Endorsed by SEC)
a. [Report](#)
Applin: posted, passed by the SEC.
Motion to pass--unanimous
7. Faculty Handbook Committee: Kate Hudepohl (No report)

D. Old Business

E. New Business

1. [Policy 1.6010 Class Meeting Times \(Item posted; Endorsed by SEC\)](#)

Hanley, Atkinson

Lee: This simply formalizes pre-existing academic affairs policy. We were identifying those courses that are not part of a standard start time and this formalizes this process. If we don't follow some standardized process it makes it difficult for students to schedule classes. Everything either needs to start or end at an established time. This has been the informal process.

Dvoskin: When will this be implemented?

Lee: Spring 2019

Clark: In section II.6 it states that exceptions have to be approved by dean--should these approvals come from a higher level like the Provost? This issue has been a problem for us.

Lee: I have extraordinary confidence in deans, but we can make it provost if you like

Clark: Constituents don't have the same confidence in deans

Lee: if there is a sense from senate, we can do this at the provost level

Atkinson: how would the provost know there was the potential conflict?

Lee: Not sure we would catch it, it would have to be brought to the provost's attention, someone would have to let us know

Kondratieff: only talking about exceptions—would have to be justified and would have to go past the dean and then exception would have to make it to the provost—must be extraordinary circumstances

Clark motion: Move to change section 2.6 to read: the “dean and provost or provost's designee”

second Hudepohl

Amendment as discussed—passed

The actual Policy: unanimous, passed

F. Report - Part II

1. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education – Molly Kerby
2. AAUP representative - Margaret Crowder
3. Advisory Reports:

- a. Faculty Regent – Claus Ernst

Ernst: I was sworn in and attended first Board of Regents Meeting (BOR) and tried to get BOR to revisit the Aramark Contract. Garrett renovation has now become a project to build a new building. WKU has a 20-year contract with Aramark that includes: \$50 million from Aramark front loaded--\$30 million first two years. Financed by dining fees. Meal plan fees will raise incrementally. Contract has been signed. SEC has recommended that the Budget and Finance Committee investigate this and they now have a copy of the contract.

Hudepohl: What was the BOR's response?

Ernst: This is an interesting issue. Because the president serves as chief executive, he can sign contracts without any representation. There is currently talk of rewriting the BOR bylaws to stipulate what kinds of issues must be approved by the BOR.

Pruitt: Doesn't the BOR have to approve all fee increases?

Ernst: This came to BOR as a signed contract, so the BOR did not know about them. This is a matter of public record so the contract is available.

Berger: There is a clause in the contract that re-negotiation can take place, but we need input from legal council to see what is allowed, and we have no guarantee that Aramark wants to re-negotiate so we are stuck with this for 20 years. We are dealing with declining enrollment, more student fees, \$700/year, athletic fees are going up—Hill Topper Athletic Foundation is short several million so they have to cover the costs, tech fees going up, tuition is going up. The burden of our budget deficit is being placed on the shoulders of students. Current President and BOR need to re-negotiate these contracts to better benefit the students

Hudepohl: Claus light a fire, we cannot drag our feet.

Ernst: Aramark paid WKU \$11 million in 2017, another payment due this summer, and then due in December. Once the money has changed hands—we are in trouble. Signed contract we will lose face.

Kondratieff: lose face with whom?

McKerral: If it is true the BOR abrogated its responsibilities in relation to fees, they need to correct this. Someone leaving signing a 20-year contract that they leave behind raises eyebrows, people on BOR approved it. Senate has long-standing position on brick and mortar operations that they won't use. We need to be consistent on issues of wasteful spending.

Kondratieff: we had a strong statement against it last year. We only had partial information. Did the BOR as well?

Ernst: I am working on more general assessment of our policies and I have not given up on this. Contract is front-loaded, not hopeful it can be changed but we need policies to prevent this from happening in the future.

Shake: Can Aramark also raise their prices 3.5% per year for 20-years? Estimate of the revenue: about dining plans would double in price, \$600 million—but purely speculative because we can't depend on enrollment. If our meal enrollments drop we are on the hook—we have a minimum number of plans we have to sell, if we sell fewer, we are in trouble.

Watwood: Are commuters who don't eat on campus charged?

Ernst: Yes, students who don't buy meal plans, full time students.

Kondratieff: Jim Berger, your committee is working on this?

Berger: Yes.

b. Provost – David Lee

Searches: The review date for the Provost and College of Ed search is tomorrow (Feb. 16, 2018). The search firm will be on campus March 2-3, 2018 to meet with committees. Have not had a recent update on the number of applicants. Last number provost search had 25 applicants, and the College of Ed 15.

College of Health Human Services (CHHS) Dean: pretty much interim dean appointment for next year. We have contacted the Leadership folks in CHHS for ideas and will be sending an email to CHHS faculty tomorrow to get ideas

Budget Council Report: close to final form and will be shared with the president and work out recommendations in the next few weeks.

Berger: What happens after the budget council recommendations, what happens next?

Lee: I am not involved, that will be the president's decision. Will hear probably in the not-so-distant future. President will have things to say pretty soon

c. SGA President – Andi Dahmer—Savannah Molyneaux

Have been discussing the Aramark contract on SGA executive committee and we are bringing it up in next meeting with President Caboni.

He is aware this contract has been signed, not really sure whether it would be worth it for him to challenge it.

Passed: Diversity and Inclusion: integrated medical curriculum for LGBTQ+ health—nursing students, medical students

Public relations: Vouchers for the counseling and testing center—increase access to the Testing and Counseling center

New Business

MacKerral: President Caboni has referenced the fact that he was not fully aware of the financial avalanche he faces. Serves as a good reminder that when hiring using a secret process, people get surprised.

Motion to Adjourn: Farrell, Hanley

4:27pm

G. Information Items

Note: documents in Portable Document Format (PDF) require Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 or higher to view,
[download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).