

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**October 17, 2019**  
**Faculty House**

**Introduction**

- **Members present (Substitute):** Lester Archer, Melanie Autin, Laura Bohuski, Amy Brausch, Yufen Chang, Dan Clark, Margaret Crowder, Loretta Dye, Mare Eagle, Ann Ferrell (Carl Dick), Stacey Forsythe, Dawn Garrett-Wright, James Gary, Natasha Gerstenschlager, Kirolos Haleem, Jennifer Hanley, Will Harris, Kara Haughtigan (Liz Sturgeon), Sarah Herrick, Kate Hudepohl, Tom Hunley, Angie Jerome, Jarret Johnson, Guy Jordan, Mike Kennedy, Molly Kerby, Jim Lindsey, Sara McCaslin, Lauren McClain, Sue Lynn McDaniel (Sandy Staebell), April Murphy, Travis Newton, Ivan Novikov, Tony Paganelli, Ken Payne, Leslie Plumlee, Shura Pollatsek, Matt Pruitt, Mark Schafer, Kevin Schmaltz, David Serafini, Jo Shackelford, Julie Shadoan, Kandy Smith, Jean Snavely, Dana Sullivan, Francesca Sunkin, Patricia Todd, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski, Mariah Yates, Alison Youngblood, Uta Ziegler.
- **Guest Present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Jennifer Millen, Tony Glisson, David Brinkley, Marko Dumancic, Danita Kelley, Brian Kuster.
- J. Shadoan called a regular meeting of Senate to order at 3:46 pm.

**A. Approval of September 2019 Minutes:**

1. Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 9-19-19; Motion approved: M. Crowder, second M. Kerby.

**B. Officer Reports**

1. Chair - Julie Shadoan: No report
  - All action approved a Senate in September senate has been approved by the Provost. Will be back posted on the website.
  - VP for Enrollment and Student Experience for search posted. No action beyond the post.
  - At CAD meeting the Moody rating was posted. An underrated A2 and enhanced A1 rating; rating includes all of the debt issued by the Student Life Foundation and the rising pension costs. Contact J. Shadoan for further details.
  - Transitional retirement program announcement: talking with T. Glisson and doing independent research to determine why it's happening now. Brings WKU in line with the Internal Revenue Code, but worried about the shift happening in the middle of the academic year.
  - Moving to block registration system at some time in the future. Looking at pre-registration of up to 18 hours for first-time freshman during priority registration. Don't know the impact of this currently on advising and scheduling. Will keep Senate informed
  - Motion for moving B. Kuster from New Business to after the officer reports: Moved, choir! (many senators). Motion approved.
2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark: No report
  - Committee spots to fill: Student Research Conference Committee(1), Parking appeals (2), and Parking and Transportation Advisory (1), 1 for Colonnade, 1 from Potter for University Athletic Committee;

- New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
  - M. Kerby—Role would likely be to bring policies to senate and open communication to senate for this committee and issue.
- No more elections for at-large senators on off years. Unfilled seats will be considered vacant until next election.

3. Secretary - Laura Bohuski: No report

**WKU Scholarship Announcement: Guest, Brian Kuster Talking about the Scholarship Model:**

- Last adjustment for scholarships was in Fall of 2015 for 2016 students.
- Worked with national consultant to create this new scholarship model.
  - Meant to increase opportunities and access for students and to produce net tuition gain.
  - This model built to help students who are leaving not because of grades but because of financial difficulties.
- S. Pollatsek: How are increased scholarships being funded?
- B. Kuster: With an increase recruitment of students.
- P. Stevens: It's a discount. Students in the lowest bands are getting a discount for tuition. We think that because tuition is lower and more competitive we will get more students.
- L. McClain: Curious about the declining birth cohorts and how there are lower number of students coming out of high school that are eligible to come to college?
- B. Kuster: Yes, by looking at who we recruit and how we recruit. We are also looking into dropping the GPA for scholarship renewals for students after freshman year.
- C. Groves: Is there a sense of commitment in the university to be able to fund them for four years?
- B. Kuster: Yes, as long as they make the GPA requirements, stay in good standing, and stay here then yes, we will help them through the four years.
- Q. Hollis: Other criterium that you use to be a candidate for this scholarship?
- B. Kuster: These are only the merit scholarships, there are also need based scholarships that we give out. This is a bold move with scholarships, but it's relying on changes within the institution, like the development of a strategic enrollment plan for the institution.
- F. Sunkin: Is it four years or until they finish their degree?
- B. Kuster: It's a max of four, because they come in with some credits already. Model is designed around a 4 year period.
- F. Sunkin: What if a student sits out for a semester, but then comes back?
- B. Kuster: As long as they didn't leave, go to another school, and then come back, we can hold their aid.
- L. McClain: Is this only if enrolled full time?
- B. Kuster: Only for first-time full time students enrolled in 2020.
- A. Wichman: Is there a way for non-freshman to hook into this?
- B. Kuster: Not for this model no. If students need help, we really want them to contact us so we can work with them.

### **C. Standing Committee Reports:**

1. Academic Quality, David Serafini: (Report posted)
  - Move for approval of report, Motion Approved.
2. Budget and Finance, Guy Jordan: (No report)
3. Colonnade/General Education, Mary Wolinski: (Report posted)
  - Move for approval of report, Motion Approved.
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Lauren McClain (Report posted)
  - a. FWPR Report 9-20-19
    - Move approval of report (not the policy), Motion approved.
  - b. Parental Leave DRAFT Policy REVISED
    - L. McClain motions for approval of policy: Policy Passes
    - Motion to approve policy with first friendly amendment: Motion M. Kerby, Second J. Hanley. Second friendly amendment: A. Jerome, Second M. Crowder. Motions Approved.
    - Current policy is to figure it out with department head, but this leads to inequity across campus. This is a very important policy for the university. Not a radical policy, but a first for the state of Kentucky.
    - First friendly amendment, pg. 2 of policy to make sure that work can't be demanded before or after the faculty member takes Parental Leave.
    - A. Wichman: Think this amendment is very important, wanted to ask on your reasoning for the part-time faculty?
    - L. McClain: Wanted to be inclusive to everyone. Based this leave on their work history.
    - U. Ziegler: Can you clarify how the cross semester leave works?
    - L. McClain: Originally this was for taking fall or spring semester, but we know kids come whenever they want. So we wanted to give the option to take 16 semester weeks.
    - U. Ziegler: There is an 'or' that seems to exclude the use of cross semester leave. Replace that with and/or.
    - L. McClain: Sentence with changed language: "If the birth or adoption occurs mid-semester or late semester a faculty member may choose to take paid leave during the semester in which the event occurs and/or the following semester." (Second friendly amendment)
    - D. Kelly: Question about part-time model.
5. Graduate Council, Ann Ferrell: (Report posted) (Carl Dick)
  - Move for approval. Motion Approved.
6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Anthony Paganelli: (Report posted)
  - Move for approval of report. Motion Approved.

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

1. Faculty Handbook, Kirk Atkinson: (Report posted)

- Motion to approve report J. Snavelly, second D. Clark: Motion Approved.
- 2. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Molly Kirby: (No report)
- 3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Margaret Crowder: (No report)

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

1. Faculty Regent, Claus Ernst
  - No report, meeting next Friday.
2. Provost, Cheryl Stevens
  - Sharing Goals from the Summer Retreat, developed through meetings with the E-team and the Deans:
    - Overarching: Student Success.
    - 1) Post Cape: launch both new and improved innovative and market driven academic programs that will attract a diverse body of undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional, students. 2) Implement effective electronic curriculum personnel and workload processes. 3) Ensure positive SACS COC Outcome. 2021 is WKU's 5 year SACS review. Associate Provost Michelle Trawick is leading an Assurance of Student Learning Committee. 4) Foster mutually supportive and productive partnerships between the divisions of academic affairs and the division of enrollment and student experience, with the ultimate goal of increasing enrollment persistence and graduation rates.
    - Communicating with the campus is a high priority. So, every other Monday there are updates from the Provost emailed to the entire campus community. Each message has a thread associated with student success and opportunity. If you have any ideas for me to write about, please let me know.
    - A. Wichman: Your comment, "people read them word for word," that's you saying that there's more there between the lines than there in the literal words?
    - P. Stevens: There is a lot of information in there. I'm not burying stuff, I wouldn't do that, but there's just a lot of information. They're pretty straight forward.
    - M. Crowder: Question about new program development thinking about transform programs. What are the dates when we can propose those new programs? Is it this semester or next?
    - P. Stevens: From memory, there is the preliminary date at the end of October for your initial thoughts, and then another in the Spring I think March, for the nearly final report. It's not a fixed deadline though.
    - M. Crowder: Because we didn't meet our diversity goal, when is that hold lifted?
    - P. Stevens: There wasn't an appeal process in place. We sent in a report and it's been reviewed and returned with comments, we are going to resubmit soon.
3. SGA President, Will Harris
  - Garrett wanted me to talk to you all about committees. Two committees he is still waiting to confirm that they will be able to serve. Encouragement to connect with student senators.
  - SGA all scholarships are up and online. Graduate students are allowed to apply.

## **F. Old Business:**

### **1. Course Selection Delivery Mode, Policy 1.4132**

- J. Shadoan: The SEC voted to put this policy back on the agenda. This was tabled at Senate last month.
- Motion to approve policy: J. Lindsey, D. Clark: second. Policy Approved. 5 Opposed.
- This topic created a good deal of debate among the Senate. Issues discussed were: changes occurring because of the switch from IVS classrooms to Zoom, would the change in definition allow WKU to charge students an online premium where before they could not, the cost of online tuition, and Western's fee structure. Those involved were: B. Laves, A. Wichman, A. Jerome, J. Lindsey, L. McClain, C. Stevens, and M. Crowder.
- The results of this discussion were as follows.
  - Provost Stevens stated that there were two things in the works regarding online fee differential: 1) A committee evaluating all Academic Affairs fees and 2) A proposal from B. Laves about this topic that is not yet ready for public viewing. Senate representation will be
  - Creation and use of the Connect definition, instead of IVS, will not change the current fee structure.
  - Currently we have IVS rooms where students are in physical classrooms, even though they might be at a distance, such as Elizabethtown or Fort-Knox. With the use of Connect, those classrooms will still exist (called Zoom Rooms), and students in those classrooms will not pay an additional fee. There will now also be the added option for students to 'connect from anywhere' via Zoom. The students connecting from anywhere will be charged the online rate, as they would for any other online class, as they are not in a classroom.
- J. Shackelford: Suggest remove specific web conferencing names, like Adobe Connect, from this policy so we don't have to revise this over time. (Friendly amendment accepted by B. Laves).

## **G. New Business:**

### **1. WKU Scholarship Announcement: Guest, Brian Kuster**

- Moved by motion to after the officers' report.

## **H. Information Items:**

- A. Jerome: UCC pre-screen committee, a lot of you are missing that your policy can be expedited.

Adjournment: Pruitt