

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Faculty House**

**Introduction**

- **Members present (Substitute):** Laura Bohuski, Dan Clark, Yongming Deng, Colin Farrell, Ann Ferrell, Jim Lindsey, Lauren McClain, Sue Lynn McDaniel, Tony Paganelli, Matt Pruitt, David Serafini, Julie Shadoan, Kandy Smith, Mary Wolinski, Claus Ernst, Will Harris.
- **Guest Present:** Kirk Atkinson, Beth Laves, Brian Kuster, Amber Scott.
- J. Shadoan called a regular meeting of the SEC to order at 3:15.

**A. Approve minutes of previous month's SEC Meeting:**

1. SEC 9-9-2019 Meeting Minutes: Moved Pruitt, Second Serafini. Motion Approved.

**B. Officer Reports**

1. Chair - Julie Shadoan

- Tech is up, but any suggestions about changing the current tech set up please send to J. Shadoan by email.
- Policy changes sent to Senate from Provost's office were approved and will be posted on Senate website shortly.
- VP for Enrollment and Student Experience search in its infancy, have a final job announcement that's been edited by the search committee. If anyone wants to see the entire job description email J. Shadoan.
  - Highlights of Job Description: Reports directly to president, works with Provost and Executive Vice President for Strategy, Operations, and Finance; Chief enrollment and student affairs officer at WKU. Looking for a communicator, good with data, and forefronts enrollment and retention.
- Moody's rating for WKU from CAD. Ask for copies from J. Shadoan. WKU got an A2 rating, rating outlook is stable. The debt issued through the Student Life Foundation is relatively high compared to other A2 institutions.
  - There was a discussion between J. Shadoan, M. Pruitt, B. Kuster, and C. Ernst about how the Student Life Foundation debt impacts WKU, i.e. Huron and the Budget, SLF's current financial stability, and the First-Year village.
- Decision to begin block registration for Fall 2020. Proposing all **first year first time freshman** to register them in blocks for fall and spring with 9-hour for each semester. Can fill in remaining hours with whatever classes are needed.
  - Information indicates that we don't know if the block would be general education classes or anything a department offers and how that effects scheduling.
  - Questions about non-traditional students and their different schedules were not satisfactorily answered.
  - Block registration is happening, but specifics are up in the air and information should be trickling down from Deans and Department Heads to faculty.

- W. Harris: Asked a question about dual credit and one about where this initiative came from.
- A. Scott: Cheryl is a proponent of Block Scheduling. My understanding is that block scheduling is built around the idea that students will share the same types of classes with people students of a similar age group.
- W. Harris: There has been no input from SGA.
- Discussion between A. Scott and W. Harris about impact on students.

## 2. Vice Chair - Dan Clark

- More committee spots to fill will be next discussed next week at Senate.
- Move that we add Ken Payne to Grad Council to council by acclimation. Motion Approved
- Discussion of filling Senate seat issues.
  - When and how often to hold elections?
    - Discussion of election procedures between D. Clark, L. McClain, M. Pruitt, J. Shadoan.
    - Decided to hold one election at its scheduled time, and if a position doesn't fill, it doesn't fill.
- Use of At-Large senators in the documentation for two different positions. Want to change the name of at large senators to college senators to remove the dual use of at-large in the Charter language. Will be department senators, college senators, and at-large.
  - Will bring official request forward at later SEC meeting.

## 3. Secretary - Laura Bohuski (no report)

### C. Standing Committee Reports:

#### 1. Academic Quality, David Serafini: (Report posted)

- Meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> September. Nothing to vote on report is more informational. Committee will look into efficiency of late TOP sessions, feedback about Centralized Advising program, P. Stevens was at last meeting and had questions about dual credit. This information included in next month's report. Serafini move to include report. Motion Approved.

#### 2. Budget and Finance, Guy Jordan: (No report)

#### 3. Colonnade/General Education, Mary Wolinski: (Report posted)

Move for approval of colonnade committee report to senate agenda. Approved 2 courses. Motion Approved.

#### 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Lauren McClain: (Report posted)

Move for approval of report on Senate agenda.

- a. FWPR Report 9-20-19
- b. Parental Leave DRAFT Policy
- Currently have no paid parental leave. The current policy is "work it out with your department head". This leads to inequality within departments. This policy will be a faculty policy for now, Staff will take their part out and work on it to be added back later.
- Would be the first in the state of Kentucky to put a Paid Parental Leave policy in place.
- There was a detailed discussion about this policy between L. McClain, M. Pruitt, C. Farrell, A. Ferrell, J. Shadoan, M. Wolinski, A. Paganelli, A. Scott, K. Atkinson, and C.

Ernst. This discussion covered multiple concerns/confusion that senators had including, but not limited to: the definition of semester weeks, how breaks factor into the 16 weeks allowed, inclusion of unexpected guardianship, broadening of the policy into a Care Giving policy instead of solely parental leave, Staff time off versus Faculty time off, No payback policy, links to policy within document, impact on promotion and years of service, and the time required for part-time faculty to be eligible for policy use.

- Committee decided to allow for Faculty Welfare to resubmit this policy with the following changes: clarification of semesters as teaching weeks or weeks on contract, impact of taking parental leave on promotion and years of service, policy links, removal of part-time faculty, and unexpected guardianship of a minor.
    - Edited document would have to be disseminated to the committee before Thursday and an online vote solicited to see if it will be approved to go on Senate agenda.
  - Motion to allow to resubmit proposal to SEC before Thursday to allow vote before Senate agenda posts: Motion Pruitt; Second C. Farrell. Motion approved.
5. Graduate Council, Ann Ferrell: (Report posted)
    - Move to request that this be added to the senate agenda. Motion approved.
  6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Anthony Paganelli: (Report posted)
    - Move to include announcement in Senate Agenda. Motion approved.

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

1. Faculty Handbook, Kirk Atkinson: (Report posted)
  - Have a full committee. We have one meeting a month scheduled, but might meet more as needed.
  - Currently have 5 requested changes to the handbook.
  - Requesting feedback about the interpretation of the minimum time required before applying for Promotion.
  - Pruitt Motioned to include; Second Clark/Ferrell. Approved.
2. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Molly Kerby: (No report)
3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Margaret Crowder: (No report)

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

1. Faculty Regent, Claus Ernst (no report)
2. Provost, Cheryl Stevens (absent)
3. SGA President, Will Harris
  - Scholarship applications for students will be live this week. Launching the Earn a Computer Program—collaboration with Surplus. Organizational aid: If sponsoring an RSO, SGA offers an organization aid scholarship. Check the SGA website for application.
  - James (Garrett) Edmonds is the contact for SGA representatives on Senate Committees. Contact him if you do not have an SGA representative and haven't already been in contact with SGA.
  - SGA feels good about the scholarship announcement that went out today.

## **F. Old Business:**

### 1. Course Selection Delivery Mode, Policy 1.4132 (tabled last University Senate meeting)

- A Ferrell motioned to return tabled policy to the agenda. Seconded by Jim Lindsey.  
Motion Approved.
- B. Laves: Does not replace classroom, hybrid or online definition, it is something else that will align with those definitions.
- We need to be able to track how students are connecting into their classrooms for a lot of different reasons, one of which is compliance with federal regulations, provision of services and many others. This is a rebranding of IVS that would be easier to understand.
- J. Lindsey: The concern was that this was a way to label students as distance to be able to charge them a premium for distance education.
- B. Laves: Definition for connect doesn't drive the tuition for the students. That is decided elsewhere. This policy doesn't change how students are charged for tuition at all.
- A. Scott: Provost wants to divorce this policy from the fees discussion.
- Discussion between B. Laves, J. Lindsey, M. Pruitt, A. Scott, L. Bohuski, W. Harris, L. McClain and C. Farrell about concerns for this policy. Concerns were mainly about how this new definition of a Connect course would impact what tuition rate students are required to pay under this new definition. With the objection being to that this definition will push more students into online classes whose rates which are significantly higher than in person tuition rates. Other concerns included how WKU would know if students had signed up with the wrong enrollment code. Motion Passed. Opposed J. Lindsey; D. Clark.

## **G. New Business:**

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

- Invited by J. Shadoan to discuss the Merit Awards Scholarships.
- Discussed the overhaul of the scholarship system.
  - Discussion between M. Pruitt, K. Smith, A. Ferrell, J. Lindsey, L. McClain and M. Wolinski about the scholarship breakdown and how some scholarships are based on race. Some worries about what seems like an automatic tuition differential. Discussion about socio-economic breakdown of scholarships vs. racial. Use underserved population instead of minority as terminology.
  - C. Ernst: expressed concerns about automatic scholarship dispersal and net tuition gain.

## **H. Information Items:**

No new items

**Adjournment: Pruitt at 5:35.**