

Western Kentucky University
University Senate
Meeting Minutes
9 May 2019, 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, Leslie Baylis, Jim Berger, Jason Bergner, Tim Brotherton, Dan Clark, Margaret Crowder, Aqvesha Daniels, Susann Davis, Carl Dick, Claus Ernst, Travis Esslinger, Colin Farrell, Stacey Forsythe, Jay Gabbard, Dawn Garrett-Wright, James Gary, Natasha Gerstenschlager (Robin Ayers) , Elizabeth Gish, Lance Hahn, Kirolos Haleem, Tim Hawkins (Patricia Todd), Lawrence Hill, Jean-Luc Houle, Tom Hunley, Angie Jerome, Guy Jordan, Pat Kambesis, Jim Lindsey, Kim Link, Mac McKerral, Patti Minter, Kurt Neelly, Morteza Nurcheshmeh, Heather Payne-Emerson, Leslie Plumlee, Matt Pruitt, Mark Schafer, David Serafini, Jo Shackelford, Joe Shankweiler, Christy Spurlock (Sandy Stoebell), Ajay Srivastava, Cheryl Stevens, Heather Strode, Dana Sullivan, Carol Watwood, Aaron Wichman, Mary Wolinski, Alison Youngblood, Uta Ziegler
Guests: Suelynn McDaniel, Danita Kelley, Ivan Novikov, Sarah Heinct, Michelle Trawick, Marko Dumancic

B) Approve April 2019 minutes

- D. Clark motioned to approve minutes with changes offered by L. McClain. S. Davis seconded. Passed unanimously.

C) Reports, Part I

- ***Chair – Kirk Atkinson***
 - 1) Made comments thanking all those who had helped and supported him during his tenure as President
 - 2) SEC room status – I received a quote back for installing large monitors in the Faculty House, and the quote was high. We're getting new bids. The President and Provost have agreed to cost share on this project.
 - 3) Senate budget – We had a budget approved this year, and it was increased to include course reductions for certain senate positions. With the reductions on campus, I agreed to a reduction in that budget with the Provost by \$5,000, which consists of discretionary funds.
 - 4) SEC room assets – There are some assets owned by the Senate in the SEC room that need to be moved. Is the Senate ok with sending these items to places around campus that have need and can use them (tables, chairs, projector, etc.)?
 - M. McKerral moved to release the assets. C. Dick seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- ***Vice Chair – Dan Clark***
 - 1) Election – University Complaint Committee
 - Ballots were passed out and Senators voted
 - Elected representatives: Ashley Fox, Sonja House, and Haley Wheeler (student)

- *Secretary – Jason Bergner*
- *Coalition of Senate/Faculty Leadership for Higher Education – Molly Kirby (no report)*
- *AAUP Representative – Margaret Crowder (no report)*
 - 1) We now have enough members to have a charter for our campus. They will get going in the fall.

D) Committee Reports and Recommendations

- *Academic Quality – Heather Strode (Academic Renewal policy revision posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) H. Strode motioned to approve the Academic Renewal policy revision. Passed unanimously.
 - A. Wichman - Do students have to be on campus a semester before they can use this policy, or can they use it as soon as they step on campus?
 - R. Plemons - It depends on how many hours they are bringing in. The main goal for the revision is that there was nothing in the existing policy that said students had to be admitted to use the policy. We found that some students were shopping around to try and use this policy to boost their GPAs in order to get scholarships. We're trying to get a handle on this.
 - H. Strode – We saw that there were a lot of gray areas. We are trying to simplify the policy due to the gray and open areas.
 - M. McKerral – This is an example of another policy that needs to be passed with a caveat that it needs to be reviewed on a fairly regular basis.
- *Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities – Lauren McClain (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) D. Clark motioned. Unanimous approval.
- *Budget and Finance Committee – Jim Berger (no report)*
- *Colonnade General Education Committee – Mary Wolinski (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) M. Wolinski motioned. Unanimous approval.
 - We approved five courses for Connections credit.
- *Graduate Council – Carl Dick (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) C. Dick motioned. Unanimous approval.
 - Thanks to those who participated in the Graduate Council election.
- *Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Janet Applin (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) J. Applin motioned. Unanimous approval.
 - To clear up some confusion, under Ogden's agenda, there was a consent item that was approved. It was discussed but not pulled off the agenda.
- *Faculty Handbook Committee – Kate Hudepohl (report posted, endorsed by the SEC)*
 - 1) M. Crowder motioned. A. Jerome seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - 2) Two action items:
 - Faculty promotion introduction
 - C. Dick motioned. J. Applin seconded. Unanimous approval.

- This motion is a value statement that says we should keep to fairness in dealing with second-level promotion for faculty who may be moving to another department/college due to the reorganization at the university.
- A. Jerome – There has been some concern about faculty that move departments may want to switch from research to pedagogical lines. This needs to be considered at some point.
 - K. Hudepohl – We’re not finished with the issue of promotion. This, and other items brought up at the SEC, will be looked at going forward.
- M. Crowder – In thinking about tenured faculty and moving ranks, this should also be for instructors and not just tenured faculty.
 - K. Hudepohl – This section of the handbook deals with faculty tenure and promotion only, but that is something that needs to be addressed.
- Criteria for promotion
 - J. Berger motioned. E. Gish seconded. Unanimous approval with friendly amendment to strike the word “full” from “full professor.”
 - This item provides the specificity for second-level promotion, since the first-level promotions are governed by the requirements in the letter of hire.
 - J. Berger spoke to his experience with this issue.

E) Reports, Part II

- ***Advisory Report, Faculty Regent – Claus Ernst***
 - 1) Thanked K. Atkinson for his work as President.
 - 2) There is a Board meeting tomorrow. I will ask for an amendment for the Provost to review the CAPE results, but I’m not optimistic.
 - 3) My position is to oppose any construction that is not state funded.
 - 4) We are more and more dependent on student tuition and fees. Recruitment and retention are essential. We are anticipating a further reduction and are budgeting appropriately. There’s still an imbalance in the RAMP model of about \$3.5M. There’s no choice but to reduce expenditures. We have a pension bill that is still uncertain.
 - P. Minter – The session is on hold because the governor does not have the votes to pass the pension bill. The plan is that, if that bill was to pass, the universities will sell agency bonds to fund the payout. This would be the largest bond we’ve ever done.
 - 5) The agenda for the Board meeting does not have many details in it. I will not know about these details until the meeting itself.
 - D. Clark – Will the RAMP committees get feedback to help inform their work for next year?
 - C. Ernst – I do not know.
 - M. Crowder – We haven’t had a lot of information about the parallel year with RAMP this year. This next year, I’ve heard that it won’t be fully implemented but it will be another parallel year. Then, it would be fully implemented the following year.
 - C. Stevens – You are correct. We are not ready to transition into a full RAMP model. There are still some uncertainties, and we’re not ready to go fully to that model yet.

- M. Crowder – If we’re looking at a \$10M shortfall and a \$16M subsidy for athletics, we need to be thinking about our priorities at this institution.
- E. Gish – Who makes the decision to send a \$16M subsidy to sports? Is that the President, a committee, etc.?
 - C. Stevens – I don’t understand all of the nuances. There is a governance structure that is amazingly functioning. The recommendations come out from there, including deciding on what list of things to fund. A model like this was not designed to be used in a time other than a growth period.
 - A. Jerome – I’m on the university athletics committee. I thought that committee would look at how they spend their money. We never were allowed to look at those things. We were only allowed to look at things like schedules. I don’t know who’s in charge, but there needs to be some representation on that committee by faculty who understand the way these things work.
 - J. Berger – We not only need someone on that committee, but that person needs to come back to report to us. It would give us a larger voice.
- M. Pruitt read an article concerning stipends, the HAF, and a shortfall of HAF’s contribution to the university.
- M. McKerral – I think it’s a great that the RAMP model is going to show what the units are receiving, but the more important number is what the units are spending. We need to get specific information as the year progresses as to what they have spent. In regarding athletics, we’ve also been told that the budget for athletics is only “3%.” There’s a disconnect with this because 3% looks like a ton of money to academic departments that are fighting over scraps.
- ***Advisory Report, Provost – Cheryl Stevens***
 - 1) We have begun the review of the student fees for reasonableness, compliance, and transparency.
 - 2) M. Price has completed a summary document of each step of the CAPE process along with the comments for Board review.
 - 3) We’re going to start working on the 15 programs that were recommended for growth, doing five each year for the next three years.
 - 4) This summer we will begin working through the transformation plans.
 - 5) I received over 100 emails with volunteers for the Provost’s Council. I’ve chosen seven, five faculty and two staff.
 - 6) A. Mead submitted a document for the Board meeting that there would be a \$10M cut. That was posted without context by the media.
 - The Executive Budget committee recommended that \$3.4M be assigned to the colleges. In order to distribute that, we divided it into two parts. Half of it was calculated by using the performance funding model metrics. We calculated the decline of the metrics (e.g., student credit hour production) and the RAMP model. We used the other 50% as a proportional amount of the budget for each college.
 - 7) It’s important for all of us to participate in commencement.
 - M. Pruitt – The previous Provost said she would make the data available about metrics such as student credit hour data, etc. Do you know anything about it?

- C. Stevens – I don't see any reason why it shouldn't be public. I'll look into it on Monday.
- M. Price – There's additional info now on the CAPE site.
- A. Jerome – It's so hot on Friday and having it outside can be very hot. We should rethink the decision to have it outside.

- ***Advisory Report, SGA President – Will Harris***

F) Old Business

1) Proposed Senate Charter revisions – 2nd reading and vote

- A. Jerome motioned to approve changing the name to the Faculty Senate. M. Crowder seconded. Motion passed unanimously, 42-0.
- J. Berger motioned. A. Jerome seconded. Motion reaffirms the Board's own language which calls for shared governance. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. McKerral motioned. K. Neely seconded. Motion requires Secretary to see that audio recordings are properly archived. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Pruitt motioned. J. Berger seconded. Motion would eliminate term limits for senators. Motion passed, 29-8.
 - J. Lindsey – I think we need new blood. We get people in here and they get stuck in here. I wish we had term limits everywhere. I'm firmly for it.
 - M. Pruitt – I've seen many people term limited off that were very effective and were replaced by people who weren't as effective.
 - A. Jerome – Institutional memory is extremely important.
 - D. Clark – It's easier for people to care about Senate if they get on the Senate. People can get blocked by a long-sitting current senator in their departments. As it stands, you can be on Senate for eight out of the nine years.
 - U. Ziegler – We need to try and get more people involved. Having broader representation is the solution, not having the same people here.
 - M. McKerral – We have an election process that allows the new blood to come in. It's not forcing people out that want to serve.
 - P. Minter – When I was Regent, I saw exactly happened what Senator McKerral described. We had many discussions about waiving rules because no one else wanted to serve.
 - Several other people spoke on this issue, expressing personal experience and views.
 - Question was called and passed.
- C. Dick motioned. J. Berger seconded. Motion is to strike Graduate Faculty membership language from the charter. Motion passed unanimously.

G) New Business

1) Extensions of the Probationary Period (from Academic Affairs)

- M. McKerral motioned. L. Hahn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

H) Information Items

1) NCFS

- Bylaws in draft form
- Fall conference being planned

I) Adjournment

- K. Neely motioned. Unanimous approval.