

Western Kentucky University
Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020
Zoom

Introduction

- **Members present (Substitute):** Julie Shadoan, Dan Clark, Laura Bohuski, Colin Farrell, Jason Bergner, Anthony Paganelli, Uta Ziegler, Mac McKerral, Francesca Sunkin, Guy Jordan, Patricia Todd, Aaron Hughey, Liz Sturgeon, Cheryl Stevens, Claus Ernst, and J. Garrett Edmonds.
- **Guest Present:** Amber Scott Belt, Bruce Schulte, Evelyn Thrasher, Jennifer Hammonds, Rob Hale, and Shane Spiller.
- J. Shadoan called a regular meeting of SEC to order at 3:15pm

Zoom meeting begins at time code 17:10 of recording:

<https://wku.zoom.us/rec/share/YOf1Hx0wg7Y1fAzz1XYTCGO1PGtteWzWzvI5FXPz9po7XjmWrQFlnXWSzp6EW93e.ZLCbvtbB26Bq1Mqp>

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

1. [SEC Meeting Minutes 9.7.2020](#); D. Clark, F. Sunkin. Motion Approved (11 y, 0 n, 0 abs.)

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Julie Shadoan:

- National Coalition of Faculty Senates: At conference appointed to the by-laws committee.
 - Conference presentations one about AAUP and shared governance.
 - Discuss revision of survey about shared governance.
 - Second Conference Presentation:
 - How Higher Education can fight racism in the classroom in administrative bodies, and among faculty.
 - We are in small majority of governing bodies that only meet once a month. Idea that executive committee needs to think about.
 - Ranking of shared governance across the country. Done through the development of a score card and will likely happen within the next 12 months.
- COSFL: Is being reactivated and a meeting is in the process of being scheduled. Reactivation strongly encouraged and Kentucky is one of the states lagging behind in comparison to other state institutions.
- Handbook Committee: seriously think/talk about what the future of the handbook committee should be. Should the committee be more ad hoc and called as needed every few years instead of a standing committee. Especially when its so hard to get a chair and a committee together.

2. Vice Chair - Daniel Clark

- Regent Election: Certify nominations for faculty regent. Claus Ernst (Mathematics), Shane Spiller (Management), James Barker (Philosophy and Religion). Randomized ballot for election: Shane Spiller, James Barker, Claus Ernst.
 - Initial ballot Thursday October 15th, 8am-4pm; SEC verifies results and then goes to President and President announces winner.
 - All faculty, part-time included, will be allowed to vote.
 - Forum 3:45-5pm next Wednesday October 14th.
 - Questions for Forum be from the audience or from the SEC?
 - M. McKerral, J. Shadoan, J. Applin: want questions that all candidates should answer. Combined questions from SEC and audience questions.
 - SEC will craft questions via email.
3. Secretary - Laura Bohuski

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin: (No report)
 - Meeting next week and Marco Dumančić will be going over blackboard changes that are upcoming. Chris Jensen from Academic Advising will be at meeting to address some issues and complaints.
2. Budget and Finance, Guy Jordan: (No report)
 - Met a week ago with C. Ernst to discuss new scholarships. Risk/Reward issues about these scholarships.
 - Will talk to Ethan Logan about Housing and students being on Campus at next meeting.
3. [Colonnade/General Education, Patricia Todd: \(Report posted\)](#)
 - Move for approval of report: Motion Approved (12 y, 0 n, 0 abs.)
4. [Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Daniel Clark: \(Report posted\)](#)
 - Move for approval of report as is: Motion Approved (11y, 1 n, 0 abs.)
 - Financial exigency and removal of Tenure appointments.
 - Program closures and the re-appointment of Faculty.
 - Discussion of terminology issues, waiting for modification in Faculty Senate meeting.
5. [Graduate Council, Aaron Hughey: \(Report posted\)](#)
 - Motion for approval of report: Motion Approved (8 y, 0 n, 1 abs.)
6. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Liz Sturgeon: \(Report posted\)](#)
 - Motion for approval of report: Motion Approved (11y, 0 n, 1 abs.)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. Faculty Handbook: (No report) – No committee and no chair
2. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL) – report in Chair report.
3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Margaret Crowder: (No report)

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Claus Ernst

- No direct board action, next board meeting October 22nd, after Regent election.
- New scholarship programs: This is something we have to do. Will be moving to total revenue model on tuition and need to maximize our tuition revenue through the number of students, we can attract and retain.

2. Provost, Cheryl Stevens

- SACOS accreditation—making good progress.
- Covid update: 90% decrease in Covid cases on campus over last 4 weeks. No transmission via classrooms so far from contact tracing data. Please still wear masks, social distance and with cold weather get a flu shot please.
- Still working on Budget.
- Question asked about compensation committee: Still want to get that restarted.

3. SGA President, Garrett Edmonds – New SGA president.

james.edmonds625@topper.wku.edu for any committees who needs student members.

F. New Business:

1. Senate Discussion Board—Make a .org site that would be freely accessible 24-7 to help facilitate regular discussion between members.

- No formal business conducted on the boards.
- Support proposal of discussion board: (10 yes) J. Shadoan checking with IT about what is possible.

2. Spring 2021:

- Removal of spring break is to keep people in a bubble as much as possible.
- No dates on Commencement.
- Class modalities are up to teachers.

3. Class fees: M. McKerral; issues with the removal of class fees from departments.

G. Old Business:

1. Restart Follow Up Results

- Will be put on Senate website when Jessica comes back from Vacation.
- 281 responses, but some interesting data points:
 - 60% said they thought Covid-19 testing was ineffective.
 - 73% thought reporting and testing results were ineffective.
 - 46% thought that Healthy on the Hill webpage was ineffective.
 - Requested modality changes: 35% no, 65% yes. Of that 65%, 94% said their request for modality change was approved.
 - Support in the College and Department: 13% said did not feel supported in department, 28% did not feel supported in College.

- 60% of Faculty who took the survey had been tested.
2. Interim Status of Provost – search happening, J. Shadoan part of committee, no timeline, but likely soon.
 3. Dr. Bruce Kessler
 - Meeting with Provost, Dean, and all Math department members. That’s all that’s known, but a communication line has been opened.
 4. Ombudsperson – Full professor and preferably more than one.
 - J. Shadoan: Strongly encourage a recommendation out of Faculty Welfare if we want to push the issue of Ombudsperson.

Adjournment: M. McKerral, G. Jordan. (4:40)