

Academic Quality Report

The Academic Quality Committee met on Friday, March 6, 2020 in Cherry Hall room 203A. In attendance were:

David Serafini, Chair
Mark Schafer
Heather Strode
Aquesha Daniels
Laura Bohuski

Jennifer Hammonds, University Registrar

Meeting was called to order at 12:59.

- Update of the Campus Free Speech statement and reevaluation by this Committee and the Faculty Welfare Committee discussion took place.
- Because Senator Chris Groves is taking part in the Affordable Textbook Initiative, he is ineligible to represent this Committee in that process. Therefore, Senator Laura Bohuski will do so instead.
- University Registrar Jennifer Hammonds shared the proposed 2021-2022 Academic Year, and extensive discussion was held regarding the recent calendar changes. As a result, the Academic Quality Committee raised the following:
 - Commencement and College Recognition Ceremonies in Spring 2022 are scheduled for the same weekend as the Kentucky Derby. This Committee discussed and recommended a potential change of that date, recognizing the conflict that this would pose.
 - It was brought to our attention that there is not a representative of the Libraries on the Calendar Committee. We therefore recommend that this be rectified for the 2020-2021 school year and going forward from there.
 - Registrar Hammonds informed this Committee that the Calendar Committee is, in essence, faculty run and driven, with representation from Staff Council and her office in an advisory capacity. The revelations of changes to the calendar at the December 2019 Senate meeting took Senators by surprise, and several were upset that this information had not been disseminated to the various colleges and departments prior to that meeting. We therefore recommend to the SEC, and then the full Senate, that either:
 - This committee (Calendar) become a standing committee of the Senate, or,
 - A representative of this committee (Calendar) give a report in an advisory fashion (i.e. AAUP, et al) to the full Senate monthly, and take input from the full Senate back to said committee for implementation.
- Chair Serafini will be in contact with Human Resources to determine why WKU does not observe President's Day as a holiday. This comes from Committee discussion, discussion with the Registrar, and other faculty members.

The next meeting of the Committee has yet to be scheduled owing to the recent COVID-19 crisis, but will be via Zoom conference. A link will be sent to the full faculty.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm.