

Western Kentucky University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

Zoom: <https://wku.zoom.us/j/98928015109>

Introduction:

- **Members present (Substitute):** Janet Applin, Kirk Atkinson, Melanie Autin, Julie Lyn Barber, Cort Basham, Lauren Bland, Kristi Branham, Katrina Burch, John Cipolla, Margaret Crowder, Amanda Drost, Susan Eagle, Stacey Forsythe, Nick Fortune, Dawn Garret-Wright, Kara Haughtigan, Kate Horigan (Kate Hudepohl), Jeanine Huss, Trish Jagers, Mike Kennedy, Julie Lee, Stacy Leggett, Sonia Lenk, Philip Lienesch, Mac McKerral, April Murphy, Ivan Novikov, Ozkan Ozer, Tony Paganelli, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Asghar Rezasoltani, Mark Robinson, Marilee Salvator, Donna Schiess, Kevin Schmaltz, Julie Shadoan, Jean Snavely, Heather Strode, Dan Strunk, Liz Sturgeon, Francesca Sunkin, Toni Szymanski, Jenni Teeters, Patricia Todd, Dano Tulusso, Pavel Vasiliev, Bangbo Yan, Qin Zhao
- **Guests present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Rob Hale, Beth Laves, Evelyn Thrasher, Yvonne Petkus, Shane Spiller, Bud Fischer, Lynn Hazlett, Amber Scott Belt, Molly Kerby, Laura DeLancey, Calleigh Powell, Darlene Applegate, David Brinkley, David Burt, Debra Murray, Dwayne Bratcher, Tania Basta, Jessica Dorris, Karen Shaneyfelt, Kelly Madole, Leslie North, Margaret Glaser, Tuesdi Helbig
- J. Lee called a regular meeting of Senate to order at 3:45 pm CST

A. Approval of October 21, 2021 minutes:

1. [Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 10.21.21](#)
 - Motion to approve: M. Autin, H. Strode (44 y, 0 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.

B. Officer Reports:

1. Chair, Julie Lee
 - J. Lee reported that she continues to meet with the Provost and President on a monthly basis. Discussions are primarily on pay raises, transparency and communication. Still waiting to hear on the 0.5% pool. COVID taskforce continues to meet and reports that masking will continue at least until the end of the term.
2. Vice-Chair, Janet Applin
 - J. Applin reported that there is still a need for two more Senate representative on the Parking and Transportation committee. Heather Strode and Toni Szymanski volunteered to serve on this committee.
3. Secretary, April Murphy – No report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin, Chair (Report Posted)
 - a) [October 21 Report](#)
 - Motion to approve: F. Sunkin (42 y, 0 n, 5 abs) Motion approved.
 - b) [SITE Question Data](#)
 - Sunkin – thanked numerous individuals for their support and participation in survey development; items were chosen after a

- lot of discussion and most taken from the University of Arizona based on the 10 dimensions of teaching
- M. McKerral – student response rate is relatively low so how are we going to improve student response rate so we are not investing a lot of time in something that isn't used
 - Discussion around validity of items and comparability to the University of Arizona. K. Burch motion to table indefinitely, M. Crowder 2nd (34 y, 12 n, 4 abs). Motion approved.
- c) [SITE Question Revisions Final Draft](#)
2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson, Chair (Report Posted)
- a) [Budget and Finance October 2021 Report](#)
- K. Atkinson - No actionable items.
 - J. Lee – both items were bundled (41 y, 0 n, 5 abs). Motion approved.
- b) [Budget and Finance November 2021 Report](#)
- K. Atkinson – internal auditor came to present; 0.5% of raise pool will be used for extreme salary/compression issues;
 - M. Crowder – where are they looking at making equity adjustments? K. Atkinson – not sure what they are focusing on
 - S. Lenk – inflation rate was 6% so this is only a partial adjustment
 - K. Reames – where is the money from having to teach an extra course? K. Atkinson was not aware of this and reported that he would look into the issue
 - K. Atkinson move to accept report as bundled (39 y, 1 n, 5 abs). Motion approved.
3. [Colonnade/General Education, Patricia Todd, Chair \(Report Posted\)](#)
- P. Todd move to approve report as written (43 y, 1 n, 4 abs). Motion approved.
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Trish Jagers, Chair (No report)
- T. Jagers – contacted by CHHS faculty member regarding 3 faculty fellows in her college, hiring of those faculty fellows – main issue is that faculty evaluations are routed through the fellow
 - M. McKerral – discussed whether there is policy violation and a privacy issue; A. Murphy discussed the process of fellow selection and role in faculty evaluations. K. Burch suggested that a resolution be made by Faculty Welfare committee.
5. [Graduate Council, Martha Day, Chair \(Report posted\)](#)
- J. Applin motion to approve (32 y, 0 n, 3 abs) Motion approved.
6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Liz Sturgeon, Chair (Report Posted)
- a) [UCC Minutes 9-28-21](#)
- b) [UCC Minutes 10-19-21](#)
- L. Sturgeon motion to approve as bundled (41 y, 0 n, 4 abs) Motion approved.

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports

1. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (no report)
- a) [Handbook Committee Bylaws](#)
- J. Shadoan - 1st reading senate charter revisions change
 - M. Pruitt, M. McKerral (42 y, 0 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.

- b) [Handbook Appendix 5](#)
 - J. Shadoan, M. Pruitt (41 y, 1 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.
 - c) [Handbook II.P](#)
 - J. Shadoan, M. Autin (45 y, 0 n, 1 abs) Motion approved.
 - d) [Handbook bundled set: II.A.1, II.X, III, IV, VII \(tabled from May 2021\)](#)
 - J. Shadoan, M. Crowder (44 y, 0 n, 1 ab) Motion approved.
2. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Robin Ayers, Chair (No report)
 3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle, Chair (No report)
 4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby, Chair (No report)
 - M. Kerby - Thank everyone who came to conference.

E. Advisory Member Reports

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller
 - S. Spiller – number one priority was to get pay cuts back and it is important to remember that we were in a much higher level of uncertainty this time last year. Discussed inflation, compensation studies, etc. – goal was to make sure something was in place to address this. Third priority was to make sure RAMP model was in place. A lot of concern regarding nationwide trend in decline in enrollment (8% decline across the country). This will relate to the strategic plan and changes in budget process and salary. Deans are being empowered to make decisions so many decisions won't be at the University-level but at the Dean-level.
 - K. Atkinson – roll it out to all colleges at once and it is clearly communicated and faculty understand it clearly, we are all in this together
2. Provost, Bud Fischer
 - B. Fischer – ombudsperson down to 3 candidates who were interviewed this week. Will hopefully have a new ombudsperson starting in August 2022. Person will be named after Thanksgiving
 - RAMP model continues to move forward – committees have met.
 - First Day Complete – way for students to pay one price for all of their books for a semester, only expectation of faculty is that book orders will have to be in on time
3. SGA President, Matthew Wininger
 - M. Glaser – met with Barnes and Noble representative and most of SGA was in favor of moving forward with it

F. Old Business

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G. New Business

1. Discussion: move Handbook Committee to a Standing Committee (Julie Lee)
 - Launched poll to determine support for moving handbook committee to a standing committee. (34 y, 4 n, 1 abs) – will refer to J. Shadoan to write up

Adjournment 5:44pm CST (Atkinson, Fortune)