

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**Zoom: <https://wku.zoom.us/j/95737378359>**

**Introduction:**

- **Members present (Substitute):** Janet Applin, Kirk Atkinson, Melanie Autin, Julie Lyn Barber, Cort Basham, Jason Bergner, Lauren Bland, Daniel Boamah, Kristi Branham, John Cipolla, (Leslie Plumlee), Martha Day, Amanda Drost, Susan Eagle, Stacey Forsythe, Nick Fortune, Dawn Garret-Wright, Chris Groves, (Kim Link), (Kate Hudepohl), Jeanine Huss, Trish Jaggars, Mike Kennedy, Eric Kondratieff, Julie Lee, Stacy Leggett, Sonia Lenk, Philip Lienesch, Mac McKerral, April Murphy, Ozkan Ozer, Tony Paganelli, Paula Potter, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Asghar Rezasoltani, Nancy Richey, Mark Robinson, Marilee Salvator, Donna Schiess, Kevin Schmaltz, Julie Shadoan, Jean Snavelly, Heather Strode, Dan Strunk, Liz Sturgeon, Francesca Sunkin, Toni Szymanski, Jenni Teeters, Sara Thomason, Patricia Todd, Pavel Vasiliev, Bangbo Yan
- **Guests present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Rob Hale, Beth Laves, Bruce Schulte, Daniel Clark, Darlene Applegate, David Oliver, Merrall Price, Stuart Burris, Molly Dunkum, Evelyn Thrasher, Jace Lux, Danita Kelley, Jennifer Hanley, Michael Crimmins, Leo Bertucci
- J. Lee called a regular meeting of Senate to order at 3:45 pm CST

**A. Approval of August 26, 2021 minutes:**

1. [Faculty Senate Meeting minutes 9/26/2021](#)
  - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson, T. Paganelli (40 y, 0 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.

**B. Officer Reports:**

1. Chair, Julie Lee – no report
  - Raises – cost of living, merit, correction of salary compression; 2% set aside, allocation is to be determined
  - Communication and transparency – resolutions are now posted on the Senate website under documents
2. Vice-Chair, Janet Applin
  - a. [Vice Chair Report September 2021](#)
    - Several committees still need Senate representation
3. Secretary, April Murphy – no report

**C. Standing Committee Reports:**

1. [Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin, Chair](#)
  - SITE question survey will be sent out early next week.
  - Motion to approve: F. Sunkin (46y, 0n, 2abs) Motion approved.
2. Budget and Finance, Guy Jordan, immediate past Chair (no report)
  - K. Atkinson is newly elected chair; have not met yet but the 2% raise pool will be one of the items on the agenda
3. Colonnade/General Education, Patricia Todd, Chair (no report)
  - a. Colonnade Information: Jennifer Hanley & Molly Dunkum

- J. Hanley – introduce to Senate; on October 1<sup>st</sup> will send out email regarding audit done this summer; full results will be available October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - M. Dunkum – we owe SACS a report in 2025 and Colonnade has not been formally assessed; if you do have assessment data, please forward to Jennifer, Molly Kerby or Molly Dunkum
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Trish Jagers, Chair (no report)
    - Meeting scheduled for tomorrow
  5. Graduate Council, Martha Day, Chair
  6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, immediate past Chair (no report)

#### **D. Other Committee/Organization Reports**

1. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (no report)
  - Reaching out to instructors
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)
 

*“WKU will be hosting the CPE Higher ED equity conference here on our campus, November 16 & 17. Please encourage your departments and colleagues to submit session proposals for the conference when the call is announced.”*

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

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller
  - K. Atkinson report for S. Spiller, who is at a BOR function
  - Next meeting is October 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - New regents have required education day next Friday
  - 2% raise pool is still funded but no guidance on how it is going to be deployed
2. Provost, Bud Fischer
  - a. [Information item: Faculty Ombudsperson](#)
    - R. Hale reporting for Provost Fischer
    - Discussion regarding Faculty Ombudsperson position – asked Carl to stay in this role for this academic year, call for replacement to come soon
    - Discussion regarding calendar adjustment for Spring – exam and commencement schedule in conversation right now, hope to have finalized in next week or two, Cabinet needs to approve.
    - Discussion regarding Enrollment – total enrollment as of the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> was 14,572 (12,568 = undergraduate, 2004 = graduate), final official number will come with Census on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Last year numbers were 15,313 total – down about 300 first time, first year
3. SGA President, Matthew Wininger

#### **F. Old Business**

#### **G. New Business**

1. [Academic Affairs Policy 1.4014 on Substantive Change](#)
  - R. Hale - SACS changed policy back in January, B. Laves highlighted

changes – it mirrors the SACS policy, table at end is what has been added and summarizes the different type of changes university might make, especially program changes, newer – modality changes

- Motion: J. Shadoan, M. Pruitt (36y, 2n, 7abs) Motion approved.
  - J. Shadoan – who is responsible, does an individual faculty member need to know all of this. B. Laves – it will be triggered through Course Leaf and also caught by Associate Deans
2. Susan Eagle, discussion item: vaccine mandates
- Berea, Transylvania, Bellarmine – have vaccine mandate; Northern Kentucky and Morehead have passed resolutions in their senate; wanted to get a general sense of senate feelings regarding mandated vaccines
  - K. Atkinson – against a vaccine mandate as it should be between an individual and medical provider, the vaccine on campus is Moderna which has not been approved by FDA
  - S. Lenk – how have other universities dealt with exceptions
  - R. Hale – waiting on guidelines from OSHA
  - N. Fortune – WKU should have a vaccine mandate, but the concern is what will a resolution actually do
  - Vote on support for the creation of a resolution (21 yes, 10 no, 5 abstain, 8 conditional yes)
  - Motion to ask Faculty Welfare to address issue of resolution M. McKerral, M. Pruitt (36y, 4n, abs) Motion approved.
3. Bruce Schulte, Strategic Plan Implementation Committee
- Presented PPT on the SPI committee. Need a faculty senate representative
4. David Oliver, Director Environmental Health & Safety, COVID Taskforce Update
- Presented a PowerPoint on incoming calls to Covid assistance line, call-takers, positive cases
  - Thinks mask compliance is working, not seeing spread, seeing increase in vaccination compliance – approaching the 50% mark of student vaccinations, still waiting to see what the OSHA guidance is going to be, Moderna vaccine is on campus
  - M. Pruitt – will you share data; yes
  - M. McKerral – get an idea of students participating in incentive; right now data is together but will get it separated; when non-compliance, whose responsibility is it to tell students to comply?
  - No known deaths on campus

**Adjournment 5:40pm CST (Pruitt, Strode)**