

Western Kentucky University
Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting
Monday, August 15, 2022
Zoom

- **Members Present (Substitute):** Tony Szymanski, Sheila Flener, Stacey Forsythe, Marilyn Gardner, Anthony Paganelli, Francesca Sunkin, John Wright, Dan Clark, Bangbo Yan, Julie Shadoan, Kirk Atkinson, Mac McKerral
- **Non-voting Members Present:** Provost Bud Fischer, Shane Spiller, Cole Bornefield, Susan Eagle
- **Guests Present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Beth Laves, Molly Kerby, Amber Scott Belt
- **T. Szymanski called a regular meeting of SEC to order at 3:16 pm Central Time**

<https://wku.zoom.us/j/96156304167>

- A. Approve minutes of previous month's SEC Meeting
- Minutes were not available due to transitioning of roles. We will approve minutes from May and August at the September meeting.
- B. Officer Reports
1. Chair - Toni Szymanski (No report)
 - Transitioning from Vice-Chair to Chair and the Senate will need to elect a Vice-Chair. This will be addressed at first full meeting of Senate.
 - Attended the Special Board of Regents Meeting July 29. The transcript can be obtained by writing to Andrea Anderson except for the closed session.
 - Met with President Caboni.
 - Goal is to find a way to evaluate teaching outside of student evaluations.
 2. Vice Chair – (No report)
 3. Secretary – Stacy Leggett (No report)
 - Requested that participants provide name and role in chat box and that the meeting be recorded.
 - M.McKerral commented on SITE Evaluations and history of concern with the process.
- C. Standing Committee Reports:
1. Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin (Chair): (No report)
 - No report. First meeting August 16.
 2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson (Chair): (No report)
 - No report. No meeting yet. K.Atkinson reported he is now alternate on the committee, but they have not yet met to elect new chair for 2022-2023.
 3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacey Forsythe (Chair): (No report)
 - No report. No meeting yet.
 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Dan Clark (Chair): (No report)
 - No report. No meeting yet. Moved first meeting back to after first Senate meeting in anticipation of upcoming work.
 5. Graduate Council, Martha Day (Chair): (No report)
No report.
 6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener (Chair): (No report)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (Chair): (No report)

- The Faculty Handbook committee is now a standing committee. Therefore, the report needs to be moved to standing committee on future agenda.
- The Faculty Handbook committee had not yet, but they have a length agenda for the first meeting to consider changes based on Board of Regents hearing this summer.

2. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson (No report)

- The BEC and the Operating Allocation Committee (OAC) have been merged for two years due to redundancy in topics and questions, but he has recommended that the number of representatives remain the same.
- The 2% salary pool is in early stages with the committee.
- Provost Fischer stated the merger would be a two-year trial.

3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle (President): (No report)

4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby (Chair): (No report)

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Board of Regents actions since last SEC meeting include the special-called budget meeting in June that was the first true RAMP budget. Deans should be communicating with colleges regarding where the college standards. A 2% salary pool was approved and designated to BEC to apportion out. There was a regular called meeting in June for committees. The meeting in August approved promotion and tenure and changes in salaries. The university will start to see more athletic salary funding coming from HAF. No comment on the special-called meeting in July. Retreat in August discussed accomplishments at the mid-term mark of the 10-year strategic plan.
- T. Szymanski thanked S. Spiller for his time and energy and reminded the SEC that this was not a paid position. S. Spiller thanked T. Szymanski for stepping into the role.
- M. McKerral asked why the athletic funds taken from the general funds had not decreased if salaries are coming from HAF? S. Spiller replied that they had decreased and were reaching out to donors to fill budget gaps.
- M. McKerral followed with question about RAMP model and auxiliary units and potential budget cuts for those units. S. Spiller was not sure, but he believed funding had shifted since earliest RAMP model presentations.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Regular and Substantive Interactions (RSI) are a requirement of the Department of education and will be investigated by SACS.
- Most questions about bands or tiers within the compensation model have been addressed and involved individuals have been informed. There is current discussion regarding the possibility of adding a fourth tier. BEC has been informed, but information will be shared with entire faculty senate.
- Invitations will be sent soon for QEP focus groups with faculty and students.
- Ena Demir has started the role of Executive Director and Title IX Coordinator this summer.

- M. McKerral asked about compensation model discussions related to who were placed in which tiers. Provost Fischer replied that only a few questions remained.
 - K. Atkinson mentioned change in ombudsperson. Provost Fischer replied that Dr. Youngblood had taken a position at Vanderbilt and the second candidate was contacted and agreed to serve. Michelle Jones will be the new ombudsperson. J. Shadoan requested that the ombudsperson be added to the Senate website with contact information. Provost Fischer will work with Jessica to do this.
3. SGA President, Cole Bornefeld.
- C. Bornefeld reported the first SGA meeting will be August 30.

F. Old Business: None.

G. New Business

1. K. Atkinson has served two years on BEC. Might need to add to agenda to see if anyone else is interested. T. Szymanski clarified that K. Atkinson had completed his two-year term.
2. M. McKerral asked in the Fall of last year about placing recordings to the meetings on the website.
3. M. McKerral spoke to comments made by Public Information Officer and President over the summer and his hope that the handbook committee can address any gaps in the process seen. T. Szymanski stated that the President's comments were at the regular Board of Regents meeting, not the special called meeting. J. Shadoan replied that concerns mentioned will be reviewed by Handbook Committee.
4. S. Forsythe posed question regarding calendar for 2022-2023. The calendar had been approved by SEC, but not the Senate.
5. D. Clark brought parking at the top of the hill to the attention of the body. Changes in parking and objectives behind those changes were discussed.
6. S. Spiller spoke to comments by President and also informed the group that the role of the Board of Regents in the tenure process was statutory.
7. M. McKerral shared the work in Potter of the exploratory committee looking into the merit of bringing Communications into the School of Media.
8. J. Wright shared that the accreditation process for the Psychology department was completed and the Grown-Your-Own initiatives to address educator shortages.
9. B. Yan spoke to the new hires in Ogden.
10. M. Gardner did not have anything to report from CHHS.
11. A. Paganelli brought greetings from the library.
12. K. Atkinson: Gordon Ford has restructured curriculum, reduced, and made it more flexible.
13. M. McKerral: President has not been to Senate chambers in 5 years. Might entertain inviting him to the Senate meeting. S. Spiller seconded.

Adjournment. K. Atkinson, M. Gardner 4:18 pm Central Time.