

Western Kentucky University
Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Zoom

- **Members Present (Substitute):** Kirk Atkinson; Cortney Basham; Lauren Bland; Kristi Branham; John Cipolla; Daniel Clark; Amanda Drost; Landon Elkind; Sheila Flener; Stacey Forsythe; Phillip Gunter; Kara Haughtigan; Kate Horigan; Kate Hudepohl; Andrea Jenkins; Neena Jones; Eric Kondratieff; Stacy Leggett; Mac McKerral; Mohsen Mollagholamali; Kurt Neelly; Ivan Novikov; Ahmet Ozkan Ozer; Anthony Paganelli; Matt Pruitt; Donna Schiess; Kevin Schmaltz; Julie Shadoan; Dan Strunk; Dana Sullivan; Antonia Szymanski; Patricia Todd; Truth Tran; Bangbo Yan; Qin Zhao
- **Non-voting Members Present:** (Rob Hale), Shane Spiller, Susan Eagle
- **Guests Present:** Jennifer Hammonds, Beth Laves, Yvonne Petkus, Jeanine Huss, Merrall Price, Jace Lux, Phil Lienesch, Bruce Schultz, Laura Delancey, Rob Hale, LeAnne Coder
- **A. Szymanski called a regular meeting of the faculty Senate to order at 3:47 pm Central Time.**

<https://wku.zoom.us/j/5940316448>

A. Approval of previous month's Senate Meeting:

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 8-25-22](#)

- Motion to approve: K. Horigan, A. Jenkins (29 y, 0 n, 1 a) Motion approved

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Antonia (Toni) Szymanski

- Met w/ K. Horigan and will be meeting with provost before releasing Faculty Welfare Report.

2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark

- Working to shift responsibilities and fill missing committee slots.

3. Secretary - Stacy Leggett

- No report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. [Academic Quality, Amanda Drost, Chair: \(Report posted\)](#)

- Motion to approve: A. Drost (33 y, 0 n, 2 a) Motion approved
 - Shared the CITL by the numbers report given to Academic Quality committee showing the participants, consults, an inclusive teaching academy.

- A. Szymanski will add CITL report to the Academic Quality report.
2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson, Past-Chair: (No report)
 - K. Atkinson will attend October meeting to help them elect a new chair.
 3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacy Forsythe, Chair: (No report)
 - S. Forsythe Colonnade will have two reports for the next meeting.
 - M. McKerral asked about SACS assessment with Colonnade classes? S. Forsythe replied that the individual faculty member is responsible for the assessment.
 4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Kate Horigan, Chair: (No report)
 - A. Szymanski there will be two reports next meeting.
 - K. Horigan discussing parking. J. Tougas will be attending upcoming meeting, October 7. Email K. Horigan with parking issues to compile and share.
 - A. Szymanski can K. Horigan check to see who the Senate rep is.
 5. Graduate Council, Dana Sullivan, Chair: (Report posted)
 - Motion to approve: D. Sullivan (31 y, 0 n, 2 a) Motion approved
 6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener, Chair: (No report)
 - No report. Will report in October.
 7. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan, Chair: (No report)
 - No report. Will report in October.
- D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:
1. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson, Chair (No report)
 - K. Atkinson BEC met but was unable to attend. Asked A. Szymanski to report.
 - A. Szymanski- BEC looking at two separate issues: a one-time inflation adjustment recognition and two-percent raises. An ad hoc committee was formed to investigate possibility of one-time payment, but no dollar amount for the pool. The next meeting will be Monday. The committee voted on method to allocate raises. A vote was taken and passed to Provost and President.
 - M. Pruitt asked if the vote could be shared. A. Szymanski no. There were six approaches, but the committee went with majority.
 - M. McKerral addressed the lack of fair representation of faculty on these committees. A. Szymanski replied that approximately 25% were faculty. R. Hale posted a link to the membership of the committee: <https://www.wku.edu/ramp/bec.php>.

- K. Branham asked about the source of the 2% raise pool. K. Atkinson replied from the budget.
- L. Elkind asked about what could or could not be shared regarding the discussion. A. Szymanski replied that the finance decisions were still in flux.
- M. Pruitt called out the number of faculty on the committee (3 or 4). A. Szymanski clarified that there were also staff.
- M. McKerral expressed concerns regarding the lack of transparency.
- K. Branham asked about timelines for decisions. The one-time payment-no deadline. The 2% salary pool-October.
- R. Hale asked chair of BEC about a possible gag order. There was no gag order.
- A. Szymanski we do not know the amount of one-time payments or how it will be distributed. Do we want to do a dollar amount or a percent? Two percent across the board was the recommendation made. The final decision will take place January 2023.
- M. McKerral committee members are on the higher end of salary range and would vote for the 2%.
- L. Elkind asked about the salary tiers relevance for the proposals.

2. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle, Chair: (No report)

- S. Eagle: AAUP meet & greet, Sunday, October 9, 2-4 pm, Puerto Vallarta on to the bypass for those interested in learning more about AAUP.

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Susan Eagle, Chair: (No report)

- S. Eagle: Attended one meeting COSFL along with S. Spiller and A. Szymanski.

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

- Deliberative dialogue for tonight was cancelled.
- A. Szymanski reminded the Senate about the micro-credential and requested those interested to contact her.

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- S. Spiller-Faculty Welfare and Staff Satisfaction survey was distributed to Board of Regents.
- S. Spiller-CPE Conference for Trustee meeting in Louisville. Dr. Aaron Thompson shared goals in six key areas. Affordability is the #1 strategic priority. Transition, Success, Talent, Value, (missing 1). Again, #1 goal is to keep tuition down. Base appropriation for WKU stayed the same. The state wants to fund universities based on one-time competitive dollars not increasing based appropriations. We cannot build raises on one-time money. All of the work builds on faculty and staff workload, but there is no reference to them in this plan. Workload has expanded since pandemic. Faculty and staff fair compensation is not mentioned.

- M. McKerral-need to identify where spending could be reduced. The demands on faculty continue to grow. He was concerned about inequitable funding and morale, especially in PCAL.
- S. Spiller expressed concern about leanness in areas such as campus police, IT, one-person offices. We have gone as far as we can with cutting expenses. Revenues will grow with more students.
- K. Atkinson spoke to the budget process. By the time budget gets to BEC, it is at an abstract level.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- R. Hale (representing Provost Fischer): QEP Conversations are going well. If you have not signed up, do so. Looking for faculty representation on inclement weather.
- Ombudsperson page has launched
- We are looking at language on calendar related to start date.

3. SGA President, Cole Bornefeld

- C. Bornefeld: SGA met with J. Tougas regarding Big Red Back Pack.
- Student body doubled turnout for SGA elections.
- G. Reid will be student rep on the CPE Committee.
- Big Red—opt out process. Working on communication issues.
- S. Leggett—concern about graduate students. A. Szymanski suggested sending an email on behalf of all graduate students requesting to flip to an opt in model for graduate students. K. Horigan, L. Bland, K. Neely, D. Tolusso, S. Eagle agreed.
 - Motion for Graduate Council to speak to J. Tougas about opting in model for grad students (K. Horigan, A. Jenkins) 29 y, 0 n, 2 a Motion approved

F. Old Business:

1. Other university committees still seeking Senate members

- D. Clark will send email out.

G. New Business:

1. Senate Nominations needed for Athletic Committee from CEBS

- A. Szymanski: We need more nominations to serve on the Athletic Committee from CEBS. We have one nomination.

2. Senate Nominations for search committee for Assistant Vice President of Student Engagement

- A. Szymanski: Would like one faculty representative to serve on this search committee.

3. A. Jenkins bringing concern from faculty colleague regarding contradictions in the student grade appeal policy related to information brought forward on appeal process. Student complaint procedure, Step #4, University level states that no new material can be presented at this level. If there is new material, the complaint must be referred back to the college complaint committee. A. Jenkins requests consideration of removing the "no new material" from the procedure as outlined in the document. A. Szymanski recommended referring to AQ, A. Drost is chair.

4. J. Cipolla participate in the QEP sessions.

Adjourn. M. McKerral, M. Pruitt. 5:12.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Leggett

Senate Secretary