

Faculty Senate Meeting

Thursday, December 15, 2022 -- 3:45 p.m.

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

Voting members present: Toni Szymanski, Phillip Gunter, Kristi Branham, John Wright, Daniel Clark, Lauren Bland, Dawn Garrett-Wright, Amanda Drost, Kara Haughtigan, Sebastian Leguizamón, Marilyn Gardner, Sheila Flener, Neena Jones, Michelle Jackson, Matt Nee, Phil Lienesch, Pavel Vasiliev, Ivan Novikov, Bangbo Yan, Kurt Neelly, Dan Struck, Kirk Atkinson, Eric Kondratieff, Cort Basham, Julie Lyn Barber, Anthony Paganelli, Danilo Tulusso, Mohsen Aram, Austin Elledge, Susan Eagle, Kate Horigan, John Cipolla, Nancy Richey, Paula Burt, Andrea Jenkins, Qin Zhao, Jason Wilson, Kevin Schmaltz, Cole Bornefeld.

Nonvoting members present: Bud Fischer, Shane Spiller.

Guests: Rob Hale, Stuart Burris, Yvonne Petkus, Jennifer Hammonds, Jessica Dorris, Molly Kirby, Evelyn Thrasher, Bruce Schulte, Jace Lux, Lori Fox, Tonya Bragg-Underwood.

T. Szymanski called meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

A. Approval of previous months Senate Meeting:

1. [Faculty Senate Minutes 11-17-22](#) T. Szymanski, M. Gardner (38 y, 0 n, 0 abs)

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Antonia (Toni) Szymanski

- a. [Jennifer Tougas, Big Red Back Pack](#)

- J. Tougas: “Equitable access” program. Students may opt out. They must confirm their textbooks or go through WKU site to opt out. \$3.6 million saved compared to buying textbooks. 44% of students opted out of the program. Improvements focus on communications. Opt out dates for Winter is January 6 and Spring is January 27.
- K. Atkinson asked about the \$3.6 million in savings including buybacks. J. Tougas they did not.
- S. Eagle asked when do students need to surrender the books. J. Hammonds students must return books within 10 days of the end of the exam period.
- K. Neelly asked about graduate programs. J. Tougas replied they would have these discussions in the spring semester.
- E. Kondratieff asked about the courses using public domain materials. J. Tougas replied this weighs in when students decide to opt in or opt out and helps keep overall costs down.
- L. DeLancey reminded everyone there would be opportunities for the affordable textbooks for individual courses as well as programs.

- K. Atkinson shared the cost of the software with the textbook was much cheaper if they had opted out. J. Tougas shared how students could do a cost comparison for their entire schedule on the BN site.

b. Jennifer Tougas, Faculty Parking Concerns

- J. Tougas under-utilized parking in College Hill lot. New director starting in January.

c. T. Szymanski addressed issues related to offering meetings in a hybrid format. Expensive proposition to retrofit the faculty house. Considering equipping senate chambers which would be used for student, staff, and faculty senate meetings. \$15,000 approximate cost. B. Fischer shared that there has been damage to Faculty House.

2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark (no report)
3. Secretary - Stacy Leggett (no report)

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Amanda Drost, Chair A. Drost (43 y, 0 n, 1 abs)

2. Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff, Chair E. Kondratieff (44 y, 0 n, 0 abs)

3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacey Forsythe, Chair S. Flener (41 y, 0 n, 2 abs)

- S. Flener Colonnade site will be updated with new forms and new proposals may be submitted starting in January.

4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Kate Horigan, Chair K. Horigan (34 y, 0 n, 0 abs)

- K. Horigan thanked Dan for collection regarding parking. She also stated the provost had sent the proposed coordinator policy for their review.

5. Graduate Council, Dana Sullivan, Chair D. Sullivan (34 y, 0 n, 1 abs)

6. Graduate Curriculum Committee, Dana Sullivan, Chair D. Sullivan (32 y, 0 n, 2 abs)

7. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener, Chair S. Flener (44 y, 0 n, 0 abs)

8. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan, Chair J. Shadoan (42 y, 0 n, 2 abs)

a. Proposal II.C. Academic Freedom J. Shadoan (41 y, 1 n, 2 abs)

b. Proposal XIII. Tuition Waiver J. Shadoan (43 y, 1 n, 2 abs)

c. Proposal XII.P Retired Personnel J. Shadoan (45 y, 0 n, 1 abs)

9. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson, Chair

- K. Atkinson discussed the one-time payment, the simplified budget approval process where only significant changes must be justified.

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle, Chair (no report)
 2. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Susan Eagle, Chair (no report)
 3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby, Chair
- M. Kerby: Shared thanks for work this past semester including Jonesville reconciliation group and reception and announced upcoming activities including book studies this semester and new podcast.

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller
 - Meeting on Thursday before graduation. Faculty member comes in to share research presentation. This faculty member also shared the impact on faculty workload.
 - 300 faculty received the one-time payment.
 - Met the new auditor this year who conducted a deep dive. New accounting standards. New information in the audit report.
 - New health services contract discussion. The RFP is driving this.
 - Noted the tremendous turnout of faculty at the graduation ceremonies on Friday.
 - K. Horigan asked about access to mental health services. S. Spiller responded the RFP shows a mental health professional will be available half day.
2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer
 - Damage to faculty house.
 - Progress on inclement weather policy
 - QEP survey finished. Pulling together committee and writing the QEP for Fall 2024.
 - Program coordinator policy is back from review by deans and has been sent to Faculty Welfare and some program coordinators.
 - 49 of 57 students applying for Gilman Scholars were recognized as recipients or alternates. 29 were awarded.
3. SGA President, Cole Bornefeld
 - SGA provided \$16,000 in scholarships for students, more than ever done in one semester by WKU SGA.

F. Old Business:

None

G. New Business:

- University Athletic Committee submitted two names to serve from Gordon Ford: Dennis Wilson and Kate Nicewicz. CEBS had not nominated. J. Shadoan asked about how does the nomination process work and how often are they supposed to submit reports.

Adjourned at 4:57