

Western Kentucky University  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
Thursday, May 11, 2023 -- 3:45 p.m.

Voting members: Toni Szymanski, Stacy Leggett, Dan Clark, Marilyn Gardner, Dana Sullivan, Julie Shadoan, Austin Elledge, Michael Frohling, Danilo Tolusso, Sarah Herbert, Amanda Drost, Ngoc Nguyen, Matt Pruitt, Cort Basham, Kurt Neelly, Bangbo Yan, Qin Zhao, Susan Eagle, Dawn Garrett Wright, Andrea Jenkins, John Cipolla, Ngoc Nguyen, Michelle Jackson, Julie Shadoan, Neena Jones, Sam Kurtz, Sarah Herbert, Sonia Lenk, Lauren Bland, Sheila Flener, Kristi Branham, Phillip Gunter, Eric Kondratieff, Patricia Todd, Kate Horigan.

Nonvoting members: Bud Fischer, Shane Spiller.

Guest: Beth Laves, Jace Lux, Jessica Dorris, Stacey Forsythe, Rob Hale, Ranjit Koodali, Stuart Burris, Sarah Bonis, Alexander Olson, Mary Bennett, Dana Cosby, April Murphy, Brian Elliott, Ray Blankenship, John Erickson, Richard Shugart, Molly Kerby.

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

---

3:45 called meeting to order, A. Szymanski

Copy of Agenda

A. Approval of previous months Senate Meeting:

1. Faculty Senate Minutes 4-20-23 M. Pruitt, J. Shadoan (30 y, 0 n, 0 abs) approved

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Antonia (Toni) Szymanski

- Reminded group of parliamentary procedures.

2. Vice-Chair - Dan Clark

- Thanked everyone for caucuses. Asked for anyone interested in Academic Quality, Colonnade, and UCC still had an at-large position.

3. Secretary - Stacy Leggett

- No report.

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Amanda Drost, Chair (No Report)
  - Encouraged someone to volunteer to chair the Academic Quality committee.
2. Budget and Finance, Eric Kondratieff, Chair E. Kondratieff (33 y, 0 n, 0 abs) approved
  - E. Kondratieff: the report includes a summary version of the meeting with Todd Stewart, the WKU Athletic Director. Provided clarification on statements regarding HAF meeting commitments.
3. Colonnade/General Education, Stacey Forsythe, Chair (No Report)
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Kate Horigan, Chair K. Horigan (30 y, 0 n, 0 abs) approved
  - Survey was completed last week. There were 319 responses.
5. Graduate Council, Dana Sullivan, Chair D. Sullivan (15 y, 0 n, 2 abs) approved
  - a. JUMP Policy Proposal D. Sullivan (15 y, 8 n, 3 abs) approved
    - R. Blankenship: The policy has been in the works for over three years. It tries to meet multiple needs.
    - J. Cipolla: Relayed comments from PCAL program coordinators opposed to reducing the possible number of JUMP hours.
    - A. Olson: Comments were compiled from all program coordinators in PCAL. Seeking to separate out the number of double-counted credits from the total number of credits. It changes the JUMP from being a 4+1 and might possibly harm recruitment of students with scholarships.
    - M. Price: Believes there are other ways to abide by SACS rules without negatively impacting the JUMP programs.
    - K. Atkinson: Expressed concern regarding JUMP programs and what separates undergraduate from graduate programs.
    - B. Fischer: 2 students in history from Fall data. 217 overall students in JUMP programs.
    - R. Koodali: There are 87 graduate students in spring who enrolled from JUMP programs. Over time, 196 dropped out, 314 awarded degree, 87 currently in program.
    - B. Fischer: SACS asked the question in 2017 regarding program's covering the learning outcomes for the undergraduate and graduate program.
    - L. Elkind: Asked was accreditation tied to a university-wide policy related to this?
    - B. Fischer: SACS
    - M. Gardner: Asked about the non-duplicated hours. What is the issue with limiting these hours?
    - R. Blankenship: No more than 25% of the credits should be taken at the undergraduate level.

- M. Gardner: Asked about courses that include 42 hours. Could the guidance be 25% instead of specific number of hours.
  - E. Kondratieff: The math does not work at all. 12 hours would require a 48-hour program. If a student enters with 30 hours from high school, they have a four-year scholarship, why can't they take 18 hours during that fourth year?
  - R. Blankenship: The 18 hours gets to the integrity of the graduate program with the coursework taken at the graduate level.
  - R. Koodali: It is in our best interests with SACS to have a policy. There is no information in the graduate catalog regarding JUMP. They are currently in MOAs and creates confusion for students, faculty, and advisors. It is in the best interest of the university to publish this information in catalog and make it transparent. The numbers have come with great analysis and are in keeping with our peers.
  - K. Atkinson
  - M. Price: No numbers on the scholarship, but the numbers university-wide are high and students in JUMP program are probably high. We do not limit the number of dual enrollment courses that students can bring to WKU. Read guidance regarding JUMP programs from SACS document related to falling far short of 150 hours and allowing any student to participate.
  - B. Fischer: The standards do not state a number of hours, but conversations with SACS shared a range.
  - L. Elkind: Will this jeopardize our accreditation?
  - R. Koodali: We did contact our SACS representative. The guidance given to us was double counting nine hours would probably be questioned by the peer review committee.
  - E. Kondratieff: Could there be an opportunity for greater flexibility? He shared the high quality of students that he has been able to teach at WKU.
  - D. Clark: His colleagues and Ogden College were urging him to vote on this compromise. He asked if scholarships are the issue, could WKU change scholarship funding?
  - K. Atkinson: We should come back after a year to review the impact. B. Fischer asked to allow everyone to get the policy fully implemented and then come back to review. E. Kondratieff: We would at least like to follow up with the new policy.
6. [Graduate Curriculum Committee, Dana Sullivan, Chair](#) D. Sullivan (21 y, 0 n, 2 abs)
7. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener, Chair](#) S. Flener (30 y, 0 n, 0 abs)
- a. [Catalog Policy Revision Proposal Subsequent Degrees](#) S. Flener (32 y, 0 n, 0 abs)
- B. Laves: Questions about this policy for students pursuing degrees at this university and others. The 20% of credits earned at WKU had to be 25%.
8. [Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan, Chair](#) J. Shadoan (31 y, 0 n, 1 abs)
- a. [Proposal II.A.1 Faculty Appointment](#) J. Shadoan (29 y, 0 n, 0 abs)

- J. Shadoan: this proposal relocates the paragraph on pedagogical and research faculty into two locations.

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle, Chair

- No report

2. Budget and Executive Committee (BEC), Kirk Atkinson, Chair

- Next meeting is August 15 where the committee will address the 2% raise pool.

3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Susan Eagle, Chair

4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby, Chair

- Recruiting event with two tents in Louisville

E. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

- Quarterly meeting last week. Approved more than 25 tenure application. An additional 20+ people promoted. The President mentioned there would be some celebration of these in August.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

- Thanked everyone for their work this year.
- Program coordinator compensation—ran the form through all current program coordinators.
- Inclement weather policy—received comments from Senate and will hopefully address those by August.
- b. [Information Item - 1.113 Evaluation of Faculty Credentials](#)
- Has been revised to clarify different types of faculty credentials and professional qualifications.

3. SGA President, Cole Bornefeld, Sam Kurtz

- SGA will attend Kentucky Leadership Academy next week.
- Looking forward to Fall.

F. Old Business:

- None

G. New Business

- None

M. Pruitt motion to adjourn, 5:02.