

Western Kentucky University
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2022
Zoom: <https://wku.zoom.us/j/98060166564>

Introduction:

- **Members present (Substitute):** Janet Applin, Kirk Atkinson, Melanie Autin, Julie Lyn Barber, Lauren Bland, Daniel Boamah, Kristi Branham, Katrina Burch, John Cipolla, Margaret Crowder, Amanda Drost, Susan Eagle, Stacey Forsythe, Nick Fortune, Dawn Garrett-Wright, Chris Groves, Kara Haughtigan, Kate Horigan (Kate Hudepohl), Trish Jagggers, Mike Kennedy, Eric Kondratieff, Julie Lee, Stacy Leggett, Sebastian Leguizamon, Philip Lienesch, Mac McKerral, April Murphy, Ozkan Ozer, Tony Paganelli, Paula Potter, Matt Pruitt, Kelly Reames, Nancy Richey, Mark Robinson, Kevin Schmaltz, Julie Shadoan, Jean Snavely Heather Strobe, Dan Strunk, Francesca Sunkin, Toni Szymanski, Jenni Teeters, Sara Thomason, Patricia Todd, Dano Tolusso, Bangbo Yan, Qin Zhao
- **Guests present:** Phillip Gunter, Laura DeLancey, Darbi Haynes-Lawrence, Huanjing Wang, John Wright, Austin Elledge, Adam West, Neena Jones, Merrall Price, Landon Elkind, Ron Ramsing, Rob Hale, Dan Clark, Jennifer Hammonds, Amy Wininger, Beth Laves, Danita Kelley, Bud Fischer, David Brinkley, Evelyn Thrasher, Jace Lux, Jessica Dorris, Kacy Harris, Leslie North, Marilyn Gardner, Matthew Nee, Matthew Wininger, Molly Kerby, Shane Spiller, Sheila Flener, Stuart Burris, Amber Scott Belt, Bruce Schulte, Sungjan Im, Jason Wilson, Kurt Neelly
- J. Lee called a regular meeting of Senate to order at 3:47 pm CST

A. Approval of March 24, 2022 minutes:

1. [Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes 3.24.22](#)
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson, M. Autin (39 y, 0 n, 3 abs) Motion approved.

B. Officer Reports:

1. Chair, Julie Lee (No Report)
 - J. Lee reported that there is no official report. CITL is doing a pilot of Bb Ultra. The Big Red Backpack is up and running. Compensation emails went out – the Provost will be here later if there are questions on that.
 - a. Vote for Senate Leadership
 - J. Lee asked for nominations for the Faculty Senate Chair. J. Snavely nominated Julie Lee, Janet Applin 2nd the nomination. Julie Lee accepted the nomination. K. Atkinson nominated Matt Pruitt for Senate Chair. Matt Pruitt respectfully declined the nomination. With no other nominee, there does not need to be a vote.
 - J. Lee asked for nominations for Vice Chair. J. Lee provided an overview of the duties of the Vice Chair. K. Atkinson nominated Eric Kondratieff. Eric respectfully declined the nomination for Vice Chair. K. Atkinson

nominated Mac McKerral for Vice Chair. Mac respectfully declined the nomination. K. Atkinson nominated Toni Symanski. Toni accepted the nomination for Vice Chair. With no other nominee, there does not need to be a vote.

- J. Lee asked for nominations for Secretary. Janet Applin nominated Anthony Paganelli to serve as Secretary. Anthony respectfully declined the nomination. K. Atkinson nominated Francesca Sunkin; however, she is rotating off so declined the nomination. K. Atkinson nominated Laura DeLancy; however she is not a Senator so declined the nomination. Mark Robinson was nominated but his term is ending so declined the nomination. K. Atkinson nominated Trish Jagers; however, she is rotating off and declined the nomination. Matt Pruitt nominated Heather Strode; however she is rotating off. Amanda Drost was nominated by Kirk Atkinson. Amanda respectfully declined. Janet Applin nominated Stacey Leggett. She accepted the nomination. With no other nominee, there does not need to be a vote.
- b. Caucuses for Standing Committees after new business
 - Caucuses will take place at the end of the meeting. Each standing committee presented an overview of what they focus on during the academic year. J. Lee explained the process for filling committees at the end of the meeting.
- 2. Vice-Chair, Janet Applin
 - J. Applin
- 3. Secretary, April Murphy – No report

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Academic Quality, Francesca Sunkin, Chair (Report Posted)
 - a) [March Meeting Minutes](#)
 - Motion to approve: F. Sunkin (43 y, 0 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.
 - b) [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
 - Motion to approve: F. Sunkin (39 y, 0 n, 4 abs) Motion approved with friendly amendment.
 - J. Shadoan commented that she sent an email regarding sentence under multiple submissions. Made a friendly amendment to add “Multiple submissions entails” at the beginning.
 - c) [Survey of Students on Advising, Results Interpreted](#)
 - i. [Advising Survey Default Report](#)
 - ii. [Participant Comments](#)
 - F. Sunkin provided an overview of the survey. M. McKerral commented that a student comment related to training on TopNet is a great suggestion. J. Lee reported that she would have that conversation with Chris Jensen. K. Burch reported concern regarding the reporting of the comments as a breach of confidentiality.
 - A request was made to remove the student comments from the website, as this is a violation of confidentiality. J. Lee has agreed to pull those from the website/archives.
2. Budget and Finance, Kirk Atkinson, Chair ([Report Posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson (40 y, 0 n, 4 abs) Motion approved.
 - K. Atkinson provided an overview of the minutes posted.

- a) [Joint Resolution on Compensation to the Budget Executive Committee](#)
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson (34 y, 5 n, 5 abs) Motion approved.
 - S. Spiller wanted to share that comments and feedbacks have been received across campus. Wanted to clarify that it is strictly for faculty and it could seem exclusionary as it does not consider staff compensation. K. Atkinson explained that this is Faculty Senate and he expects that a similar resolution would go through the Staff Senate. M. Crowder reported that she supports the resolution but does not want it tied to the Segal presentation as questions have not been addressed and there are transparency issues. Wants to make sure that we are not using erroneous data that undervalues WKU. M. McKerrall discussed comment related to staff. Supports the comment that staff should bring this up with their Senate. Suggested that maybe we need to start here with the unclear elements being addressed later. K. Burch suggested that individuals who have issues with the tiers that they consult with unit heads/chairs. It is a step forward that we are restructuring the compensation model and no one model is going to be perfect and make everyone happy. M. Pruitt reported that he does not see the Segal presentation as an endorsement. J. Shadoan called the question (33 y, 2 n, 6 abs) Motion passes with a 2/3 vote.
3. Colonnade/General Education, Patricia Todd, Chair ([Report Posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: P. Todd (37 y, 0 n, 4 abs) Motion approved.
4. Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Trish Jagers, Chair (No Report)
 - T. Jagers reported that she constructed a joint resolution regarding the compensation. Faculty Work/Life survey has been deployed.
5. Graduate Council, Martha Day, Chair ([Report posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: K. Burch (30 y, 0 n, 4 abs) Motion approved.
6. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Melanie Autin, Chair ([Report posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: M. Autin (36 y, 0 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports

1. Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan (Report Posted)
 - a) [Handbook Revision](#)
 - Motion to approve: J. Shadoan, M. Pruitt (40 y, 1 n, 2 abs) Motion approved.
 - J. Shadoan presented proposal to a blanket revision due to terminology changes related to Chairs and Department Heads. J. Cipolla asked question regarding “Director” terminology. J. Shadoan reported that the language is related to title only.
2. Budget Executive Committee, Kirk Atkinson ([Report posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson, M. Pruitt (37 y, 0 n, 5 abs) Motion approved.
 - K. Atkinson provided an overview of his report. Deans came and presented as to their particular units. A lot of discussion on merger of AOC and BEC – K. Atkinson got assurance that the same number of representation would be present. President Caboni’s email indicated another 2% raise in the works.
3. American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Susan Eagle, Chair (No report)

4. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL), Robin Ayers, Chair (No report)
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Molly Kerby, Chair (No report)
 - a) [Resolution 7-22-S Resolution to Support the Creation and Posting of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement by every university department](#)
 - Motion to endorse: M. McKerrall, M. Pruitt (26 y, 4 n, 9 abs) Motion endorsed.
 - b) [Resolution 8-22-S Resolution to Support LGBTQ Outreach and Training by WKU Police](#)
 - Motion to endorse: M. McKerrall, K. Atkinson
 - Motion to table: M. Autin, M. Pruitt (35 y, 0 n, 3 abs) Motion tabled indefinitely.
 - c) [Resolution 9-22-S Resolution to Support the Participation of WKU Admissions in a LBTTQ Outreach Admissions Fair](#)
 - Motion to endorse: K. Atkinson, N Fortune (24 y, 2 n, 7 abs) Motion endorsed.
6. University Athletic Committee Review ([Report posted](#))
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson, M. Pruitt (15 y, 14 n, 9 abs) Motion approved.
 - J. Shadoan noted that this committee report came from our senate representative to the committee. Shadoan made a note that she has never seen this report as a full report but more of an agenda of their meetings. Suggested that Senate requires that a report is submitted moving forward. Mac McKerrall agreed with Shadoan; Chair Lee agreed and noted she would reach out to the individual.
 - K. Atkinson noted that the vote count should be passed back to the committee as feedback.

E. Advisory Member Reports

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller
 - S. Spiller provided report from last week's Board of Regents meeting. Discussed topics that were discussed in the meeting including budget, enrollment, the link between the budget and enrollment. The next budget meeting will be in June. The May meeting will not be a budget meeting. Noted 37 faculty members received Tenure and Promotion and raises
2. Provost, Bud Fischer
 - Provost B. Fischer Provost provided one information item of the position for Executive Director Office of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator has been posted.
 - Atkinson asked about two other positions (HR and another – Provost noted there should be an announcement next week.
3. SGA President, Matthew Wininger
 - M. Wininger reported he has one week left and introduced the incoming SGA President – Cole Bornefeld (cole.bornefeld060@topper.wku.edu)

F. Old Business

G. New Business

1. [AA Policy 1.1092 Macebearer Selection](#)
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson (2 y, 27 n, 5 abs) Motion fails.
 - R. Hale provided overview of policy; McKerrall asked for what the rationale for changing the Macebearer from the longest serving faculty member to a

faculty member serving on a curriculum committee. Rob Hale noted that the university wanted to recognize the importance of the service of faculty on curriculum committees. A nice way to honor people who do the hard work of the curriculum committees. Shadoan agreed that she did not like the idea of not recognizing the longest serving faculty. Seems like a big change and is taking away what that honor has typically meant to the faculty. Other faculty agreed. Kevin Schmaltz; Shadoan made suggestion that perhaps this could be rotated. Chat comments agreed with Shadoan's suggestion of rotating. Trish Jagers commented asking who had this idea first? Shadoan asked if they would accept her suggestion – Rob Hale and Provost said they could take the policy back.

2. [AA Policy 1.1336 University Distinguished Professor Selection](#)
 - Motion to approve: N Fortune (13 y, 20 n, 3 abs) Motion fails.
 - R. Hale provided overview of policy of Univ Distinguished Professor Selection. Friendly amendment was made by McKerral – regarding Eligibility. Provost clarified whether traditional researchers as well as those doing creative activity. Rob Hale noted that this is to honor those with the traditional Teaching, Research, and Service. Shadoan noted that in the past, traditional research was what was acceptable for this honor and that Pedagogical faculty would not qualify. Shadoan suggests that if pedagogical faculty are eligible, the criteria must be clear about what would be required. Hale suggests that it is up to the candidate to make the case that they meet the criteria as written. McKerral noted that the committee is previous recipients. Atkinson noted that policies should be written with the fact in mind that new people will be interpreting the wording down the road in years to come. More discussion was had. Cipolla noted that when he was nominated, he had plenty of time to put materials together – yet there was no direction as to what documentation of the criteria was required. Shadoan noted that the handbook will also need to be changed. Discussion continued for several more minutes between Shadoan and Hale regarding the criteria of creativity. Fortune quoted the handbook regarding this policy. Jagers notes that Price has proposed language in the chat “We could say "outstanding record in all areas of responsibility.""
 - Chat quote from Shadoan - So, research faculty have to excel in their areas of responsibility per their appointment letter, but pedagogical faculty have to excel in areas of responsibility outside their appointment letter?
 - Discussion of Price's suggestion. Rob Hale disagreed.
 - Crowder called the question. Atkinson seconded. (26 y, 6 n, 3 abs)
3. [AA Policy 1.5042 Selection Appointment and Reassignment of Department Heads/Chairs/Directors](#)
 - Motion to approve: K. Atkinson, T. Jagers (20 y, 10 n, 5 abs) Motion approved.
 - Susan Eagle asked about the language specifically “professorial rank.” Hale responded to clarify. Eagle asked why the phrase can't be clarified and how does it align with faculty handbook. Another question was how this excludes faculty/ranks. Discussion about whether instructors may vote in some departments and not in others.
 - Applin asked to move the discussion along because we are 2 and ½ hours in this meeting and we are in danger of losing quorum.
4. Caucuses for Standing Committees – All continuing and newly elected senators

are expected to participant, there will be breakout sessions into the college/units

- J. Lee moved into College breakout sessions

Adjournment 6:12 CST