

Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes



Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting
Monday, May 5, 2025 -- 3:15pm
(In Person: WAB 227)

Present: M. McKerral, S. Bonis, T. Jenkins, E. Kondratieff, A. Jerome, S. Riehn, J. Logsdon, S. Flener, K. Smith, S. Leguizamon, J. Shankweiler, R. Ayers, M. Pruitt, J. Shadoan, S. Spiller, B. Fischer, R. Robinson

Guests: J. Hammonds

A. Approve minutes of previous month's SEC Meeting:

1. [SEC Meeting Minutes, 4.7.25](#)

1st/2nd: Ayers/Pruitt; motion passes (unanimous)

B. Officer Reports

1. Chair - Mac McKerral

a. [Report](#)

b. [Addendum](#)

2. Vice Chair - Dan Clark

3. Secretary - Sarah Bonis

C. Standing Committee Reports:

1. [Academic Quality, Tracy Jenkins \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

Motion to include 1st/2nd: Bonis/Ayers; motion passes (unanimous)

2. Budget and Finance, Eric J. Kondratieff (Chair): (Reports Posted)

Motion to include, Kondratieff; motion passes (unanimous)

- a. [BFC - April 3, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [BFC - April 24, 2025 Report](#)

3. Colonnade/General Education, Angie Jerome (Chair): (No Report)

4. [Faculty Welfare and Professional Responsibilities, Stephanie Riehn \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

Motion to include, Riehn; motion passes (unanimous)

5. Graduate Council, Jeremy Logsdon (Chair): (Reports Posted)

- a. [GC - April 10, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [GC - April 17, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to include, Logsdon; motion passes (unanimous)

6. Graduate Council Curriculum Committee, Whitley Stone (Chair) (Reports Posted)

- a. [GCCC - April 3, 2025 Report](#)
- b. [GCCC - April 17, 2025 Report](#)

Motion to include, Logsdon; motion passes (unanimous)

7. [Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Shelia Flener \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

Motion to include, Flener; motion passes (unanimous)

8. [Faculty Handbook, Julie Shadoan \(Chair\): \(Report Posted\)](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

D. Other Committee/Organization Reports:

- 1. American Association of University Professors (AAUP)
- 2. Budget Executive Committee (BEC)
- 3. Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership (COSFL)

4. ONE WKU, Molly Kerby (Chair)

E. Old Business:

F. New Business:

1. [Senate Charter Revisions \(Second Reading\)](#)

Motion to include, 1st/2nd: Pruitt/Jerome; motion passes (unanimous)

2. [Faculty Handbook Revision - Blanket Revision \(Policy & Ombudsperson\)](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

3. [Faculty Handbook Revision - I.B.1 Faculty Senate](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

4. [Faculty Handbook Revision - II.O Grade Reporting](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

5. [Faculty Handbook Revision - II.V. Faculty Student Relationships](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan

Discussion of revision being inconsistent with university policy - 1.1015

Motion passes (8/0/4)

6. [Faculty Handbook Revision - XII.W. University Publications](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

7. [Faculty Handbook Revision - XII.Y. Mail Service](#)

Motion to include, Shadoan; motion passes (unanimous)

8. [Faculty Handbook Revision - Criteria for Rank](#)

Motion to include (with friendly amendment), Shadoan

Friendly amendment by Bonis: change i.e., to e.g., for Masters, amendment accepted and passes (unanimous)

Motion passes (unanimous)

9. [Academic Policy \(1.21245\) - Summer/Winter Compensation](#)

Motion to include (with friendly amendment) 1st/2nd: Bonis/Jerome

Friendly amendment by Pruitt: under rationale three becomes one, amendment accepted and passes (unanimous)

Motion passes (unanimous)

10. [Senate Resolution - Compensation](#)

Motion to endorse and include (with friendly amendment), 1st/2nd: Pruitt/Flener

Friendly amendment by Kondratieff/Jerome: change 'must' to 'should,' amendment accepted and passes (unanimous)

Motion passes (unanimous)

11. [Senate Resolution - Academic Quality](#)

Motion to endorse and include (with friendly amendment), Pruitt

Friendly amendment – change 'must' to 'should,' amendment accepted and passes (11/3/0)

Call to question, 1st/2nd: Pruitt/Flener; motion passes (unanimous)

12. [Senate Resolution - Commitment to the Mission and Values of WKU](#)

Motion to endorse and include (with friendly amendment), 1st/2nd: Flener/Jerome

Friendly amendment – *Whereas: Legislation passed during the 2025 session (e.g., HB-4) of the Kentucky Legislative*

Assembly may have a ~~chilling~~ [negative] effect [impact] on the realization of these values.

Be it resolved that we [strongly] affirm our commitment to our students and community, and that

We oppose political constraints that undermine the excellence of the institution or its constituents.

Amendment accepted and passes (unanimous)

Motion passes (unanimous)

G. Advisory Member Reports:

1. Faculty Regent, Shane Spiller

The board will do a lot of work between now and when SEC meets again in August. On the agenda: a number of academic program suspensions and some undergrad and grad certificates, emerita appointments. In finance and budget – 3rd quarter actuals are trending better. Personnel actions on agenda – one time payments. Capital plan is coming forward which is essentially a wish list.

Two meetings in June: Quarterly which is business that makes it through committee, and special called meeting on the budget.

President's contract and negotiations are up. It will be a full board vote, assuming it will be voted on at June meeting. Note to Senate - when you get faculty engagement survey results, board will like that to be included. S. Riehn will include a summary at the beginning and then the full results.

Want to continue highlighting the people who are getting P&T. Discussion of the fact that number of people for tenure coming forward seems light – 5 this year, 13 the year before, 20 before that. SEC discussed factbook and requested Provost provide more comprehensive data about faculty

August is board retreat day for being educated on various things.

2. Provost, Robert "Bud" Fischer

AA is working hard to balance the budget and uphold quality. We were 28 million in the hole and are now close to being budget neutral.

Subvention is time to be “the heavy,” e.g., why does this group have no more majors, justify needs from colleges.

ESE restructuring is about complete. In the fall we will see an org chart come out.

UK med school will go to 40 students per class very soon (about half of their students are from WKU), Dr. Caroline Paul is new Director. Her students can be

mentors for ours who are pre-med, offered their freshman med students can come on campus and do research with our faculty.

Honors 2.0: Recommendations have been given to President and Provost last Thursday and they have started to read it and provide input. Committee is meeting today about new Director.

Student Success and Online: 8 zoom interviews, will get a campus list to bring in within a week or two.

Colonnade Group continues to meet and will make recommendations in the fall.

Was previously asked about application fee for faculty and staff on campus who apply for programs. Got rid of application fee for faculty and staff on campus. Thanks to Jennifer for figuring out how to do it.

Q from Pruitt – documents submitted to legislative committee related to DEI initiatives on campus, several faculty are concerned and wonder who compiled the list. There weren't redactions to social media posts, etc. Response: Legislative committee did ask for courses related to DEI, power dynamics, race, stereotypes, etc. In response – university said focuses that have a primary focus on power, suppression, women's health etc. Q RE: how did those courses get selected, it's a mischaracterization of the course (Pruitt's as an example) and now it has been deemed by university as such. Encourages more care in the future and considerations for what the implications are. Provost response – a small group on campus pulled based on keywords. McKerral: spoke with President – collectively – the information was either requested by the legislators OR via public records request, didn't really say what came from which.

Kondratieff question RE: whether rate will change anytime soon for summer/winter pay? Provost said hopefully.

Shadoan question RE: any written commitment from administration that will impact faculty post-tenure in the review process, Louisville came out and publicly supported faculty. Provost - our guidelines fit within HB 424, just need board vote on process.

Ayers question RE: where do we stand with the continuation of our ceremonies for ISEC/Pride? Provost - if the student organization is open to everyone being included, we are going forward to celebrate those.

Where does Caboni stand on how some of the students are feeling about the renovations of Cherry Hall, sore spot for a lot of alumni. Provost is unsure how President feels, but from Provost's perspective – it's a building that is about to

crumble, it needs to improve to last for 50 years, etc. Renovations are still under discussion.

2. SGA President, Rush Robinson

Introductions: will be a senior next year, triple major in psych/sociology/philosophy in Honors College. Excited to serve, don't take it lightly, important time to advocate for the students. Precedent for having SGA only be for students, but it also means, in part, being for faculty and staff. Faculty and staff interact with the students on a daily basis so any information, insight, advice in general, Rush is available – excited.

H. Information Item:

1. Todd Stewart, Director of Athletics, will speak at the May Faculty Senate Meeting.

I. Items for the benefit of the body

McKerral asked president where the over spender money pay back goes – came from a general fund, will go back into a general fund.

J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: 1st/2nd: Ayers/Pruitt; motion passes (unanimous)