

Academic Quality Committee (AQC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025, 4:30pm

Location: Zoom

Present: Tracy Jenkins, Miranda Peterson, Sarah Herbert, Sara McCaslin, Jennifer Hammonds, Donté Reed (SGA Student Regent)

Guests: Shane Spiller, Stephanie Riehn

Absent: Martha Day, Patricia Todd, William Strunk, Missy Travelstead

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tracy Jenkins, who welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the meeting objectives, focusing on revisiting academic quality concerns, faculty workload, resource allocation, and faculty well-being within specific departments.

2. Program Reports

BSN: Tracy presented BSN nursing courses from 2016-2024. Admission/retention numbers, graduation numbers, and NCLEX pass rates were discussed. See attached chart. Over several semesters, it was noted at clinical capacity of 120 students per semester, repeatedly exceeding that number has not improved graduation rates- only failure and withdrawal numbers increased. Despite high admissions, the number of students graduating plateaus each semester is around 70-75 students. NCLEX pass rates dropped to 86% coinciding with higher admissions and faculty reductions. This trend threatens program reputation and accreditation benchmarks.

Business: Shane presented similar results in his program. Noting only 57% of course sections will be taught by full-time faculty in the fall. Finance is overwhelmed with more students and less faculty.

Library Services has seen an increase in workshop teaching, increased responsibilities, more class visits and noted several who left with VSIP were not replaced. Staff now share the responsibilities of people who left.

Dental hygiene is working at 120% of workload and cannot find faculty with appropriate credentials to fill empty positions. Graduate students are having to fill in for class responsibilities.

Student Representative, Donté Reed said smaller class sizes form meaningful relationships. Students want to come to WKU for smaller class sizes. Students want to know faculty on a personal level and have connections.

3. Next Steps

A letter was created to voice concerns to share with WKU Faculty Regents. The letter was voted upon and approved by committee members present. The letter will also be shared and voted upon by those not present in this meeting.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm. The next scheduled meeting is April 15, 2025, at 3:45 PM. **Will be sending a doodle poll to the committee.**

Minutes submitted by: Miranda Peterson
Academic Quality Committee Secretary