

Faculty Senate Minutes –APRIL 29, 2015 Special Session in College Hall, DRAFT A

Senators present: Linda Cowan, Lihua Chen, Greg Chase, Judy Stechly, Ken Sexton, Aaron Huffman, Herb Minch, Matthew Inkster, Jim Haizlett, Jeff Pfister, Aaron Harper, Jeremy Larance, Susan Herrick, Sheli Bernstein-Goff, Corey Reigel, Ronny Warrington, Margy Bowman, Tracy Zang, Fuhua Chen, Jon Serra, Matthew Zdilla, Dave Blowers.

Administrators and Honored Guests: Sylvia Hawranick Senften (*ACF Representative*)

Absent members: John McCullough (*Interim President*), Brian Crawford, (*Provost*), Frank Noble (*BOG Representative*), Rick West.

Guests: Sarah Davis, Martyna Matusiak, Mirairy Rodriguez, Courtney Carter, Maricris Pangilinan, Rachel Wuster, Marcus Kinker.

The Special Senate Session in College Hall was called to order by Senate Chair Linda Cowan at 12:04 pm.

Action Item:

Linda opened the senate meeting with a request to take the motion from the last senate meeting on April 21, 2015 off the table. A motion was made to take the motion off the table and seconded. The motion to remove the tabled motion passed unanimously with a vote of 19 yea and no opposed.

The motion on the Senate floor read as follows: *“No confidence in Jack Wright as CFO WLU.”*

Linda called for discussion of the motion.

Discussion ensued. One senator stated that some of her constituents are for the motion, and some have concerns with the confusion of the issue. There remains a question of why there are two CFO's. This is not the same thing as a no confidence in Jack Wright. Is this good for people having confidence in WLU? Another senator did not find anyone with confidence in Mr. Wright as CFO to tell the truth to the BOG and to abide by normal shared governance standards. There was concern about the statement this might make and the potential for backlash in terms of enrollment. Other senators felt that no action is complicit and is a statement of support of the CFO role in recent events and our current financial situation. A senator expressed that the number one concern is that there is no transparency in the administration. The CFO makes decisions without consulting anyone at all. It is hoped that communication channels may be open now.

A senator stated that he came out of the recent BOG meeting with the feeling that a new era is at hand and there are reasonable people around the table. The BOG had been given bad advice in the past and made decisions based on that information from administrators. A senator noted that we are in the 4th year of no raises at all. It is important to look at that and the number of consultants that have been paid a huge amount of money. These people were allowed free rein and clocked hundreds of hours. We didn't get here overnight, and this situation is not because we didn't have students in the classroom. We got here because of misspending. Remember that Jack Wright declared that the contracts were off the table in terms of budget companies. We also don't have any reason why we have two CFO's, both paid over \$100,000.00 / year. A question was asked about Jack's credentials. Senators were unsure whether he had an accounting degree or not. In addition, the history of the Senate Finance Committee's attempts to get in touch with the CFO regarding Senate finance issues during the past few years was brought up. We had a very active committee, but the committee chair had difficulty getting in touch with Jack. We still don't know much about the finances. Several senators spoke about the desire that faculty have to be engaged and involved in shared governance and part of the conversation. We all want a vibrant university with successful students.

Linda stated that the BOG Chair, George Couch acknowledged that they did not know that none of the faculty and staff were consulted about the plan to close buildings. He said that the era of the BOG operating alone is over. Note: An email just came in that buildings are to remain open for the next academic year. After the last BOG meeting, the BOG seems willing to ask different kinds of questions and also open to sharing that information with faculty. Linda suggested that we also write letters and make phone calls.

Concern was expressed about faculty involvement in the WLU presidential search. Linda responded that she believes there are 22 people involved in the search committee, but that the CFO is not involved.

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Chair of the search committee is BOG member Les DeFilice, Scott Cook, 2 staff, (Rhonda Tysk is the new staff representative) 2 students, (Evan Neuman and Allison Ashworth), and faculty member LEEAN ELKINS, (additional faculty member, selected by the Provost). Alumni members on the search committee include Tom Riengold, Jay Duffy, and Jim Frum. All of the BOG and the Senate Chair, Linda Cowan are also members on the presidential search committee.

A senator called the question. The vote for the motion of no confidence in the CFO of WLU was: 14- yea, 6 opposed, and 2 abstentions. There were 22 total senate members present for this vote. The motion passed. Linda will send a note to George Couch (BOG Chair), the Interim President, and to the BOG representative Jim Haizlett (newly elected BOG representative), and Frank Noble (outgoing BOG representative).

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracy Zang,
Faculty Senate Secretary

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Date: April 21, 2015

WLU Faculty Senate Sign-in Sheet

Department	Senator	Signature
Business		
Marketing & Management	Lihua Chen	<i>Lihua Chen</i>
Acct., Finance & Info Systems	Greg Chase	<i>Greg Chase</i>
Education		
Professional Education	Judy Stechly	
	Ken Sexton	<i>Ken Sexton</i>
Health & Human Performance	Aaron Huffman	<i>Aaron Huffman</i>
	Herb Minch	<i>Herb Minch</i>
Music & Theater		
	Matthew Inkster	<i>Matthew Inkster</i>
	Linda Cowan	
Fine Arts, Journalism & Communication		
	Jim Haizlett	<i>Jim Haizlett</i>
	Jeff Pfister	<i>Jeff Pfister</i>
Liberal Arts		
Humanities	Aaron Harper	<i>Aaron Harper</i>
	Jeremy Larance	<i>Jeremy Larance</i>
Social and Behavioral Sciences		
	Shelli Bernstein-Goff	<i>Shelli Bernstein-Goff</i>
	Susan Herrick	
	Corey Reigel	<i>Corey Reigel</i>
Science		
Health Science	Ronnie Warrington	<i>Ronnie Warrington</i>
<i>Mpeggy Bowman</i>	<i>Nursing</i>	<i>Mpeggy Bowman</i>
	Tracy Zang	<i>Tracy Zang</i>
Natural Science & Math	Fuhua Chen	<i>Fuhua Chen</i>
	Jon Serra	<i>Jon Serra</i>
	Matthew Zdilla	<i>Matt Zdilla</i>
Graduate Faculty Representatives		
Physician Assistant Prog.	Dave Blowers	<i>Dave Blowers</i>
Education	Rick West	
WLU President		
Provost	John McCullough	<i>John McCullough</i>
Advisory Council Rep.	Brian Crawford	<i>Brian Crawford</i>
BOG Representative	Sylvia Hawranick Senften	<i>Sylvia Hawranick Senften</i>
Guests	Frank Noble	<i>Frank Noble</i>
		<i>Melinda S. Blum</i>