



# Faculty Senate Archives

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Faculty Senate

Academic year 2007-2008

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## Volume XXI

### Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting of February 25, 2008

**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**FACULTY SENATE**  
**AGENDA**

<b>MEETING NOTICE</b>	<b>Monday, February 25, 2008</b>
	<b>CH 107 3:30 p.m.</b>

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- I. Call of the Meeting to Order
  
- II. Informal Statements and Proposals
  
- III. Approval of the Minutes -- January 28,2008 -  
- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/M1-28-08.htm>  
-- February 11, 2008 -  
- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/M2-11-08.htm>
  
- IV President's Report:
  
- V Committee Reports:
  - A. Rules --- Larry Spurgeon, chair
  
- VI Old Business:
  - A. Continued discussion of the Motion from the Executive Committee:  
MOVED: That the WSU Faculty Senate adopt the following policy for grading and include the following language in the WSU Undergraduate Catalog, Graduate Bulletin, and all other relevant documents. *(If passed,*

*this motion will be brought to the General Faculty for a final vote. If passed by the General Faculty, the new policy will take effect as quickly as the required changes to the university computer system can be made.)*

**The grading system at WSU is**

<b>grade</b>	<b>points per credit hour</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>The A range</b>
<b>denotes <u>excellent</u> performance.</b>		
<b>A-</b>	<b>3.67</b>	
<b>B+</b>	<b>3.33</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>The B range denotes <u>good</u> performance.</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>2.67</b>	
<b>C+</b>	<b>2.33</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>The C range</b>
<b>denotes <u>satisfactory</u> performance.</b>		
<b>C-</b>	<b>1.67</b>	
<b>D+</b>	<b>1.33</b>	
<b>D</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>The D range</b>
<b>denotes <u>unsatisfactory</u> performance.</b>		
<b>D-</b>	<b>0.67</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>F denotes <u>failing</u> performance.</b>

**{Definitions for the grades below to remain the same as p. 34f of the Undergraduate Catalog}**

<b>Au</b>	<b>Audit</b>
<b>Cr</b>	<b>Credit</b>
<b>NCr</b>	<b>No credit</b>
<b>S</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>U</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>Incomplete</b>
<b>W</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>
<b>CrE</b>	<b>Credit by examination</b>

Rationale: <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/Plus-Minusgrade-EC%20discussions.htm>

<http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/Plus-Minusgrade.htm>

**Report from the Graduate Council, Information about a survey that will be coming out, Twambi Kalinga, SGA Academics Chair**

VII New Business:

VIII As May Arise

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office	Campus Phone	Campus Box
President -- Silvia Carruthers <a href="mailto:silvia.herzog@wichita.edu">silvia.herzog@wichita.edu</a>	6268	Box 53
President-Elect -- Larry Spurgeon <a href="mailto:larry.spurgeon@wichita.edu">larry.spurgeon@wichita.edu</a>	6260	Box 77
Vice President -- JoLynne Campbell <a href="mailto:jolynne.campbell@wichita.edu">jolynne.campbell@wichita.edu</a>	5653	Box 43
Secretary -- Bill Vanderburgh <a href="mailto:william.vanderburgh@wichita.edu">william.vanderburgh@wichita.edu</a>	7882	Box 74
Past President -- Brigitte Roussel <a href="mailto:brigitte.roussel@wichita.edu">brigitte.roussel@wichita.edu</a>	6329	Box 11
<b>Elected by the Senate</b>		
Cathy Moore-Jansen <a href="mailto:cathy.moore-jansen@wichita.edu">cathy.moore-jansen@wichita.edu</a>	5080	Box 68
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<b>Appointed by the Faculty Senate President</b>		
Lori Miller <a href="mailto:lori.miller@wichita.edu">lori.miller@wichita.edu</a>	5980	Box 16
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Bobbi Dreiling, Administrative Assistant <a href="mailto:bobbi.dreiling@wichita.edu">bobbi.dreiling@wichita.edu</a>		



## Council of Faculty Senate Presidents

# Statement on the Value Higher Education

Approved February 13, 2008

Recently the Kansas Board of Regents has undertaken several initiatives to improve higher education in the State. These initiatives include the revision of the Regents' mission statement, the development of five strategic questions and pursuit of measures for assessing them, and implementing an enhanced performance agreement process. Given the importance of these initiatives, the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (COFSP) appreciates the opportunity to share its views with the Board of Regents and has approved the following statement.

1. COFSP supports the Regents' commitment to higher education in the State of Kansas and endorses its effort to develop goals and accountability measures for achieving them. In particular, COFSP shares the Regents' goals of improving the transition from K-12 to higher education, making higher education more broadly accessible, improving the persistence of students in higher education, serving the needs of the State, and ensuring that graduates have basic knowledge and skill-related competencies. Accordingly, COFSP stands ready to assist the Regents in the identification of appropriate short and long-term objectives for achieving these goals and the development of appropriate measures of progress and accountability.
2. While the development of goals and measures is both necessary and desirable, it also raises several concerns of particular interest to the universities represented by COFSP. Most fundamentally, the members of COFSP uniformly hold that the ultimate goal of higher education is to enhance the personal growth and development of each individual student. Thus, in addition to providing a venue for the acquisition of basic competencies and career-specific skills, education is about fostering moral and ethical thinking, increasing awareness and appreciation of the world around us, and developing lifelong habits of learning.
3. COFSP believes that the Regents appreciate the importance of this more broadly based view of the goals of higher education. Our concern is that this perspective may be lost in the context of establishing goals and objectives, because these broad values are less readily articulated and measured. Inevitably, deciding to use particular measures of accountability for system goals will result in the allocation of resources to focus on improving those measures. It follows, then, that the selection of goals and measures must be carefully considered and must encompass the full range of values reflected in a higher education.

COFSP looks forward to working with the Regents and staff to develop objectives and measures of accountability that will promote the full range of educational values and improve the quality of higher education in the State.



# WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Student Government Association Student Senate Resolution R011

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**Title:** The Student's Opposition for Plus/Minus Grading Scale  
**Author:** Twambi Kalinga and Brooke Amos  
**Sponsors:** Nhu Nguyen, Rachel Schmidt, Brianna Reyes, Craig Richardson and Matt Aelmore

**WHEREAS**, numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States have adopted a plus/minus grading system, and

**WHEREAS**, the faculty senate at Wichita State University has ~~already~~ recommended a plus minus grading system, where an A would be worth a 4.0, an A- would be worth a 3.67, a B+ would be worth a 3.33, a B would be worth a 3.0, a B- would be worth 2.67, a C+ would be worth a 2.33, a C would be worth a 2.0, a C- would be worth a 1.67, a D+ would be worth 1.33, a D would be worth 1.0, a D- would be worth a 0.67 and an F would be worth 0.0; and

**WHEREAS**, the provost's office has stated they are against creating a scale above a 4.0 grade point average, thus giving no leverage for an A+; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the duty of Student Government Association to represent student opinions and concerns to the general university population and administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of the student population at Wichita State is opposed to a plus/minus grading system; and

**WHEREAS**, students believe this system would create more stress and be discouraging; and

**WHEREAS**, grading is already subjective and faculty already have the academic freedom to decided on the grading scale used in their class; and

**WHEREAS**, grading is an assessment of a students performance during the academic semester and not an "informative feedback"; now be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Student Government Association of Wichita State University is against the implementation of a plus/minus grading system; and be it further



**RESOLVED**, that the Student Government Association of Wichita State University strongly recommends that Faculty Senate and the Administration office decline the plus/minus grading scale; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that that a copy of this resolution be respectfully forwarded to Dr. Donald Beggs, President of Wichita State University, Dr. Gary Miller, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research; Dr. Cheryl Adams, Dean of Students; Dr. Silvia Carruthers, President of Faculty Senate and *The Sunflower*, the Student newspaper of Wichita State University

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Passed February 20, 2008

## **Wichita State University Faculty Senate meeting Monday, February 25, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bolin, Brooks, Campbell, Carruthers, Celestin, Close, Decker, deSilva, Gordon, Hager, Hamdeh, Hemans, Hershfield, Ho, Jarnagin, Klunder, Lancaster, Miller, C.Moore-Jansen, P. Moore-Jansen, Myers, Myose, Rillema, Riordan, Ross, Roussel, Russell, Smith-Campbell, Spurgeon, Thibeault, Turk, Vanderburgh, Yeager, Yildirim

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Byrum, Duncan, Forlaw, Hathaway, Ravi,

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Coufal, Craig-Morland, Liera-Schwichtenberg, Rokosz, Scherz, Schneegurt, Uning

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:** Assoc. Provost Shawver

### **Summary of Action:**

- 1. Motion: The WSU Faculty Senate continues to encourage the development and implementation of an effective emergency warning system for the WSU community. passed unanimously.**
- 2. Motion: After Executive Committee hears again from Provost Miller about the X/F policy it will be referred to Academic Affairs Committee. (See in particular AAUP red book page 114 on faculty prerogative in assigning grades; what is the argument for legal liability protection.) Passed.**
- 3. Motion: Endorse administration's changes to cell phone policy. Passed.**

**I. Call of the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by resident Carruthers at 3:30 pm

### **II. Informal Statements and Proposals:**

**Senator Klunder asked Senate to join him in a moment of silence deploring the deaths and injuries at NIU last week. He noted that the quick action of the NIU campus police probably saved lives. Therefore: Motion: The WSU Faculty Senate continues to encourage the development and implementation of an effective emergency warning system for the WSU community. (Moved: Klunder; seconded, Lancaster; passed unanimously.**

### **III. Approval of the Minutes:**

January 28, 2008 -- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/M1-28-08.htm> **Approved as submitted**

February 11, 2008 -- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/M2-11-08.htm> **Approved as submitted**



#### **IV. President's Report:**

**A. KBOR: Nuanced discussion of tuition increases. Aware of need to raise funds, versus pressure it puts on students/families. Tuition caps are difficult for colleges because the playing field has not been level in the past: KU has had much bigger increases than, say, WSU, so a cap in the future would hamper WSU's ability to keep up. Right now, it looks like "HEPI plus a little". (Federal budget for education looks horrendous!)**

**B. Regents coming to campus April 15; Executive Committee will meet with Regents; Senators urged to email questions/comments to President Carruthers to bring to the Regents.**

#### **C. KBOR's five principal questions:**

**1) K-12 alignment: BOR refused to count high school "Physical Science" as an acceptable course for admission to two-year colleges. (Physical Science is a watered-down science class to satisfy No Child Left Behind; it does not meet needs of college level science classes.)**

**2) Do tuition increase hurt participation rates? Enrollment declined as tuition increased over the past decade, but it is difficult to say the latter caused the former because the issues are complex. Also, what can faculty, regents, do to increase participation rates? What recruitment, other exposure that we can provide students.**

**3) What can we do to increase persistence rates? President Carruthers would rather talk about how WSU meets our urban community's needs, which don't always require graduation.**

**4) Alignment with work force demands. See COFSP statement; education is more than job training; emphasize value of liberal education. The Regents are receptive of this way of thinking.**

**5) Are we documenting learner outcomes? Voluntary System of Accountability is a start, but likely won't be enough. Assoc. Provost Shawver said CLA and NSSE assessments will be conducted here soon.**

**D. What can we do to help? How can we advance these issues?**

**E. Nominations sought by March 3 for President's Distinguished Service Award.**

**F. Solution soon to the conflation of academic and behavioral issues with regard to plagiarism; a way to make the XF policy work. Provost Miller will present details at a future meeting. Senator Gordon moved (Lancaster-2nd) that after Executive Committee hears again from Provost Miller about, policy will be referred to Academic Affairs Committee. (See in particular AAUP red book page 114 on faculty prerogative in assigning grades; what is the argument for legal liability protection.) Motion passed.**

## **V. Committee Report:**

**A. Rules:** Larry Spurgeon, chair, reported that electronic nominations have been sent and the deadline is Thursday, 2/28/08. He also reported that the committee will soon bring the proposed revisions to the Grievance Policy to the senate for discussion. He then reported on attending the meeting of the Emergency Response Task Force. Monitors are being installed; text messaging system is still in development; 1700 people have signed up; President Beggs has decided to change the university cell phone policy in light of this. Input from Senate to Spurgeon for the Emergency Response Task Force. Senator Lancaster moved (Gordon-2nd) that the Senate unanimously endorse the new Cell Phone Policy. Motion passed.

## **VI. Old Business:**

### **A. Continued discussion of the Motion on +/- grading from the Executive**

**Committee:** Information about a survey that will be coming out: The Senate Executive will be circulating an electronic survey that will solicit faculty opinion on various aspects of the +/- grading proposal that is before the Senate.

Comments from Twambi Kalinga, SGA Academics Chair: She stated that SGA is not in favor of the proposal (though the SGA claims that a majority of students are against the idea without having surveyed the entire student body—a majority of respondents from one of Ron Matson's classes from two years ago said "no", senators). SGA sent a statement describing their reasons for being against the +/- grading system. President Carruthers wants to visit SGA meeting to explain the system more fully. Senator Gordon pointed out that the trend on this campus is to reject anything new.

Executive plans to send a survey to all faculty asking for feedback on the proposal before the Senate.

President Carruthers reported that the Graduate Council is generally in favor of the proposal but raised many of the same questions raised in Senate and will await the survey results before making a final decision.

## **VII. New Business: none**

## **VIII: As May Arise: none**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
William Vanderburgh, Secretary