

Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
August 28, 2017
3:00 PM – Kansas Room, Memorial Union

PRESENT:

Barker, Black, Cook, Erby, Fredrickson, Garritano, Grant (Emily), Grant (Erin), Hockett, Jackson, Jolicoeur, Krug, Kwak, Mansfield, Mark, Moddelmog, Ockreee, Petersen, Prash, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, Scofield, Sheldon, Sourgens, Stacey, Steffen, Todwong, Wasserstein, Watson, Watt, Wohl, and Worsley

ABSENT:

Hickman

- I. President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of May 1, 2017 were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks:
 - Schmidt read the University's Vision and Mission Statements. He also shared our core values. He encouraged all to read/reference the WU By Laws, the Faculty Handbook, WU Policy and Regulation Manual, Washburn Catalog, and the Student Handbook as these govern what we do and also will be amended by what we do.
 - Schmidt asked Senators to introduce themselves and state one of their expectations of a Senator (to help FAC come up with a formal list that will be created and distributed to new Senators in the future).
 - Schmidt reported on the activities (past and future) of various committees:
 - The Faculty Handbook committee has been meeting (more on this in a moment)
 - The AAC will contact Eric Grospitch regarding working on the Student code of conduct.
 - The FAC will draft a resolution to potentially remove the Financial Aid Committee.
 - The Executive Committee will meet to discuss the utility of some University committees and will report back.
 - Schmidt asked the Senators to consider how we may define what it means to be a full-time faculty member. He notes that this question needs to be answered to determine how to talk about recent benefit changes and how they impact part-time faculty. Schmidt noted that ideas on how to best address this issue should be sent to him.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents:
 - Worsley reported on the July 27th meeting. Among other issues, the Board voted to approve the new Foundation president and a pay increase for FY 18 (more details to come on distribution of this raise). They also discussed STEM education and veteran initiatives on campus. Worsley also note that the agendas and minutes for meetings are available on the Board of Regent's website.
- V. VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek:
 - Dr. Mazachek thanked Senators for agreeing to serve on this important committee, as their voices are important to the policy-making process.

- Mazachek reported on the University Strategic Plan (Vision 2022). She noted that we have made significant progress on this, but are looking to refresh the plan. She indicated that there were no details on this process as of yet, but said we will start having conversations about this in approximately September. She did indicate that the result would likely be more of a framework rather than a laundry list of ideas (so as to help individual units decide what their specific goals will be and how they might fit within this framework). Ideally, the plan will be presented to the Board in February.
- Mazachek said that there would be many action items coming from the Faculty Handbook committee this year as we prepare for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit in 2019. Specifically, she said that we are looking to streamline our By Laws and separate some issues found in the BY Laws to the Handbook.
- Mazachek reminded everyone that we continue to work on a relationship policy. It will run through Executive Committee and Dr. Farley and should be presented at the next meeting. She also noted that it is not specific for faculty; rather, it's for all relationships across campus.
- Mazachek briefly discussed the upcoming HLC visit. She said this will be a hefty year for preparation for the visit. She indicated that the first draft of the report has been prepared. She further noted that when the report is almost finalized (hopefully by November), it would be made public so that faculty and staff may provide feedback. The final significant push will be during summer 2018 in advance of a mock visit in early fall 2018.
- Mazachek provided a report regarding the Academic Performance Solutions program. She noted that this is moving toward a December 2017 launch with the Chairs and Deans.
- Mazachek said that the university website overhaul in progress will go live next summer. She indicated that every page on the current site will be evaluated to determine if it must be kept and revised or cut. She said that the new website will be presented to the Senate before it goes live.
- Mazachek took a moment to acknowledge that the Washburn community continues to mourn the loss of former faculty member Dr. Sheldon Cohen and his wife (Virginia) who passed away over the summer. She also expressed the hope that Ann Marie Snook returns to good health very soon after her recent illness and indicated that Brad Merryman has contact information for anyone wishing to send Dr. Snook correspondence.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports: NONE

VII. University Committee Reports:

- The Sabbatical Committee minutes of November 29, 2016 were received.
- The Handbook Committee minutes of April 5, 2017 were received.
- The Graduate Council minutes of March 27, 2017 were received.

VIII. Old Business: NONE

IX. New Business:

- 18-1 Resolution for Welcoming Environment (first reading) was presented by Schmidt: Prasch presented some wording issues. Wasserstein encouraged us to clarify the ambiguity of the statement (as it may be read to support both those protesting White Supremacy as well as those advocating White Supremacy). Watt agreed wondering what group might be censured according to the current wording. Petersen wondered about the

legal aspects of the statement. Prasch said deleting the specific reference to the University of Virginia might help this and make it more relevant in the future. Watt thought we should leave out the phrase “free of censure.” Jackson tried to alleviate some confusion by noting, “speech designed to incite violence” is different than “hate speech.” Wasserstein said the second sentence needs to be restructured; Prasch offered a suggestion to clarify that was accepted. Mazachek wondered if this was inclusive of student free expression and wondered if we should include something to speak to this more directly. Erby said that this was geared more toward the faculty. Prasch thought this connection to students was implied in the phrase “university haven.” Barker said it was also included in the community statement. The Action Item was closed on first reading.

X. Information Items:

- The “Pathway to Washburn Board of Regents” Chart was explained by Schmidt. Barker noted that he was disappointed that the General Faculty meetings are always on Thursday (since he is not able to attend) and wondered if this could be an issue for others. He suggested that such meetings could be held on Mondays and Wednesdays to mirror when other shared governance meetings are held.
- Schmidt stated that Senate committees need to meet to officially elect Chairs as those currently those listed on the website are nominated. Committees were told to please report the names of elected Chairs back to Schmidt.

XI. Discussion Items: NONE

XII. Announcements:

- Tom Prasch had two announcements on behalf of the History Department:
 - Please consider attending the Historical Film Night showing of I Am Not Your Negro on August 29, 2017 at 7:00pm.
 - Please consider attending the Book release party for author Ben Goossen (sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta) on August 30, 2017 at 7:00pm.
- Schnoebelen reminded Senators to always make sure to sign in when they attend Senate meetings.

XIII. President Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:37pm.