

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
GENERAL FACULTY MINUTES
August 20, 2009

I. Call to Order

President Farley called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in Henderson Learning Resources Center Room 100.

II. Opening Remarks

A. President Farley welcomed the faculty for the academic year. He predicted a very positive year with a very engaged freshman class.

He stated that the trauma of last year and the fiscal issues confronting the economy and the University presented many challenges with the confluence of the recession, the credit and fiscal crisis, and an unanticipated effect of the financial situation on Kansas. State funds were reduced by 2% for FY 2009, then a 7% reduction was required for FY 2010. At the same time, there was a reduction in the number of credit hours students enrolled in which amounted to approximately \$2,000,000. The University undertook a participatory process to address the budget changes that would be required. Suggestions were welcomed via email, town hall meetings were held, and a Budget Reduction Task Force was created to process the suggestions. This group reviewed every suggestion and all were posted on a website (which is still active). Some of the options proposed and then implemented were an early retirement program, a small increase in tuition, and a reduction in WTE funds. The possibility of reduction in compensation was not necessary to prepare the 2010 budget.

Dr. Farley indicated that a further 2% reduction in state funds in the current year's budget became necessary over the summer at the direction of the Governor. Further budget changes may be needed, as well. All of this has an effect on how we do business. Community college enrollment has grown because of lower tuition rates, lower salaries. Students will continue to utilize community colleges, and credit hours taken there are potential credit hours for Washburn. Whether deserved or not, Washburn is perceived as not being "friendly" to transfer students with regard to the acceptance of transfer credit. This perception needs to be studied and addressed.

A growing number of students are concurrently enrolled in high school and college courses, many of which are being delivered in the Topeka area schools by community colleges. Washburn needs to garner more of these enrollments and to take more charge of the academic offerings in the Topeka area.

Private schools, particularly in the Topeka area, are granting "life experience credit" and accelerated programs and these options are attractive to students. Dr. Farley suggested that the faculty take a closer look at accelerated programs.

Some institutions are offering a "no-frills" program (no student life programs, no residence halls, etc.) It is very economical and attractive to many students in a cost-sensitive market. Dr. Farley does not see that Washburn can address this sort of an option for students.

All of the above have an impact on enrollment at Washburn. There are many different and emerging delivery models being used. Washburn should investigate these models more fully. WU currently offers 130 online courses. The University started the PLAN program, the first in the state, but now other Kansas institutions have 50% more online courses than we offer.

Washburn is positively positioned to offer advantages to students in the availability of internships, volunteer opportunities and jobs in the capital city. In addition, Washburn's well-deserved reputation as an institution of teaching excellence will bring students to the University. What the University does next is very important and a strategic planning effort is underway. Dr. Farley urged the faculty to watch for information about opportunities to participate and to give input into the "big ideas" for the plan.

Dr. Farley stated that more budget reductions are very likely during this academic year, especially with the return of the Legislature in January. He is continuing the Budget Reduction Task Force to solicit ideas as to how to address this likelihood. Compensation reduction options may be needed.

On a positive note, Dr. Farley reported that enrollment looks good with a slight increase over last year. The budget was based upon the enrollment level last year, which is helpful. June sales tax revenues are unknown at this time. April and May were very bad, but he is hopeful that June may be better.

Health insurance is a problem for the University. We have paid more in claims than we have collected in premiums and will have spent all or nearly all of the reserve by the start of the coming health insurance year. A University-wide benefits committee is working hard on this issue with the assistance of an outside consultant. The recommendation will need to be taken to the Board of Regents meeting scheduled for September 11th. While details are not yet determined, it is certain there will be changes in co-pays and deductible amounts; every person will have to contribute to payment of individual premiums, as well. The committee believes these options are better solutions than a reduction in benefits.

Other good news is that the residence halls are full. Not only is this a revenue source for the University, it bodes well for student persistence and success. Endowment funds, while reduced in value by approximately 20%, have not been as badly affected as those at other institutions. The number of donors increased significantly despite the economy.

Washburn was again ranked by US News and World Report in the top ten of colleges in its category (#7). These rankings are looked at by students and their families. Peer evaluations of academic quality ranked Washburn very high, with only University of Northern Iowa and Missouri State ranking higher. The number of classes with fewer than 50, a good faculty/student ratio, and high alumni giving also were factors which led to the positive rating.

Dr. Farley concluded his remarks by stating that Washburn has managed changes in past years throughout its history and has emerged strongly. He has no doubts that current challenges and changes will be met and that Washburn will continue to be an excellent institution.

Dr. Farley stated that he would be available after the meeting if faculty members wanted to visit with him.

B. Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robin Bowen, welcomed the faculty back and made several announcements.

She thanked Dr. Cindy Hornberger for her service as Dean of the School of Nursing since 1989. During her tenure, the Master of Science in Nursing program was started; the Bachelor of Science in Nursing became the largest in the state; several exchange programs were established; the Mobile Health Unit was acquired which provides students an opportunity to go into rural areas to serve diverse populations. Dr. Hornberger will return to the classroom, after a sabbatical, for the fall semester.

Dr. Donna LaLonde will return to a primarily teaching role. Dr. Bowen recognized her for her deep commitment to Washburn and students. She mentioned a few of Dr. LaLonde's contributions: the College Reading Program; the I-read program; service as Dean of the Honors program; the establishment of IS 100; I-coach; and supplemental instruction. Dr. LaLonde also served as Director of CUSP, sponsor of Mortar Board, and oversaw the Scholarly and Creative WTE.

Dr. Bowen announced the transfer of the non-credit portion of Continuing Education to Washburn Institute of Technology. State funds are available to technical schools for workforce training and many of the continuing education programs will be eligible for this support.

Dr. Bowen called upon Kristi Wilson, Grant Facilitator. She is available to assist faculty members in the grant process. Last year, Washburn had a 52% award rate, a very good rate. The Grant Office web page will be available on the VPAA website.

Dr. Bowen announced a change in the Program Review process. This process should dovetail with assessment so there is no duplication of efforts. This year will be devoted to reviewing the process and establishing new procedures. All areas which were up for review this year are postponed until next year and the timeline for future years is pushed forward by one year.

Other issues which must be addressed this year are retention, the "Freshman Experience", transfer issues and general education.

Dr. Nancy Tate has initiated the "first week non-attendance" program. Faculty members are to report those who have not been in class during the first week so that follow-up may be done.

Midterm grades are now required for all freshmen. CUSP advisors will monitor the reports and intervene as needed.

Dr. Bowen emphasized that we cannot depend upon increases in public funding, so revenue must come from increased enrollment and better retention. A "Freshman Experience" year is required by 86% of universities and colleges and an increase in retention rates is a consistent result. The development of a program for Washburn is one of the main charges for the Retention Committee.

Dr. Bowen is establishing a committee to research issues that may impede transfer students and make needed recommendations if changes are needed. This must be completed by the January meeting of the General Faculty in order to be implemented next academic year. Some members of the Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate will be on the Transfer Committee and Dr. Bowen invited others with an interest in this area to contact her.

Dr. Bowen stressed the importance of continuing to address General Education. She believes the Transfer Committee and the General Education Committee can work together. She called upon Dr. Rob Weigand, Chair of the General Education Task Force. He reported that the Task Force solicited faculty input to reduce the nine objectives of general education to five. The Task Force will solicit faculty input regarding Delivery Models September-October 2009. An email will be sent out in the next three weeks, followed by a survey and a faculty development session on October 2nd.

Dr. Bowen introduced Dr. Larry Large, consultant to the Strategic Planning Committee. She called upon Dr. Bob Boncella, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, to report on the undertaking. Dr. Boncella reported that after a decade of many changes, the Board of Regents has asked, “what next?” and the planning effort is a very broad one with involvement of the broader Washburn community. There are forty members of the committee with five subcommittees. All meetings are open to all and a website is available to track what is being considered. Dr. Boncella emphasized that the next three weeks will provide numerous opportunities for input and the subcommittees will prepare “White Papers” with their suggestions by October 8th. The strategic planning website can be found under “Quick Links” on the Washburn Home Page.

A video of the changes and accomplishments from the last decade as they related to the previous strategic plan was presented.

Dr. Bowen acknowledged the attendance of Board of Regent members Judge Christel Marquardt and Ms. Blanche Parks.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the April 30, 2009 General Faculty Meeting.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2009 General Faculty meeting. Motion carried.

IV. Election of the Secretary to the General Faculty

It was moved and seconded to appoint Carol Vogel as Secretary of the General Faculty. Motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

Dr. Russell Jacobs asked for the status of the vote of “no confidence” in Dr. Michael Gunter which was taken by the Faculty Senate. Dr. Farley reported that he had received the information and has taken it under advisement. He will inform the Faculty Senate of information in this regard if possible.

VI. New Business

It was moved and seconded to move item **A. “Notification of Infraction—Academic Impropriety Form**, under section VII of the agenda (Information Items) to New Business. Motion carried. As no motion was made to bring the item to the table, no action was taken.

VII. Information Items

B. Washburn Transformational Experience

The funding for the WTE was reduced by \$300,000 for the 2009-2010 year. With the cut, the funding remains at \$500,000 which is the same amount available last year. Dr. Bowen is appointing a committee to include members from the Academic Affairs of the Faculty Senate to review the implications of this reduction and to gain input from the faculty. It was noted that the Faculty Senate has a subcommittee looking at the WTE, the Strategic Planning Committee will consider it. Dr. Bowen responded that there was a program review for each area of the WTE but not for the overall WTE program. The Strategic Planning Committee will take a broad approach to the WTE and this new committee will be more detailed.

VIII. Introduction of New Faculty and Staff

A. Administrative

Dr. Farley introduced Richard Liedtke, Executive Director of Enrollment Management. He then introduced Rachel Marlett, Jonathan Person, and Seth Coulter, Admissions Counselors.

B. Academic Affairs

Dr. Bowen introduced:

Dr. Monika Scheibmeier, Dean of the School of Nursing
Dr. Michael McGuire, Dean of the Honors Program
Dr. Michael Russell, Head of the Scholarly and Creative WTE
Dr. Kim Morse, Director of Academic Diversity Issues
Dr. Gillian Gabelmann, Associate Dean of Instruction at Washburn Institute of Technology
Ms. Jaclyn Jenkins, Associate Director, Leadership Institute

C. College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Gordon McQuere introduced:

Ms. Tambra Eifert, Lecturer, Physics & Astronomy
Ms. Erica Jackson, Lecturer, Biology
Mr. Eric McHenry, Assistant Professor, English
Ms. Margie Miller, Assistant Professor, HPE
Mr. Mark Norman, lecturer, Music
Ms. Denise Salisbury, Lecturer, Education

Ms. Lisa Sharpe Elles, Assistant Professor, Chemistry
Mr. Anthony Silvestri, ¾-time Lecturer, History
Mr. Mark Smith, Lecturer/Coordinator, PS/AS
Ms. Mary Sundal, Assistant Professor, Sociology & Anthropology
Shaun Schmidt, Chair of Apeiron Committee
Mr. John Mullican, Chair, Biology
Ms. Kathy Menzie, Chair, Mass Media
Ms. Tracy Routsong, Communications

D. School of Applied Studies

Dean Willie Dunlap introduced:

Terry Sorensen, Lecturer/Program Director, Diagnostic Medical Sonography
Jean Lewis, Clinical Coordinator/Lecturer, Physical Therapy Assistant Program

E. School of Business

Dean Sollars had no introductions

F. Nursing

Dean Monika Scheibmeier introduced:

Jane Robinson, ¾-time Lecturer

G. School of Law

Dean Tom Romig announced that Washburn School of Law was ranked 31st (of 200) as a best value in Law Schools. He introduced:

Amy Westbrook, Associate Professor of Law

David Westbrook, Visiting Professor of Law

Carl Monk, Distinguished Professor of Law. Dean Romig announced Professor Monk, former Dean of the School of Law, was returning from a twenty year leave of absence during which he served as the Executive Director of the Association of American Law Schools.

VIV. Announcements

There were no announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Vogel
Secretary to the General Faculty