

Faculty Senate
Washburn University

Minutes of February 10, 2014
3:00 PM Kansas Room, Memorial Union

Present: Arterburn, Ball, P. Berry, Chamberlain, Florea, Friesen, Kitts, Lunte, Mach, McConnell-Farmer, Mercader, Palbicke, Pembroke (ex-officio), Perret, Porta, Roach, M. Russell, Schbley, M. Sheldon, Stevens, J. Wagner, Weber, Wisneski

Guests: Nizovtsev, R. Smith

- I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:04 PM, Dr. Matt Arterburn presiding.
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of December 9, 2013 were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
Arterburn thanked the members of the Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee, in particular, for their exceptional effort in maintaining heavy schedules.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
Having attended the January 23rd meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee, Ball reported its findings. Enrollment is down, yet Washburn has maintained a slow and steady increase in tuition and fees which places us in the mid-price range for Kansas universities. The gap in faculty salaries widened during the economic downturn, and the Regents were supportive of closing the gap. Ball added that financial documents can be obtained on the Board of Regents website, or directly through her.
- V. Report from the VPAA, Randy Pembroke

Budget and Finance Committee

Pembroke commented on the findings of the Budget and Finance Committee, Washburn Board of Regents. Based on CUPA-HR data, Washburn's salaries were 10-15% below the national average before the recent raise, and they are now 6.2% below average, although that number does not exclude the law school (which does skew the impression of average salaries). Part of the issue stemmed from the lower level of promotions granted to Washburn faculty in recent years. Increased salaries stemming from the current promotion bumps should aid the situation. Also, recruitment and retention efforts are being made. The University is looking forward to receiving the results from sixty-one recruiting initiatives and thirty-one retention initiatives.

Snow Days

Pembrook noted that snow days are lost, so it is imperative to weigh weather data carefully in determining whether or not to close the University. For instance, on February 5, the forecast showed snow would not accumulate until the early afternoon, so the decision was made to keep the University open in the morning and then close as deemed necessary. The decision as to when to close the University is always difficult.

Friendly Amendments

Since agenda items arrive at General Faculty Meetings after deliberative discussions, are Friendly Amendments appropriate? Or are they based on too-quick judgment calls? Moreover, is the agenda presenter too hastily being acknowledged as the “owner” of the agenda and so responsible for accepting an amendment, rather than the original committee members? Pembrook raised these questions, and related questions, for discussion.

Roach suggested that if motions offer significant changes, the proposal could be returned to the original committee for another reading. Yet, he cautioned, catalog and other deadlines play a role in determining whether this course of action is actually wise.

Ball suggested that if the committee chair was present, as well as the agenda presenter, the chair might make a final determination as to whether the proposal should be returned to the committee for another reading.

Arterburn noted that at Emporia University agenda items passed by Faculty Senate do not move forward to the General Faculty, streamlining the process.

Pembrook concluded with the observation that the speaker who wanted a significant change could be offered an opportunity to present the suggestion at the next original committee meeting. Or comments could be invited over a set span of time.

Porta concluded with a separate observation. He mentioned that the use of clickers in voting would provide a more accurate voting record (and a more accurate data base), as well as allow for anonymity.

- VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports
 - A. The Academic Affairs Committee Minutes of November 18, 2013 were accepted.
 - B. The Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes of November 4, 2013 were accepted.
 - C. The Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes of November 18, 2013 were accepted.

- VII. University Committee Reports
 - A. The Faculty Development Steering Committee Minutes of December 6, 2013 were accepted.
 - B. The General Education Course Review Committee Minutes of November 4, 2013 were accepted.
 - C. The Honors Advisory Board Committee Minutes of November 6, 2013 were accepted.

VIII. Old Business

- A. 14.1 International Business Concentration for the BBA Degree was approved. It will be forwarded to the general faculty. –Dmitri Nizovtsev presented 14.1 to the Faculty Senate.
- B. 14.2 Faculty Handbook: Tenure, Probationary Period; Early Petitions was approved. It will be forwarded to the general faculty. –Jennifer Wagner presented 14.2 to the Faculty Senate.

Note 1: In “Proposed Wording” for 3.11.E.2., “after consultation” replaced “in collaboration.”

Note 2: Arterburn noted that based on previous Faculty Senate discussion, it is his understanding that the Faculty Handbook adjustments, though occurring over several years, will become official policy and be implemented as approved. When the review is completed at the end of several years, an additional review of the whole and general faculty vote will occur.

IX. New Business
None

X. Information Items
None

XI. Discussion Items

Scheduling of General Faculty Meetings

Pembrook noted that all four general faculty meetings are scheduled for 3:30 PM on Thursday afternoons. As a result, some faculty who have a teaching conflict can never vote.

Based on Faculty Senate discussion, a number of solutions were raised. 1) We might record and post the General Faculty Meetings, and then have electronic voting after everyone has had a chance to view the general discussions. 2) We might adjust the final exam schedule to create a General Faculty meeting time slot. 3) We might create a period during which no classes are offered on campus, and hold the meetings then. 4) Based on teaching conflicts, we might grant exemptions from the No Proxy Voting rule. 5) We might rotate the times of the General Faculty meetings.

Student Photos on D2L

Pembrook noted that Floyd Davenport and his team worked hard to post student pictures in the D2L Classlist. However, online students don’t have WU ID pictures that can be automatically uploaded. Should we allow submissions that follow set guidelines? The Faculty Senate appeared in agreement.

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Pembrook added that some Washburn University students wanted to substitute personal photos for their WU ID picture and share other information (e.g. phone numbers) with their classmates as well. The Faculty Senate offered several cautions. 1) Such information has no academic value. 2) Boundaries are important in a digital age, and we should be careful about extending opportunities to share too much information. 3) "Mug shots" served the purpose, and sharing one's personality in a broad sense can refocus the reason for being in a class.

XII. Announcements
None

XIII. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:00 PM.