

**Faculty Senate  
Washburn University**

**Minutes of May 12, 2014  
3:00 PM Kansas Room, Memorial Union**

**Present: Arterburn, Ball, Chamberlain, Francis, Frank, Fernengal, Florea, Friesen, Jackson, Kwak, McConnell-Farmer, McHenry, McMillen, Mercader, Palbicke, Pembrook, Porta, Reynard, Roach, M. Russell, Schbley, M. Sheldon, Mark Smith, Stevens, Stoner-Hawkins, Treinen, Wade, Weiner, Wisneski, Wynn**

**New Senators Present: Alexander, Fay, Petersen, Schnoebelen, Scofield, Sourgens**

- I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:02 PM, Dr. Matt Arterburn presiding.**
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 21, 2014 were approved.**
- III. President's Opening Remarks**  
**Arterburn expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the senators during the 2013-14 school year.**
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents**  
**Ball noted that agendas and minutes for the Board of Regents can be obtained on the Board of Regents website <http://www.washburn.edu/about/leadership/board-regents/> or directly from her.**
- V. Report from the VPAA, Randy Pembrook**  
**APPRECIATION: Pembrook expressed appreciation for the accomplishments of the Faculty Senate over the last year, including the passing of new programs, minors, and concentrations and continued work on the faculty handbook. He acknowledged its efforts as part of the continued forward movement of the University, including Washburn's initial efforts to build a new dorm, the groundbreaking ceremony for the KBI building, and the Morgan Hall construction and creation of the Center of Teaching Excellence and Learning (C-TEL) and the Fink/Farley Professorships.**

**APPOINTMENT LETTERS.** Moving to the administration's shift from contracts to appointment letters, Pembrook expressed his conviction that the new terminology was more current in higher education. He also shared the conviction of the University's past legal counsel that the documents had an essential equivalency. Porta's motion that the new University attorney be invited to speak to the Faculty Senate on this issue early in the fall passed unanimously.

**COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS.** In relation to communication protocols, Pembrook clarified that they encouraged Washburn University's deans and directors to work in conjunction with the administration when planning programs and events and conveying information to the

media and politicians in order to maintain an accurate and consistent flow of information. As a courtesy request, faculty were asked to adhere to the protocols as well, while academic and research freedoms would continue to be respected. For instance, when the University's views are being sought, the seeker should be referred to President Farley. By reporting a membership on a state or community body to his or her Dean, a faculty member can keep the University informed of its breadth of interconnections. By reporting a new state initiative to his or her Dean, a faculty member can provide the University with an opportunity to engage in productive action. Francis noted that an official policy in this regard might originate with the faculty. Reynard added that the word "advise" should be kept separate from the phrase "wait for consent."

**CAS DEAN.** Pembroke stated that a Washburn University dean is appointed by the President with approval of the Board of Regents. The Faculty Handbook did not require consultation of the faculty in the appointment of a dean. In the case of the recent two year appointment of a CAS Dean, it was made due to 1) committee fatigue after two extensive searches and 2) the concern that the general academic community might have a skewed perception of the position after a second effort did not produce an appointment. In twelve to fifteen months, the CAS faculty will be consulted about a new search. "We will have faculty input at the next stage," Pembroke assured the senators.

**VIII. Faculty Senate Committee Reports**

None

**IX. University Committee Reports**

- The Library Committee minutes of April 30, 2014 were approved.

**X. Old Business**

- A. 14-25 Faculty Handbook: Tenure and Promotion Updates was approved. It will be forwarded to the General Faculty.

**XI. New Business**

In Faculty Senate elections, Matt Arterburn was re-elected President and Jennifer Ball was re-elected Vice-President. Jim Schnoebelen was elected Secretary, and Gaspar Porta was elected Parliamentarian.

**XII. Information Items**

None

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**XIII. Discussion Items**

None

**XIV. Announcements**

None

**XV. The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5 PM.**