

Faculty Affairs Committee - Minutes

Monday, April 6, 2026

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Lincoln Room – Memorial Union

Members Present: Danny Wade (ex-officio), Tonya Ricklefs, Shaun Schmidt, Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas, Marguerite Perret, Amber Dickinson, Madeline Lambing, Lara Rivera,

Members Not Present: Eric Mosier, Jayme Burdick, Matt Bender

1. Call to Order at 3:00pm by Tonya Ricklefs
2. Old Business – None
3. New Business
 - a. Ad Hoc Committee – Faculty Workload Proposal
 - i. Tonya Ricklefs shared background information and research related to the formation of the committee. She consulted with the Faculty Senate Chair and Kim Morse, who previously served on a similar committee. Currently, nine faculty members from across campus—including advising and the library but excluding the School of Law—have expressed interest in participating. She proposed the creation of a new Ad Hoc Committee to research faculty workload and indicated her intention to present this proposal for a vote at the next Faculty Senate meeting on April 13, 2026.
 - ii. The committee discussed various aspects of the purpose and formation of the committee.
 - iii. Shaun Schmidt made a motion to approve formation of the Ad Hoc Committee – Workload and Service Committee and it was seconded by Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas. It was approved.
 - iv. Following further discussion, Shaun Schmidt made a motion to amend his original motion to change the title of the proposed committee to *Faculty Workload Proposal* and to designate it report to the Faculty Affairs Committee. It was seconded by Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas. Motion carried.
 - v. The committee continued discussions regarding the committee's charge. Shaun Schmidt made a motion to define the charge as developing a comprehensive report based on research and analysis of data from multiple sources regarding faculty workload, beginning with the Fall 2023 term. Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - vi. The committee discussed composition. It was determined that the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate would appoint the ad hoc committee members and a chair. Members will serve a one-year term, with representation from all areas of the Washburn University main campus.

- vii. After further discussion it was determined that the time charge would be Fall 2023 through Fall 2026 with presentation of results would be due by Spring 2027.
 - viii. There being no further discussion, Shaun Schmidt moved to approve the proposal be put forward to Faculty Senate at their next meeting scheduled for April 13, 2026. Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. Discussion
- a. Student Academic Impropriety Process follow up - Danny Wade shared that he met with Teresa Clouch again to discuss the concerns of the committee from the last meeting. In the student code of conduct there is an appeal process available to faculty which admittedly was not utilized. It was also agreed that there should be more conversation before returning a student to the classroom as a safety measure.
 - b. Senior Lecturer proposal follow up – Danny Wade shared that he had not heard from back from the Provost regarding clarification on the for when faculty may begin their application process for Senior Lecturer.
 - c. Email vote for approval of minutes – Beth Mathews requested the committee approve sending the minutes from this meeting by email for vote. Shaun Schmidt moved to approve sending the minutes via email for approval. Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Announcements – This is the last meeting of the academic year. The chair thanked everyone for their service on the committee this year.
6. Adjournment
- a. With no further business to discuss, Tonya Ricklefs moved to adjourn the meeting and Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas second. Meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Notes taken by Beth Mathews