

**Washburn University  
Faculty Affairs Committee**

Minutes of September 20, 2006 Meeting  
3:00pm Mosiman Room, Memorial Union

Present: Lee Boyd, Andrew Evans, Park Lockwood, Kandy Ockree, Brenda Patzel, Mike Russell, Sharon Sullivan.

- I. The meeting was called to order.
  
- II. There was a discussion regarding the wording of the Sabbatical policy. It was suggested that the proposed new language for the Sabbatical policy be accepted with one change. The new wording will state, “and no fewer than 80 percent of **applications acceptable to the sabbatical committee** up to a total of 15, shall be granted” (note the proposed change in bold). This will be an action item during the next Faculty Senate meeting.
  - A. Suggestions for evaluating Academic Sabbatical applications were reviewed. These suggestions will be revised and readdressed during the next FAC meeting.
  - B. There was a discussion regarding the organization of the Academic and Sweet Sabbatical Committees. As stated and passed by the Faculty Senate in October, 2005, “The FAC shall appoint members of the Academic Sabbatical Committee (ASC). The FAC shall request each School and Division of College to nominate a member of their School/Division faculty to be appointed to the ASC. The FAC shall consider all nominations and select an appropriate ASC committee. The FAC shall appoint the chair of the ASC from its own members.” It has also been recommended that the chair of this committee be a tenured member of the FAC. Additionally, the ASC and the Sweet Sabbatical Committee will consist of the same members. It has been suggested that these members serve staggered terms. This issue will be discussed and wording regarding the formation of the Sabbatical Committees may be revised in order to be presented to the Faculty Senate during the November meeting.
  
- III. A process and procedure for violation of Washburn’s Conflict of Interest policy was presented and three changes to the wording of this policy were proposed. In the opening section there will be a statement addressing the resolution of a conflict in the event that a conflict of interest is resolved informally at any point in the process. In section 1a, the word “determined” will be replaced by “proposed”. In section 2b, the words

“at least two-thirds vote” will be replaced by “a majority vote.” In section 2d, “two-thirds majority” will be replaced by “majority vote.” These procedures will be presented at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

- IV. Discussion of the Domestic Partnership policy. There is currently a Benefits Committee proposal on the table involving insurance benefits for partners. This policy continues to be under review by members of the FAC and will be presented to the Faculty Senate upon completion of this review, which is targeted for early November.
- V. A brief discussion occurred regarding faculty retention. Due to other items of priority at this time, this issue will be readdressed at the beginning of the spring semester.
- VI. Funding for research grants was discussed. The FAC agreed that the research grant budget should be increased to provide faculty adequate resources presently and in the future and recommends that the research grant budget be restored to a minimum of one-hundred thousand dollars. This will be an action item at the next Faculty Senate meeting.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.
- VIII. Next meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Lincoln room of the Memorial Union at 3:00pm.

Submitted by Park Lockwood, Secretary of the Faculty Affairs Committee