

FACULTY SENATE

Washburn University

Minutes of August 24, 2009

Washburn B Room, Memorial Union

Present: Arterburn, Averett, Barker, Berry, Bowen (VPAA), Byrne, Catanzaro, Childer, Croucher, Faulkner, Isaacson, Jackson, Janzen, Kelly, Khan, Lunte, Manske, Mazachek, McBeth, McGuire, Melick, Menzie, Ockree, Onek (WSGA), Prasch (President), Porta, Quinn, Ramirez, Rich, Routsong, Sharafy, Shaver, Sullivan, Unruh, Walker, Wilson (guest), Wynn

- I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 PM.
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of May 11, 2009 were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - a. The President remarked on the chaotic beginning to the semester
 - b. All concerns will be addressed at the end of the agenda
 - c. The President remarked that there had been no response on the ISS vote of no confidence.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representatives to the Board of Regents
 - a. Prasch reported that there had been three Board of Regents meetings since the last Faculty Senate meeting
 - i. On 5/22, the budget was presented, with outsourcing of facilities presented. There were many speakers, and the proposal was postponed until the next meeting. Additionally, they voted down an RFP for a technology consultant, and showed in discussion that they were at least aware of the Fac. Sen. no-confidence motion.
 - ii. On 6/26, Prasch was not able to attend. There were several action items; first, the proposal to outsource was voted down. Second, there was an increase for tuition that passed, as well as a 37% reduction in the budget for WTE.
 - iii. On 7/24, a proposal to prepare an RFP for competitive bidding to outsource facilities was presented. The proposal died for lack of a second.
- V. Faculty Senate Committee Reports
 - a. Minutes from the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of April 27, 2009 were approved.
- VI. University Committee Reports
 - a. Minutes from the Library Committee meeting of April 6, 2009 were accepted.

- b. Minutes from the Research Grants Committee meeting of May 5, 2009 were accepted.
- c. Minutes from the Assessment Committee meeting of April 10, 2009 were accepted.
- d. Minutes from the Assessment Committee meeting of June 9, 2009 were accepted.

VII. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

- a. Selection of a New Vice-President – Howard Faulkner was elected the Vice-President of the Faculty Senate.
- b. Committee Appointments –
 - i. Rosemary Walker will represent SOBU on the Electoral committee
 - ii. Phyllis Berry will represent the Faculty Senate on the Promotion and Tenure Committee
 - iii. Azyz Sharafy will represent the Faculty Senate on the Gen Ed committee
 - iv. Mary Ramirez is currently on the Benefits committee – will report to Faculty Senate. Russ Jacobs provided a written summary report from the summer meeting. Prasch read the following report from Jacobs:

REPORT ON THE BENEFITS COMMITTEE – August 24, 2009

The Washburn Health Insurance Program is self-insured. In the past several years, our expenses have been substantially higher than the contribution from employees and the University, completely exhausting what was, at one point, a reserve of more than \$ 3 ½ million. As you can see, we have been paying premiums that were too low to pay for out health care expenses, and thus, too low to fully fund the system. Now that the reserves are exhausted, both employee and WU contributions will need to be raised to cover anticipated expenses. The Benefits Committee, believing that it is better to raise premiums rather than cut benefits significantly, will be recommending to President Farley that WU responds to this situation by cutting benefits slightly – primarily by increasing co-pays and deductibles – and by requiring all employees to pay a portion of their single enrollment costs. We do not know, of course, what recommendations President Farley will make to the Board of Regents, or what decision they will make, but we should all expect to pay significantly more for somewhat more limited health care benefits.

- c. Amendment to the Faculty Constitution Clarifying Faculty Representation – first reading. Two options for wording were presented. The item was tabled until 9/14

at which time a new proposal would be submitted by Ockree and Unruh incorporating language from both options.

- d. Motion Establishing An Ad-Hoc Faculty Committee on Strategic Planning (first reading)
Discussion concerned faculty representation on strategic planning subcommittees, and whether this was duplicative. Motion moved to vote on 9/14.

IX. Discussion Items

- a. Status of the WTE Review Committee: discussion concerned whether there were already two committees operating. Since the FS WTE Review committee has not been established yet, it was decided to table its inception at this time.
- b. Strategic Planning: Senators involved with the committee reported that the website was working and all meetings of the subcommittees were open meetings. Senators were encourage to attend as many as they could to be involved with the process.
- c. Concerns from Senators:
 - i. Technology Issues: discussion of the prevailing technology issues revolved around the lack of e-mail and the effect to online students with the extended outage. Senators voiced concerns concerning the timing of the update along with the switch to a new online platform. Senators also voice concern that no back-up system was in place, and asked that this issue be addressed.
 - ii. Benefits: Senators discussed the possible changes in benefits and why no information had been sent to faculty and staff concerning changes to allow personal budgeting for increases in premiums and co-pays. Senators also voice concern about the short turnaround time from the Board of Regents meeting where the item will be addressed to the November 1 benefit date.
 - iii. Contracts: Senators expressed displeasure with both the language and the timing of contracts that were extended by the University this summer. Several questions the Senators felt need to be addressed are:
 - 1. How does the new language affect a tenured professor?
 - 2. How does the new language affect salary notification, especially in context with a benefits change?
 - 3. What is the length of time for notification for faculty whose contracts are being affected?
 - 4. What exactly is the definition of “class of employees”?

X. Announcements: There were no announcements

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM