

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2017
3:00 – 4:00 pm
Thomas Room

Present: Sarah Cook, Anne Fredrickson, Jason Jolicoeur, Sungkyu Kwak, JuliAnn Mazachek (ex officio), Tom Prasch, Kandy Ockree, Sean Stacey

1. Dr. Kwak called the meeting to order as Chair Melanie Worsley was unable to attend. After everyone introduced themselves, Dr. Kwak thanked all for being present.
2. Dr. Mazachek offered a few updates regarding:
 - HLC—Upcoming site visit
 - Online Quality – Discussion has occurred about the creation of a task force to help establish a process of documenting what faculty who teach online are doing to ensure the quality of their courses.
3. Dr. Prasch discussed the impact CEP courses are having within the offerings of two US History survey courses. After discussion, Dr. Prasch indicated an agenda item will be coming to the Academic Affairs committee regarding special considerations for the history department and general education requirements.
4. A request was made to have the Academic Affairs committee meet at 3:30 p.m. rather than 3:00 p.m. The committee members discussed what impact this might have on their personal and work schedules, and it was determined by consensus to keep the time of the meeting at 3:00 p.m.
5. Committee members were asked if there were other topics to be introduced for discussion. Dr. Ockree indicated she had received input from some faculty and was bringing forward for consideration and discussion. Discussion ensued about whether Washburn University should create a Freedom of Speech statement. A motion and second were made with all approving that a discussion be held regarding an academic freedom statement.

After very thoughtful and honest discussions, the committee decided to recommend that the Faculty Senate support the creation of a task force to explore and consider a statement to encourage free expression and academic freedom. It was recommended the task force use the Chicago model and statement as a resource.

A motion was made and seconded to ask the faculty senate to support the request for a task force to be appointed to address this issue. All approved.

The next meeting is to be held on September 25, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.