

Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 27th, 2021 at 3pm
Zoom Meeting Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Byrne, Daniels, Ewert, Huff, Juma, Kay, Kendall-Morwick, Kimberly, Klaes, Kohls, Lockwood, Lolley, Moore, Morse, Noonan, Ricklefs, Rivera, Sainato, Schmidt C, Schmidt S, Smith D, Smith M, Thor, Wagner, Wang, Wasserstein, Woody, Wynn, Zwikstra

Absent: Friesen, Ginzburg, Griggs

Guest(s): DeSota J, Ball J, Frank Z, Luoma S, Mazachek J, Fried M, Liedtke R, Holthaus C, Maxwell A, Erby K, Huff S, Grospitch E, McNamee B, Stephenson L, Cook S, Noller J, Derrington L, Walker R

- I. Call to Order at 3 pm by Kim Morse
- II. Approve minutes-
 - September 13th, 2021 (pages 2-5). Motioned by K Kendall-Morwick and seconded by K Wynn. Motion passed.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - Tribute to Rick Ellis, and the benefits he brought to our campus
 - Welcome to Steve Luoma who is now in the VPAA office
 - I Wasserstein – Election for the At-Large spots starts tomorrow at 7 am. Encourage faculty to vote.
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update-
 - KBOR / BAASC – T Ricklefs and K Morse
 - 2-day marathon (both virtual and F2F) of meetings, so both K Morse and T Ricklefs will cover
 - Morse reported that the three new regents appointed by Gov. Kelley all seem to be interested in advocating for higher education. Asked good questions about 60-hour rule (and proposed decrease in hours required to graduate from a 4 year school). T Ricklefs noted that this will not be possible for many accredited programs.
 - T. Ricklefs reported a genuine interest in first gen students, those who are not financially stable (since many will start working if they have a financial issue and then not return to school).
 - WUBOR – Kim Morse
 - Thought it was all virtual but it wasn't so we did not have anyone there. Fortunately, there wasn't much that was being covered. Got the updates in another meeting.
 - There will be no increase in health insurance this year.

- Admins are becoming more part-time which makes it tough for their health care AND difficult for the department since that typically is the introduction to a department and the way to maintain the “Open Door.”

V. VPAA Update - Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek

- KBOR is focused on trying to understand workload of faculty members. It is possible that this conversation is still happening across the Regent’s institutions, but may not go to the Community College level. Anticipating that we may talk about this, but think that we are less likely to be affected since we prioritize our time with the students.
- KBOR – there has been some conversation about small program review. They had a great conversation that maybe all universities don’t have to follow the same process and that the same numbers won’t apply to every institution. There is a recognition that one size does not fit all, and universities will have the chance to support their choices so that institutions should be allowed to provide the learning situations for their students.
- Steve Luoma is back on the team and will be kicking off program review.
- Working on integrated curriculum process (course, program, university requirements), so that when updates get made, they will be done all the way through (in all places). Hope this will be automated by December. Very excited about this. It will work for Washburn and Washburn Tech.
- Annual reports will be streamlined, but will still let departments see needed data.
- Small Program Review has been on hiatus, but will be touching base with departments this coming month. It will not be a speedy process, so that there is time for adequate review.
- Starting to think about graduation. At this time, they think we will have December Graduation in person (Lee Arena), but will likely have two ceremonies to divide people up. This should be announced in the next two weeks.
- S Schmidt wants to know how soon the program change (automated process) will be implemented so that people can get changes done that need to be through in time for spring. S. Luoma said program changes can still come through the manual process until this is in the automated online version (Nov- or maybe Dec.).

VI. Consent Agenda

- Faculty Senate Committee Reports-
 - None
- University Committee Reports- Moved to accept by Ricklefs, seconded by S Schmidt. Motion passed.
 - Assessment Committee Minutes 8.31.2021
 - Board of Student Media 9.10.2021

VII. Old Business

- Washburn Expansion of On-campus Voting Opportunities (Action Item 22-1)
- Text was not uploaded to Agenda, so we will have to wait until next time (Morse took responsibility for not getting this up.)

VIII. New Business- none

IX. Information Items-

- Replacement of Janelle Johnson with Kirk Kimberly as Senator for SAS
 - Kirk introduced self. (Came to WU in F19, was in police force for 29 years before that)
- GenEd and TAAC updates from KBOR – Jennifer Ball
 - GenEd – nothing has been decided yet and chairs of committees have asked not to circulate drafts so that there will be no misinformation about what has been decided. Nothing radical proposed at this point. Distribution across the main groups (NS, SS, Hum). No one is really happy with this version, or thinks it's impossible to resolve. It will still take more effort across the university to look at the proposed guidelines compared to ours. Will likely have to make some changes, but they probably won't be radical.
 - Morse asked about timeline. Ball said they are hoping by end of academic year, but she thinks this is ambitious. There would be some time for implementation. Meetings are monthly.
 - TAAC – Some groups are being considered for system wide transfer this year (Micro, Learning for Exceptional Learners, etc while others are up for review (that are already in system wide transfer.) The new ones are trickiest, since they have to come up with outcomes AND have schools vote on them.
 - Question as to how are 300+ level courses put on the transfer list? Ball says that potentially they can have the same outcomes that could cover multiple levels (lower vs upper divisions). It is outcome based, vs course numbering, so if an agreement is reached a 200 level course could be transferred in as equivalent to the 300 level course, but don't have to give it 300 level status in terms of required hours. This might do the students a disservice if they think it fulfills a 300+ level credit. The unit can state if they believe the course should be upper division, and there is a process to prevent it from being transferred. There are also appeal processes if a school wants to consider this transfer and then decides it is not viable. There have been some appeals that have been viewed favorably (ie not being allowed to transfer.)
 - If a course is General Education where it originated, then it counts as a General Education course here. That is Washburn University policy.

- 110 courses will be in the transfer system if these 5 are approved (Morse). It is complicated, but it is beneficial to transfer students (Ball), since they know what will transfer.

X. Discussion Items-

- Post-Workplace communication – Marc Fried
 - There are two alternatives in place and are trying to gather feedback over the next two weeks. Will use this to determine which option, and hope it will be up and running before end of semester.
 - I. Workplace “lite” that is run through WU and Office 365 or Yammer or a combo. One would already be logged into this, and could still have subgroups in it. Can you alter how much of the messages one gets? (This is not clear yet.)
 - II. Setting up a List-Serve which would work like all Fac-Staff, could choose what and how much one wishes to get. This was not looked at before because we didn’t know it was an option. This will require an administrator, as it won’t update automatically. Can remove people from the List Serve if people use it inappropriately. This is the faster option of the two to get implemented.
 - K Morse asked if any faculty would be able to directly communicate with all faculty, or would they still need an intermediary (as they do currently). Fried – We learned that some people were not reading them unless they came from certain people so that many notices were not read. Others were afraid to respond since it went to everyone. These new options would hope to encourage the free exchange of ideas, but will hopefully decrease those who get emails they don’t need/care about.
 - S Schmidt will send information about this (two options that might replace Workplace) to K Morse
- Clarification of Washburn’s relationship to KBOR in terms of Washburn’s decision-making. (Zwikstra)
 - Rasied on behalf of another faculty member. Our understanding is that WU is not subject to KBOR, but often seems we must do whatever they are doing. Looking for clarification on what we can do in relationship to KBOR (or can choose not to do).
 - Morse – “it’s complicated”
 - Mazachek – Good question. KBOR is not our governing board. We have WUBOR, however we are impacted by KBOR because they are our communicating/coordinating board. Therefore, issues like credit transfer could be ignored, but it would likely impact our students and our ability to receive transfer students. We are required to report all of our information and it is reported alongside other four-year schools. If we look TOO different, we might end up losing students if they are worried that things won’t transfer. This also affects funding from the legislature.

- Grospitch – Title IV says we have to provide textbook costs, not KBOR, so some rules are due to other groups, not KBOR. WUBOR has a KBOR representative, so conversations are likely to end up on our WUBOR because of that representative. One person who just went off was dedicated to both WUBOR and KBOR. She was really interested in Washburn education, but don't know how connected the new representative will be. WUBOR does pay attention to KBOR trends to benefit our students/University. Many of the things will affect Washburn because so many public institutions are tied together. (12% of our budget is from the legislature).
- Open resources is not required by Title IV, but is a state-wide push to decrease costs to students. Different schools may have different mechanisms to deal with this.
- So much of what is happening at public institutions is trying to provide the best pathways for students. Even if we are completely independent, but will need to consider what is best for Washburn and our students. Sometimes Washburn is leading and sometimes we fall in line with KBOR's lead.
- K Kendall-Morwick – Sometimes there is a concern that we reflexively go along with KBOR and don't know when we aren't going along with them. Those who are concerned we are too closely aligned with KBOR, are also concerned that we don't have a clear identity that is communicated to students when they visit. (We are losing our uniqueness.)
- C Zwikstra – seconds what K Kendall-Morwick said. What is distinctive about Washburn and does it get washed away when we follow KBOR? Clarifying what we do and what we should not do (and then communicate why we are or are not going along) would help prevent misunderstandings.
- Morse – It becomes easy to disengage from conversation because it is so complicated. BUT – we should still keep striving to communicate it.
- Mazacheck – The comments are well taken. This communication is important because there is more that happens than most people are aware of.
- Ricklefs- because K Morse and I are now splitting the meetings, this may help bring more material to the Senate. Morse – the two days of meetings and committee meetings in between means that there is so much happening and this will hopefully help ensure that needed information gets out.

XI. Announcements

- Noonan announced theater events: Thurs Sept 30th One Act Play that Goes Wrong opens. Lasts about an hour.

- Kelly Thor – Art trip was planned for St. Louis, but all busses are GONE, so this will be taken closer to spring break since the fall trip can't happen.

XII. Adjournment

- Motioned by K Kendall-Morwick and 2nd by S Scmidt at 4 pm. Motion passed.