

Washburn University Meeting of the Faculty Senate

August 28, 2023

3:00 PM – Forum Room, BTAC

Present: Altus, Barraclough, Camarda, Cook, Dahl, DeSota, Florea, Friesen, Grant, Hansen, Hartman, Heusi, Holt, Kay, Kendall-Morwick (K.), Kowalska, Lolley, McGuire, Mercader, Modellmog, Porta, Ricklefs, Rivera, Sneed, Steffen, Steinroetter, Toerber-Clark, Wagner

Absent: Cook-Cunningham, Miller, Scofield

Guests: Asamoah, Bailes, Holthaus, Hutchinson, Martinez, O'Neill, Saunders, Stephenson, Wade

I. Call to Order 3:05

II. Approved Faculty Senate meeting minutes of May 1, 2023, with minor corrections.

III. President's Opening Remarks (Ricklefs)

- Introductions
- August 21, 2023, Path to WUBOR: Meeting took place to provide details regarding making curriculum changes, e.g., action items v information items, when materials should be to Academic Affairs for changes to take place Fall 2024. Handouts and slides will be distributed.
- Networking: Executive committee of Faculty Senate have scheduled dates when faculty can meet to lunch. The intention is to provide opportunities to meet and facilitate conversation between schools and units, as well as to ensure transparency regarding the actions and intentions of the executive committee.
- Topics of focus this year will be discussed in the new business.
- Thanks for the feedback regarding the notes sent out after WUBOR meetings this summer. Please continue to send executive committee members feedback to ensure all concerns may be responded to.
- Alumni Association made Stephenson an honorary Ichabod.

IV. WUBOR/KBOR Updates

- KBOR (Wagner)
 - All universities are struggling to adjust to the general education plans. Presidents of Faculty Senate across the system want to work together to ensure things move smoothly and employees are protected.

- Pitt State has begun to ensure students who leave before completing a bachelor's degree will receive an associate degree if requirements are satisfied. They are the first and other Kansas universities will be following suit.
- WUBOR (Ricklefs)
 - June updates: breaking ground on the new president's house; board plans to increase communication with Faculty Senate as suggested by Mazachek.
 - Strategic planning will be taking place this year.
 - The search for a Provost is private. Cook (Sarah) and Ricklefs are senate members on the search committee.

V. VPAA/Provost Update (Stephenson)

- Convocation in Lee Arena had a great turnout.
- Contact Assistant Deans or Ball (Jennifer) with questions regarding the general education process moving forward.
- Details of the Provost search are posted on the WU website. A committee has been formed, led by Martin (Jim) from Business. The intention is to have a visit in late November. Other interim positions will be filled after the Provost has been selected.
- Tech and Law School Dean searches will start soon. Stephenson will lead the Tech search; the Law School will coordinate their lead.
- Positive indicators for fall enrollment (e.g., higher dorm population). The official data is embargoed until later in September.
- Strategic planning is being completed with an outside firm. WUBOR and the cabinet (formerly E Staff) have been working with the with the group. The focus will be different than in the past; the process will be quicker with the goal is to be completed during the fall semester. Data collection will include surveys and discussions with employees. The result will be dynamic and action oriented.
- Campus spaces
 - Education is officially in the Plass building. The library and other programs (e.g., Leadership and LINK) will join them next summer.
 - Next WUBOR meeting will include a request for an architect to be hired for the Henderson update. These updates are funded by Advisors Excel.
 - Still working on a design for the integrated health care building.
 - Broader campus planning will take place soon.
- Diversity and climate survey results have been reviewed and will be presented by Smith (Krista) and Stephenson.
- Next WUBOR meeting will include discussion of enlisting EAP for website updates.

- The Presidential Inauguration (the same week as homecoming) will take place October 27th at 3 pm. Prior to the event, there will be a faculty tea and a processional to Lee Arena
- Events tomorrow (8/29) include:
 - Campaign kick-off
 - Promotion and tenure workshop

VI. Consent Agenda (Ricklefs)

- Broxterman sent out committee invites last week.
- Academic affairs committee invites were emailed as AA calendar invite.
 - Holt noted that some meetings were on the same day as Senate.
- Need to follow up on details of Faculty Affairs.

VII. New Business (Ricklefs)

- Goals for the current academic year include discussion and activity around the topics of AI and ChatGPT, childcare policies on campus, and student attendance exemptions. Working groups are being created to aid in this effort; time commitment to be determined by individual working groups.
 - AI and ChatGPT Workgroup will be coordinated by Kay. The charge of the group is to recommend approaches addressing student use of these programs. Work may include suggesting edits to the academic impropriety policy to ensure both faculty and students have guidelines regarding how to address. McGuire would like to see students involved. President of WSGA reported they had examined the Code of Conduct this summer and made few edits or additions.
 - The Childcare / Children on Campus Policy will be coordinated by Wagner, with Grant assisting in the process. Mazachek wants to have a more family and community-based campus.
 - I. Steffen asked whether the efforts are to aid employees and students both; this is something the working groups will determine. Suggested the Education needs to be involved in the discussion and that conversations should include the concept of a lab school.
 - II. Wade suggested meeting with UCD.
 - III. WSGA President explained there are issues with UCD as they receive between 25 – 30 K a year, but only six students are using the center.
 - Student Attendance Exemption discussions will be led by Ricklefs. Only NCAA athletes are protected from losing attendance points if they miss class for sports – there are no other groups on campus who have the same exemption.

- I. Lolley asked about the autonomy faculty would have in such a policy. This is to be determined.
- II. WSGA VP suggested examining the military extenuating circumstances policies; with the language from the NCAA exemptions, it may help to guide the conversation.

VIII. Announcements

- Thursday 3-5 CTCL kick off.

IX. Adjournment (Ricklefs) 4:01