

Washburn University
Faculty Senate Minutes
November 20, 2023

Present: Altus, Barraclough, Camarda, Cook, Dahl, Florea, Friesen, Grant, Von Hansen, Hakenewerth, Heusi, Holt, Kay, Kendall-Morwick (K.), McGuire, Mercader, Modelmog, Porta, Ricklefs, Rivera, Scofield, Sneed, Steinroetter, Toerber-Clark, Wagner

Absent: Cook-Cunningham, DeSota, Hartman, Kowalska, Lolley, Miller, Steffen

Guests: Asamoah, Ball, Broxterman, Chang, Frank, Holthouse, Hutchison, Kohls, Lanning, Lee, Martinez, Murphy, Nizovtsev, O'Neill, Shipley, Sollars, Wade, Wohl, Walter

- I. Meeting was called to order at 3:04
- II. Minutes from the November 6, 2023, meeting of Faculty Senate were approved with minor edits.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - Make sure you sign in to avoid being absent from the attendance.
 - Explanation that the meeting would be facilitated as a discussion.
 - General education framework
 - The notes will come up in the next meeting.
 - Keep coming to lunches when you can.
 - Will present to WUBOR on the 7th.
 - Wagner will facilitate the December 4th meeting while she is out.
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update
 - KBOR is looking for someone to fill a data, research, and planning position.
 - KBOR schools are looking to make faculty recognition awards.
 - Faculty workload is being discussed by the KBOR faculty senate presidents.
- V. VPAA/Provost Update – Stephenson
 - Great turn out for the last strategic planning forum. The timeline for getting the plan completed has changed; WUBOR should receive this at the February meeting. Slides from the community forum last week are online.
 - Smathers is the new WUTech dean. Had been the VP of Workforce Development for KBOR and executive leader of secondary technical education. Was also a VP of economic development for go Topeka. Will start in this position on December 1.

- Next week we are interviewing the candidates for provost. There is an open presentation and forums starting at 1:15 pm Tuesday through Friday. Please attend.
- Last week, there were two full days of meetings with architects. Discussed the classroom usage, technology, etc. to be used in Henderson to encourage new pedagogies. Will be more discussion to come. Will be consulting with CTCL to help facilitate opportunities to try new ways of teaching. Plass building is also being examined to determine the best use of space.
- Introduced the new person in the Provost Office, Dr. Chang, who will be the new online education director.
- Nearly 94 percent of faculty completed the progress reports.
- Altus asked about recordings of the provost candidate presentations and how quickly those will be provided for those who want to review. They will be available right after and for 24 hours and have an associated survey.

VI. Faculty senate committee reports

- Graduate Council meeting minutes of October 2, 2023, were approved without discussion.

VII. University committee reports

- General Education committee meeting minutes of October 18, 2023, were received.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

- 24-14 Correction of typographical error in Faculty Senate Constitution
 - A discrepancy between days of agenda release for faculty senate committees.
 - One entry in the new constitution (VF) indicates six days instead of five. Needs to be clear to ensure senate committee meetings are not cancelled until after the previous senate meeting.
 - This will be taken as a friendly amendment, which was approved.
 - The final vote on the item will take place at the next meeting.

X. Information Items

- Conversations regarding the workload have started; taking longer to get an update. Just know conversations are taking place; nothing drafted. Want to be intentional with moving things forward (Ricklefs).
- Porta asked for a guess on when information would be sent out. Ricklefs has a meeting in December with Mazachek and can send an email out after to explain the next steps.

XI. Discussion Items

- All three of the topics to be discussed are the result of many emails and conversations. Want to ensure all bases are covered in terms of collecting questions and thoughts from faculty.
- Café Barnabas
 - Two major topics for discussion:
 - I. How the nonprofit lines up with the mission of WU.
 - II. How do we make these decisions and what kind of feedback do we give.
 - Walter: is the café a 501(c3)? Is this the same for the one on campus? Can the café on campus make a profit? Scofield stated that there is a single 990 on their website; if they are like most nonprofits, their assets will increase each year.
 - Kendall-Morwick: owner attended Moody Bible College, which has an anti-LGBTIQQ agenda. Does the café have a similar mission? Cook doesn't think a graduate of Washburn should be judged by our mission and values. Suggested that there are other issues. Kendall-Morwick agreed no assumptions should be made, but it may be good to find out. We should be checking on all religiously affiliated nonprofits coming to campus to determine what the mission statement and values are. Steinroetter suggested that everyone look at the website.
 - Walter: If any business comes to campus, we should look at their mission and values. Moddelmog has questions about what all we investigate in terms of organizations we use on campus. It starts to feel discriminatory when discussing content. Kendall-Morwick suggested that it is important to differentiate between profit and non-for-profit, especially for those with a specific religious agenda. Those that are for profit are subject to taxes, laws, etc. in ways that non -profits are not. Moddelmog would feel better if an attorney was present to answer some of these questions.
 - Ricklefs: for those who don't know, the background is that when Chartwells asked students, their top request was for boba tea on campus. Barnabas was able to meet this need and ensured the use of a local business.
 - Kendall-Morwick met with Luther to ask about the café. Wants to ensure we get a better understanding of the process. From what she was told, there were two options: one option had three varieties, another with forty. During the grand opening there were materials handed out along the lines of their mission.

- Mercader asked about missions for all organizations. Scofield indicated that all organizations do have a specific mission.
- five minutes to work together and get questions taken forward.
- Prayer on campus
 - Ricklefs would like to talk about the topic, including whether the senate has a role in decision making. More than ten people reached out to the executive committee regarding prayer on campus during a variety of events. The issue isn't that it is prayer at an event so much as its about expectations to attend. This is a space to share and make notes.
 - Cook: even if her own beliefs are represented, it makes her uncomfortable. Ricklefs: this is what is consistent; mostly been people of faith who are concerned about representation. Asamoah: identified self as a non-theistic student; suggests it is all dependent on the context of the event. The inauguration was of concern for some, but his perspective is that it was her ceremony. Bottom line may not be productive to prohibit prayer and instead make it about context. Kendall-Morwick's perception of things aligns with Asamoah.
 - Ricklefs: this is mostly about representation. Walter asked whether there was meant to be a separation of church and state at a municipal university. This seems to blur the lines. Mercader asked how we can logistically be inclusive for all. Seems smarter to not have it at all. Cook noted there are times when we have memorial services on campus; need to avoid this type of event from being excluded. Mercader noted the distinction between an event being about a particular person and being more general.
 - Kendall-Morwick: things are different when we are talking about the dominant religion; not all are treated the same. Friesen asked about the events; these include the inauguration, veterans' ceremonies, and sporting events. International students have felt like they are will not be accepted due to the university appearing to favor Christians. Walter noted that Rick Ellis (rest in power) had brought to a committee that there were Jewish students who felt uncomfortable with the winter lights. When he asked the committee to work to make things more general, he was shut down.
 - Hakenewerth agrees with the general idea that if things are meant to be secular and are advertised as such, then they should be secular.
 - Martinez: WSGA funds student organizations; the money is not meant to fund discrimination. This gets touchy, as technically these religious events may be

university sponsored events. What is discriminatory for one may not be for all, e.g., Michael Knowles was only discriminatory towards LGBTQ.

- Prior to breakout, Carson honored potential reactions to the discussion.
- General Education framework
 - Wagner: General education changes have affected everyone; some more than others. want to know about what is being discussed on campus. What are the challenges for your area? Are there things that we can get help addressing.
 - Ricklefs: hearing from people across campus that this should remain a concern of the senate. This session is to get feedback on the general concerns we need to take forward. Please chat with people and come back December fourth with more feedback.
 - I. Some of the big concerns are regarding hours and what can count as both gen ed and major course. Would like to hear about how decisions are being made.
 - Modellmog: likely that most of the questions there are to ask are already asked.
 - Ball answered a question about whether this is administrative or governance decision making. For transfer students there is not a decision to be made – this is part of the framework. Those who start at Washburn will be affected. Suggested more discussion at the department level regarding intentions.
 - Sollars: Dr. Ball sent out an FAQ regarding general education. Appears that general education is coming together; still need to work on institutional credits. Now is not the time to rethink things. for the most part there is agreement.
 - Wagner: not meaning to rethink the whole thing, just how courses will count.
 - Ricklefs: this session is meant to prevent emails to Holly and provide a place to think about things intentionally. Get the chance to chat with one another.
 - Wagner: at the CAS meeting it was discussed that decisions would be made by program instead of university wide. There is a need to make it easier for students to be able to switch majors. Also, a need to help the registrar's office, Lanning is limited by software.
 - Sollars: need to make this trial and error, live with it, and fix things as we go. Most of us are set and ready to go. Let's get the computer programming done and move on.

- Ricklefs: not everyone is that far along; would like to have an idea of where people are.
- O’Neill: there is concern about students transferring programs, things counting differently, and how that affects them. How do we ensure everyone is on the same page and student needs are met? Why are we treating transfer and current students differently? People will end up attending elsewhere. Kohls has heard students talking to one another about attending elsewhere for the same courses. Would consider a wider variety of courses to transfer. Ball: we do offer the courses here, so they are incentivized to transfer.
- Nizovtsev: summarized the issues being: which courses will count for general education and majors, and how this affects our students. Suggests keeping the status quo and enumerating what the questions are. Steinroetter would like to see issues coming organically from divisions most affected. Modellmog noted that she values students taking a variety of courses; but there are only 120 hours in a bachelor’s degree. Hours outside the major become a concern.
- A framework was suggested by the re-installed AAUP [bylaws to be passed December 7th] meant to help generate more thoughts.
- Cook asked about which courses students are taking elsewhere that we offer.
 - I. Hard science, social work, English, math, and social work for example.
 - II. Wohl: any department can go through the process to create a general education course. We cannot do anything about outside institutions. Their tuition costs about half of what ours does; there is not much competition.
- Porta suggests asking what other institutions are doing. They may have potential solutions. Toerber-Clark agreed we need to ask what they are doing. Nizovtsev: before we ask about others, need to figure out what we want on our terms. Lanning suggested that we look at the KBOR transfer site. Based on meetings with other registrars, this is a good framework – what is on that list should be included in general education. Ball corrected that not all classes on that list count as general education. Nizovtsev suggests that we need to examine the proposed framework from last spring, look at that and then see if the units want anything changed.
- Walter: KU and K State have graduate teaching assistants and can afford to lose an English 100 course. Here, people will be losing their jobs.

XII. Announcements

- December 6 is the CTCL winter social (Kendall-Morwick)
- Based on the feedback from the climate survey, CTCL and WUPD are doing a managing the classroom session in the spring (Kendall-Morwick)

XIII. Adjournment 5:04 pm