

Washburn University  
Faculty Senate minutes  
January 22, 2024

Present: Altus, Barraclough, Camarda, Cook, Cook-Cunningham, Dahl, Friesen, Grant, Hakenewerth, Hansen, Harnowo, Hartman, Heusi, Holt, Kay, Kendall-Morwick (J.), Kendall-Morwick (K.), Lolley, McGuire, McHenry, Miller, Porta, Ricklefs, Rivera Scofield, Sneed, Steffen, Wagner

Absent: DeSota, Kowalska, Modellmog, Toerber-Clark

Guests: Bailes, Ball, Burlingham, Erby, Fox, Grospitch, Hutchinson, Lanning, Leming, Mazachek, Nguyen, O'Neill, Stephenson

I. Called to Order via Zoom at 3:02

II. Minutes from the Faculty Senate meeting of December 7, 2023, were approved.

III. Special Visit from Washburn University President - Mazachek

Update on the strategic plan

- Currently in the last round of gathering input. February 21<sup>st</sup> it should be complete and presented to WUBOR.
  - The last big forum was in November; attendants were updated on the adjustments made with the data collected in October.
  - Most of the work done since the last meeting was to ensure clarity of language.
  - The meeting to update WUBOR went well; there were no major changes.
  - Upcoming meetings this month include one with students and another with the President's Advisory Council.
- Updates and feedback received include the following:
  - Non nobis solum was not anywhere on the plan. This is being added to the strategic framework as a motto.
  - The mission, vision, and values all seemed to have a good level of support.
  - The proposed framework has been named *Thriving Together*.
  - The strength of being good stewards of resources was overlooked; the definition for Modernization was changed to address this.
  - Priority One

- The metrics for these do not need to be approved by the board. We will be working on creating outcome measures.
- Clarified that *Optimizing the Portfolio of Programs* is indicative of taking the resources we have and using them.
- We are looking to increase adult learner opportunities. In Shawnee County, there are 38,000 people who started and did not complete university.
- Our focus is NE Kansas as this is where most of our students come from
- Efforts include working to ensure good relationships with other institutions to ensure there are pathways for people to start here with the local scholarship program before transferring elsewhere for their last two years.
- There was feedback regarding making sure that we are honest about having equitable student outcomes. Our targeted learning populations: veterans, incarcerated persons, concurrent students, and those in high school.
- Wagner noted that graduation rates can be affected by those who end up attending for only a couple years and there needs to be intentionality to determine what the metrics are.
- Priority Two
  - Enhance campus and environment for students and other community members; inside, outside, and in virtual spaces. This includes activities that promote belonging and involvement in efforts to make the city and county safer.
  - Grospitch noted that the wellness terms were missing.
  - Discussion regarding the term strengthen. Language that may be more appropriate: sustain, maintain, or foster.
- Priority Three
  - Create more collaborative partnerships in the city and county, as they fund us. There is a desire for a more college town environment, so students and faculty want to live here.

- Wagner noted that when they got here, WU suggested Topeka was not like a college town. More precise language around what this means is important.
- We want to get involved with aviation and advanced industry. Higher education is what makes a state grow; we want to be contributors. It was noted that in quarter three, Kansas had the best economic growth in the US.
- This priority still feels very business-oriented, which is a narrow way of thinking about the community. Kendall-Morwick (K) suggested that we have more reference to how we enrich arts and culture, as well as how we serve community partners beyond workforce needs. *Thriving college-town environment* may be a gesture toward this, but it's ambiguous.
- The focus on business was mentioned in feedback from the leader's group – this is something that will be adjusted.
- Steffen asked about how we will do better to serve k-12.
- Altus asked why "portfolio" of advisory boards? More straightforward to say "Further develop and formalize effective advisory boards..."
- This plan will be active between 2024 and 2028. We will be revisiting the plan each year to ensure environmental needs are being addressed.
  - Another big push will happen in four to five years.
- Thanks for the help with this and for holding administration accountable.

#### IV. President's Opening Remarks

- Discussion of Zoom protocol for voting and discussion
- Please continue to share ideas about what needs to be discussed in future meetings. An email regarding lunches will be out soon.
- Working with Enos to create a training in the case of an active assailant on campus.
- Heads up that program changes are about to come through and meetings may get longer.

#### V. WUBOR/KBOR Update

- WUBOR update went out over email; the next meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

- KBOR met last week, they are focused on the faculty award, which does not involve Washburn.

VI. VPAA/Provost Update – Stephenson

- Thanks for dealing with the rocky start with the weather.
- Ball is starting a phased retirement in July and will remain in her role part time.
- Provost will be starting February 19<sup>th</sup> and will attend the Faculty Senate meeting the following Monday.
- Ball, Bearman, and Smith will facilitate workshops for the new general education program Wednesday, January 31, 2024, and Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, both at 3:00 in Henderson 112. This is open to all. There is a plan to video the workshops.

VII. University Committee Reports

- Minutes from the November 14, 2023, meeting of Academic Diversity and Inclusion Committee (ADIC) were received.
- Minutes from the November 29, 2023, meeting of the Assessment Committee were received.
- Minutes from the October 19, 2023, meeting of the International Education / International WTE Committee were received.

VIII. Announcements

- Senators changing:
  - McHenry is replacing Steinroetter,
  - Harnowo is replacing Florea,
  - and Kendall-Morwick (J.) is replacing Mercader.
- Upcoming campus poetry readings
  - Thursday, February 15: Jericho M. Hockett Book Release Reading and Party, 3:00pm, Carole Chapel
  - Tuesday, April 2 - Ichabods Speak Out Against Sexual Assault Open-Mic Poetry Reading, 1:30pm, Union Underground
  - Thursday, February 15, 2024
- Congrats to Ball
- Events at the observatory on Thursday nights: [www.washburn.edu/observatory](http://www.washburn.edu/observatory)

IX. Adjournment at 4:15 pm