

Washburn University  
Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3 pm  
Meeting in Kansas Room Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Patricia Dahl, Tracy Davies, Amber Dickinson, John Francis, Miguel Gonzalez-Abellas, Sarah Holt, Gary Hu, Madeline Lambing, Shaun Schmidt, Jim Schnoebelen, Ian Smith, Adebanye Adebayo, Shanise Brooks, Crystal Buck, Karen Camarda, Sarah Cook, Jason Emry, Gary Graves, Amanda Hartman, Chris Jones, Tucker Jones, Shawn Leisinger, Franki Ostrom, Tonya Ricklefs, Amy White, Marguerite Perret, Dixie Copeland

Absent: Eric Mosier, Akhadian Harnowo, Zenova Williams, Glen McBeth, Matt Bender, Jayme Burdick

Guests: Beth O'Neill, Stephanie Lanning, Joy Bailes, Danny Wade, Lauren Yapple, Holly Broxterman, Kate Coulter, Ryan Durst

I. Call to Order at 3:01

II. Approve minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Meeting- Moved to approve by Cook, seconded by Adebayo. Motion passes unanimously.

- Comment: Holt had a comment about who was present at the incoming senators list at the April meeting—there are three at-large senators not listed: Cook, Brooks, and Ostrom. They are specifically mentioned later in the minutes as senators who won their elections, but not under incoming senators at the beginning list of those who were present.

III. VPAA Update - Dr. John Fritch

- Note: Fritch was unable to provide remarks due to technical difficulties. In lieu of this, he emailed remarks. Here they are:

Faculty, welcome back to campus! I know that there is a lot of movement around campus with students and faculty spending time in buildings they may have never been in. I helped a senior the first week of classes find her classroom. She had never been in Morgan!

**Enrollment.** We continue to project an increase in students and credit hours for this year. We still have a bit of time until census at which point our official numbers will be released.

**New Faculty.** We welcomed more than 30 new full-time faculty to campus this fall. Of course, some of those new faculty replaced lines that were opened up through

retirements or resignations. We also have initiated a few searches for the coming year.

**Quality Improvement for the Higher Learning Commission.** After a year-long process of the development of proposals by faculty and the evaluation of proposals by a committee comprised primarily of faculty, President Mazachek and I accepted the proposal focused on developing a Literacy Center for Washburn University. During the fall semester and early in the spring semester, I am pulling people together to develop this proposal in more depth. We will be working with people representing Education, English, Student Success, Libraries, CTCL, and others. I will keep you updated as the proposal develops.

**TRiO Conference.** Currently, I am at a conference on TRiO programs. Washburn currently is home to an Upward Bound program. Upward Bound seeks to help student populations less likely to attend college understand the possible paths toward college. We are awaiting word from the Department of Education that our grant will be extended for the coming year. We are in the same situation as most Upward Bound programs. We also are awaiting word on our SSS (Student Support Services) grant. SSS is another TRiO program, but it focuses on students who are on campus.

**AI.** One of the things we have heard over the past year is that additional faculty development is desired as we continue conversations around AI taking place on our campus. I believe Jim will share with you some information about a faculty development opportunity in AI. We also have a group of faculty who are part of a team that is working with the AAC&U to help understand how we can best support faculty needs in the area of AI.

#### IV. President's Opening Remarks (Schnoebelen)

- He thanked the senators for their willingness to serve. He asked the senators to introduce themselves by name and what unit they represent. He reminded senators to use the microphone when introducing themselves.
- He reminded senators to vote in the at-large election which begins today.
- He informed senators that Inara Scott, Senior Associate Dean of the School of Business at Oregon State University and an expert on AI in higher education, will visit WU. The keynote will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm. On Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a breakfast and C-TEL workshop.
- Schnoebelen shared his goals and topics of focus for the upcoming year:
  1. Shared governance—the role of this is very important to the university. We need to keep track of our constituents. We need to make faculty more aware of what's

going on in the Senate, not just aware of controversial items. When we have unit level meetings, please talk about what is going on in Senate. Make sure to attend Gen. Fac. Meetings.

2. Gen. Fac. Meetings are from 3:30 to 5 pm. The first meeting of the semester is October 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30 pm. I would like to revisit the quorum issue at Gen Fac—what should be the quorum? Can we alter or enhance our quorum policy? Also, we should think about how we vote at Gen. Fac. meetings, as the current way is dated.
3. Senate forums—should we add a Zoom option for guests? Not necessarily for Senators, but as a way for faculty to hear what is going on at Senate.
4. Schnoebelen then reminded senators that we need to elect committee chairs after the main meeting has adjourned.

Question from Cook: What are the duties of the executive committee?

Answer from Schnoebelen: The duties are to meet as needed and serve as the "committee on committees" for the Senate.

#### V. WUBOR/KBOR Update- Schnoebelen

- KBOR—He attended an Academic Affairs meeting; nothing much to report or that was discussed beyond an International Baccalaureate program that WU doesn't have but other KBOR schools do.
- WUBOR—no update; first meeting will be Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

VI. Consent Agenda- Schnoebelen reminded Senators that these items have already been approved by the associated units and that the consent agenda items can be separated.

- Faculty Senate Committee Reports-
  - o Faculty Affairs Minutes (April 14, 2025)
  - o Graduate Council Minutes (April 7, 2025)
- University Committee Reports-
  - o Faculty Handbook Minutes (April 15, 2025)
- Question from Jones: Are we revisiting the Senior Lecturer policy?
- Answer: Schnoebelen said that we will, once it goes through Handbook Committee (as determined last year at Gen. Fac.), and said that this will be a priority for the Senate.
- Question from Lambing: where do graduate council meeting changes go after their body approves those changes?
- Answer: Schmidt and Schnoebelen—it is technically a Senate committee. If the changes are merely administrative, they do not go to Senate. But if there are curricular items approved by the graduate council, then those are considered by the Senate for approval.

- The consent agenda was moved to be approved by Jones, seconded by Cook. Motion passes unanimously.

## VII. Old Business-

- 26-1 Approval of Standing Rules for the Faculty Senate. This is the second reading. Moved to approve by Camarda, seconded by Riklefs.
  - This document governs how we do business in the Senate. Schmidt and Schnoebelen put together these standing rules over the summer. The rules were then sent out to the Executive Committee for comments or suggestions, constituting a first reading of the Standing Rules.
  - Camarda had a question: the decision of the executive committee of who would be on the standing committees was undertaken this summer, but this task was not on the list of Senate duties to take during the summer (referencing 2.b.2). Schmidt answered that adding this task would be a great addition to future Standing Rules.
  - Follow up question from Camarda: A poll of committee members would have been nice to know what their preferences were regarding their committee assignments. Jim acknowledged that it would have been best, and we might consider it moving forward; however, the committee assignments are more complicated than deciding based on preference.
  - Cook: regarding the decision of who would be on standing committees—were the units needing to be represented taken into consideration? Schnoebelen answered yes; unit affiliation must be considered.

Motion to pass Standing Rules passes unanimously.

## VIII. New Business- None

IX. Information Items: Schnoebelen presented and briefly touched on the following documents included in the agenda packet:

- AY 2026 Faculty Senate Committee Assignments
- Faculty Senate Agenda Item Template
  - Schmidt confirmed that the agenda item is on the website.
- CAS Workflow Summary
  - This was added as an example to show the levels of bureaucracy to go through for approval of items.
- Pathway to WUBOR
  - This was added for senators to be able to see how this approval pathway works.

X. Discussion Items-None

XI. Announcements-

- Jones announced that as outreach fellow for CTCL, he will periodically be announcing CTCL events. The first is: Fall into Assessment at the BTAC 2:30 to 4:30 pm September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Wade reminded faculty about upcoming due dates for internal grants: Faculty Development grant applications are due to the Office of Academic Affairs by September 12. Major and Small Research grant applications are due to the Office of Academic Affairs by September 19.
- The WSGA President (Kate Coulter) and Vice President (Ryan Durst) introduced themselves to Senate. The WSGA is going to promote a QR Code on campus that has a questionnaire about student spaces and renovations.
- Adebayo asked Senators to share Gender Bag Brown ideas and possible presenters with her.
- Exam difficulty access was announced by Cook as an FYI. Apparently, the staffing at Student Accessibility Services is very low at the moment.

XII. Adjournment of Full Meeting at 3:40 pm (Schmidt moved, Gonzalez-Abellas seconded, but then Senate committees met to elect chairs before they left). The elected committee chairs for AY26 include:

- Faculty Affairs—Elected Tonya Riklefs as Chair
- Academic Affairs—Elected Sarah Cook as Chair
- Electoral Committee—Elected Amanda Hartman as Chair