

Washburn University  
Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 3:00 pm  
Meeting in Kansas Room Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Abebayo, Brooks, Burdick, Camarda, Cook, Copeland, Dahl, Davies, Dickinson, Francis, Fritch, Gonzalez-Abellas, Graves, Harnowo, Hartman, Holt, Hu, Chris Jones, Tucker Jones, Lambing, McBeth, Ostrom, Ricklefs, Rivera, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, White, Wagner, Williams

Absent: Bender, Buck, Leisinger, Mosier, Perret, Smith

Guests: Holthaus, O'Neill, Erby, Wade, Bailes, Nizovtsev

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm.

II. Approve minutes of the March 30, 2026 meeting – Moved to approve by Wagner and seconded by Cook.

- Motion passes unanimously.

III. President's Opening Remarks – Jim Schnoebelen

- Thank you to Tonya Ricklefs for taking minutes today while Ian Smith is out ill.
- Thank you to everyone who was able to attend one of the Town Halls.
- Shared Governance update: statement and action plans are in the final stages of editing and should go to the board on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Apologies to FAC for having to add a last-minute meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> to review the promotion language for the “Esteemed Lecturer” position. This was necessary in order to be reviewed by the full Senate on the 27<sup>th</sup> and then to be reviewed by the Gen Fac on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Those who could go up next year were going to be penalized if we did not pass it this year. Tonya Ricklefs noted it will be a short meeting.
- Update on DEI legislative issues: Still a budget proviso regarding this that the governor did not veto. It's changed a bit. Key points:
  - Still is geared toward the state not allowing institutions to “require DEI-CRT courses for anything other than disciplines that necessitate them.”
  - The “start date” for this is FY29 now.
  - The CEO of KBOR schools will need to submit the definitions of DEI-CRT (instead of it being prescribed by the legislature) based on input of KBOR Chief Academic Affairs Officers.
  - And I'm still not 100% sure it applies to WU. The language of enforcement is all geared toward KBOR, but the final definition of “postsecondary education institution” would be inclusive, so stay tuned.
  - A couple of dates to keep in mind:
    - The final Senate meeting of the year is on April 27<sup>th</sup>. This will be a transitional meeting where we thank the outgoing Senators for

their work this year, and we will welcome the new cohort and elect new officers for AY27. There will be snacks!

- NOTE: If you are interested in becoming an officer for next year and want to chat with any of us about it, we'd be happy to discuss!
- FYI—please remember the Gen. Fac. Meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> in the BTAC Convocation Hall.

#### IV. VPAA Update – Dr. John Fritch

- There was a nice tenure and promotion reception last week for the individuals promoted and who received tenure.
- Legislation update: WU is still working on the update to DEI, as well as the legislation that does not allow for the entire campus to be the free speech zone.
- The KBOR 90-credit-hour degree effort is continuing to progress.
- There are three bills being watched:
  - Changing the way CEP is funded (HS and tech school)
  - Excell and CTE is being cut that impacts Tech
  - Changing the state requirements to be instructor in nursing program—the requirements have been lowered
    - We're still watching to see how it impacts us. WU will not have to prove anything for funding beyond compliance for the law.
- The Town hall meetings went well last week.
- The Provost will be going to an event in KC today. Washburn is seeing applications increase from the KC area based on enrollment management and strategic communication efforts.
- Cynthia Holthaus offered a brief point of clarification, noting what aspects of the budget bill (that may potentially) impact Washburn.
  - Chris Jones asked if classes and programs should continue doing what they already do because of these legislative changes. Fritch said not to change, as there is a lot of interpretation that still needs to happen.

#### V. WUBOR/KBOR Update – Jim Schnoebelen

- KBOR—No Meeting. KBOR has a meeting this week.
- WUBOR—No meeting until May 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### VI. Consent Agenda – Moved to approve Sarah cook, Amanda Hartman seconded.

- Faculty Senate Committee Reports-
  - Graduate Council Committee Minutes (February 2, 2026)
  - Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes (March 23, 2026)
  - Academic Affairs Committee Minutes (March 23, 2026)

- Motion passes unanimously.

## VII. Old Business –

- 26-21 Approval of Course Change: AC 224: Financial Accounting
  - 26-22 Approval of Course Change: AC 225: Managerial Accounting
  - 26-23 Approval of Course Change: BU 250: Management Information Systems
  - 26-24 Approval of Course Change: BU 258: Foundations of Data Analysis
  - 26-25 Approval of Course Change: BU 381: Business Finance
  - 26-26 Approval of Course Change: EC 200: Principles of Microeconomics
  - 26-27 Approval of Course Change: EC 201: Principles of Macroeconomics
  - 26-28 Approval of Course Change: EC 211: Statistics for Business and Economics
  - 26-29 Approval of Course Change: EC 306: Game Theory and Applications
- Schnoebelen asked, based on the nature of the changes, if there is a motion to bundle these items nine items. Schmidt made such a motion, and Gonzalez-Abellas seconded.
  - Dimitri Nizovtsev was asked to discuss the changes to the classes. The course changes reflect current practices where they are doing overrides for ACT and SAT scores.
  - Schnoebelen noted that the only reason these course changes were seen by the Senate was that they happened to impact two or more programs, and clarified that, usually, course changes are not seen by the Faculty Senate. He added that we might consider a revision to the standing rules next year to indicate that such items should be moved to the consent agenda.
  - **Motion to approve 26-21 through 26-29 passes unanimously.**
    - 26-30 Approval of Course Inactivation: HS 355: Peacemaking.
    - 26-31 Approval of Course Inactivation: HS 450: Multicultural Issues.
  - Schmidt made a motion to consider 26-30 and 26-31 together as they reflect the same change and purpose. Gonzalez-Abellas seconded.
  - Williams explained that two courses will be inactivated, as they have not been offered for years, and there were no plans to teach them in the future.
  - **Motion to approve 26-30 and 26-31 passes unanimously.**
    - 26-32 Approval of Program Inactivation: Master of Education Reading Specialist, MED. Motion to approve by Chris Jones and Graves seconded.

- Graves explained the requirements to teach have changed/been taken over by other programs in the department, which means this program no longer needs to be offered. No students are currently in this program.
- **Motion to approve 26-32 passes unanimously.**
  - 26-33 Request for Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee – Faculty Workload Proposal Moved to approve by Ricklefs and Hartman seconded.
- Schmidt motioned that the name should be changed to the “Ad Hoc Faculty Workload Committee” as the intention is to study more than just service. Pat Dahl seconded.
- Motion passed to change the name to the “Ad Hoc Faculty Workload Committee.”
- **Motion to approve 26-33 passes unanimously.**
  - 26-20 Approval of Faculty Handbook Termination Procedure: Section G. Moved to approve by Cook, and Burdick seconded.
- Sarah Cook also added 26-20 will go to Gen Faculty as a voting item.
- **Motion to approve 26-20 passes unanimously.**

VIII. New Business – None.

IX. Information Items – None.

X. Discussion Items – None.

XI. Announcements –

- Amanda Hartman reminded those present that results of unit elections are due by Wednesday, so please pass the information about those results to Hartman.
  - Jim Schnoebelen asked Hartman when At-Large elections were taking place; she noted this election will be on D2L, with voting taking place between April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Danny Wade noted that the annual employee recognition ceremony will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Melanie Worsley noted that the deadline for the AI inquiry and innovation grant (for up to \$3,000 a person) is June 1<sup>st</sup>. She added that they will assess how many people will be awarded based on the applications.
- Sarah Cook mentioned that Administrative Professionals Day is April 24th.

XII. Adjournment of Meeting at 3:35.