

**Washburn University
General Faculty Minutes
April 30, 2025**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Mazachek called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM in Room 100 of the Henderson Learning Resources Center. 101 faculty members were in attendance, meeting quorum (defined as 33% of the 301 current faculty).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2024 General Faculty meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. OPENING REMARKS

A. From the President

Dr. Mazachek discussed upcoming moves and renovation projects and the status of the university budgeting process. At tomorrow's WUBOR meeting, the architectural firm proposal for the new health sciences building will be presented. It will likely take one year to produce an architectural plan for the building.

Dr. Mazachek discussed results and action steps related to the Modern Think survey results. More work will be done on this task in Fall 2025. The shared governance task force is one effort related to this, and that group will work on updates to university bylaws, best practices and other elements of shared governance. The first meeting will be in August and will be composed of 28 members; the majority membership will be faculty and there will also legal experts as members.

B. From the Provost

Dr. Fritch invited faculty to thank members of the campus moves task force for their work coordinating movements of offices, classroom space and many other elements that needed planning for next year as we undertake many campus construction projects. He asked all faculty to help facilitate communication with students these developments and help them navigate the changes in the campus environment next year.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of AY26 General Faculty Secretary

Tracy Wagner was nominated for the position of secretary and approved unanimously.

---REQUIRING GENERAL FACULTY APPROVAL---

B. Faculty Senate Action Item 25-11: Bachelor of Musical Arts (BMA) inactivation

The item was moved and seconded for approval. There was no discussion. The item was approved unanimously.

C. Faculty Senate Action Item 25-15: Amendment to Faculty Handbook for Not Tenured Faculty

The item was discussed at the November meeting (see 11/23/24 minutes for reference). The Faculty Handbook committee has met several times since then, to craft appropriate language. The Faculty Handbook committee voted 7:2 to not support the modified language but did forward it to Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate voted 12:11:3 to pass the language.

A motion was made to support this language, recommending additional consideration and review by the Faculty Handbook Committee. Tracy Wagner (AY25 Faculty Senate Secretary) summarized the debate on the issue. This language applies to all not-tenured faculty (Lecturer and Tenure-Track Faculty who haven't yet been tenured). The tension on the issue, debated in good faith, has been between limiting potential for harm to students and the university, and protecting the rights and due process of faculty employees. One concern is that the current draft doesn't include language inviting faculty to withdraw from the review process if they decide to accept the termination by resigning.

The issue was opened up for discussion and questions, with faculty senate officers and the provost ready to respond. A question was posed about what the expectations of Faculty Handbook committee would be if this is returned to them. The answer: if the committee proposes major changes to the language, the language would be brought back through the governance system. Adding language to allow for resignation at any time wouldn't be considered a change worthy of reconsideration by the governance system.

Questions were posed about the added value of this language and the potential advantages (and possibly disadvantages) for non-tenured faculty, as well as possible risks for faculty involved in the appeals process. Considerable discussion occurred.

A vote was held by standing/raising hands. 36 faculty were in favor. 40 were opposed. 18 abstained. The motion was deemed failed.

---DISCUSSION ITEMS---

D. Moves Task Force / Communication Plan

Brief comments were present on this, but cut short for time.

---INFORMATION ITEMS---

E. Curriculum Updates Since 11/13/24 General Faculty Meeting

No discussion occurred related to these items.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty announced various upcoming events.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.