

**Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 17, 2017
3:00 PM – Kansas Room, Memorial Union**

PRESENT:

Ball, Barker, Erby, Farwell, Francis, Kapusta-Pofahl, Kwak, Mazachek, Modellmog, Sadikot, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, Scofield, Siemens, Smith, Sourgens, Stacey, Steinroetter, Stevens, Treinen, Wasserstein, Wohl, Worsely, and Zwikstra

ABSENT:

Alexander, Garritano, Mansfield, Mastro Simone, Matthews, Memmer, Ockree, Petersen, Prasch, Tutwiler, and Weiner

GUESTS:

Holthaus and Ward

- I. **President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.**
- II. **The Faculty Senate meeting minutes of March 27, 2017 were approved.**
- III. **President's Opening Remarks**
 - **President Schmidt introduced TaNiqua Ward, the new Employee Wellness Coordinator.**
 - **President Schmidt invited Jericho Hockett to present on the United Way Campaign committee.**
 - **President Schmidt recognized Molly Steffes-Herman, the new Washburn University Victim Advocate.**
 - **Schmidt noted that the Conceal Carry resolution approved last time had been forwarded to Mazachek with a request to forward it on to President Farley and the Board of Regents (which did occur).**
- IV. **Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents (presented by Schmidt):**
 - **Budget and Finance Committee went over 72 pages of data supporting budget requests.**
 - **The following are highlights from the full Board meeting:**
 - **The conceal carry policy regulations were adopted after President Farley spoke about the subject briefly.**
 - **The FY 17 Tenure and Promotion recommendations went forward (congratulations to all present who were tenured and/or promoted).**
 - **The Bridge program (now "Ichabod Ignite") has been moved to the Washburn main campus from the Tech campus.**
 - **A redesign of the website is upcoming.**
 - **\$3 million of budget requests from around campus were approved.**
- V. **VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek: NONE**
- VI. **Faculty Senate Committee Reports:**
 - **The Academic Affairs Committee meeting minutes of February 27, 2017 were approved.**
 - **The Faculty Affairs Committee meeting minutes of February 27, 2017 were approved.**

VII. University Committee Reports:

- The Interdisciplinary Committee meeting minutes from February 6, 2017 were received.
- The Interdisciplinary Committee meeting minutes from April 7, 2017 were received.

VIII. Old Business:

- 17-6 Agenda Transmission and Timeline Changes was presented by Schmidt. The motion was approved.
- 17-7 University Requirements Common to All Graduate Degrees was presented by Mazachek. The motion was approved.
- 17-8 New Minor in Applied Media was presented by Menzie. Wohl asked if prerequisites might be an issue; Menzie said they wouldn't be an issue for any of the required classes. The motion was approved.
- 17-9-Faculty Handbook-Professional Ethics was presented by Mazachek. Ball wondered if there had been significant changes from the previous version? The committee members that were present responded that there weren't. Smith wondered about item #1—as worded, it only applies to “Professors”—did that mean the actual title or college teaching personnel generally? Mazachek indicated this should be anyone who teaches courses at the college level. Erby wondered whether this policy would affect/help regulate teacher-student relationships. Mazachek said a policy addressing those relationships is forthcoming from a special committee (probably introduced to the Faculty Senate for comments/approval next fall). Sourgens wondered if the word “citizens” in Item 5 was an all-encompassing term. Barker noted that the language of “private persons” is used later in that section which may help interpret this section specifically. The motion was approved.
- 17-10-Faculty Handbook-Definition of a Student Credit Hour was presented by Mazachek. Kwak moved to amend the title to reflect that it's a change of the catalog instead of the Handbook. This amendment was voted down (as the Handbook is the ultimate source of the policy). Several wondered if the Graduate Council should see this before approval. Most voted that it should be moved on to General Faculty and that if Graduate Council members had an issue with the proposal, it could be handled at that meeting. Francis wondered if the law school credit hours were in line with these policies; he will check with the law school on this issue before the General Faculty meeting. The motion was approved.
- 17-11 Faculty Handbook-Definition of Faculty was presented by Modellmog. Smith wondered if we hadn't just adopted a similar policy two years ago. Kapusta-Pofahl asked, how does one apply to be a senior lecturer? Mazachek said that these criteria are coming soon, though the process will not mirror the tenure process. Ball provided edits. Barker wondered why instructor was removed from the tenure lines. Mazachek noted that this title isn't being used anymore. She also noted that this decision came from the various Deans. Barker noted that he was disappointed by this decision, as we may need the classification one day. Wohl noted that he couldn't remember the last time we had someone with the official title of “Instructor;” and that the titles needed to be updated. The motion was approved.
- 17-12 Feasibility Study-Plus and Minus Grades was presented. Barker said the CFC was not as in favor of this as the wording implies. Wohl wondered if this was useful. Mazachek noted that some regional schools use this system. Erby said that she would enjoy the option. Wasserstein said he wasn't opposed to a study of this but his experience was that students' debate of grades would likely increase with the added nuance. Sadikot thinks it may be

beneficial, particularly in upper-division work for clarifying the effort put forth. Barker said he wasn't in favor of doing this or of studying it. Treinen wondered how it would affect GPA calculation; many responded that it would. Worsely said that AAC was in favor of the study to simply see what other schools do. Smith said that in Gen Ed classes, many of them take them for Pass/Fail, so why bother with this new and more complicated system. Wohl said that it may not work out well for students whose GPAs may be adversely affected. Moddelmog was not in favor in terms of students deciding how to put forth their efforts. Sadikot said that we might not be obligated to use the +/- system; it would depend on how the categories were defined. Ball said it didn't sound like there was enough interest to justify a study. Kapusta-Pofahl said in her experience that it might push rigor (which students may or may not want). Wasserstein said that optional +/- might hurt perceptions of GPA. Moddelmog said that the A+ suggests that you work harder to achieve the grade. Stevens noted that the Nursing school scale is a bit different though they don't use the +/- system. Barker moved to postpone this to the next meeting so that senators could poll their faculty to receive feedback on the potential study. The motion to postpone this agenda item to the May 1st meeting was approved.

IX. New Business: NONE

X. Information Items: NONE

XI. Discussion Items:

- Barker noted that it costs much more for students to take online classes, and some programs require these. In the beginning, the extra cost was added to allow for a stipend to faculty teaching these courses but that stopped and no one knows where this extra money goes. Smith said that if you teach more than 20, you get an extra stipend. Schnoebelen said he hadn't seen this. Sadikot said this might mean a decrease in enrollment due to excessive costs. Kapusta-Pofahl wondered how this extra money is being used. Scofield said that this extra cost for online courses was an issue for students at a school where she used to teach; students there could apply for a waiver.

XII. Announcements:

- Schmidt: Apeiron is next Friday, April 28, 2017. Please plan on attending and encourage others to attend, as well.
- Schnoebelen: The next meeting will be on 5/1 (our last of the academic year). Please think about officer nominations.
- Holthaus: Employee recognition is this Thursday, April 20th at 3:30pm; please plan on attending.

XIII. President Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:15pm.