

**Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
August 29, 2016
3:00 PM – Washburn B, Memorial Union**

PRESENT:

Alexander, Ball, Barker, Erby, Francis, Garritano, Kapusta-Pofahl, Kwak, Mansfield, Matthews, Mazachek, Memmer, Moddelmog, Petersen, Prash, Sadikot, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, Scofield, Siemens, Stacey, Steinroetter, Stevens, Treinen, Tutwiler, Wasserstein, Weiner, Wohl, Worsely, Zwikstra

ABSENT:

Farwell, Mastrosimone, Ockree, Smith, Sourgens

GUESTS:

Bearman, Holthaus, Liedtke, Swopes

- I. President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of May 2, 2016 were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks:
 - Expectations for how we engage each other: We should look to our core values, mission, and vision statements as a basis for the work we do this year.
 - The responsibilities we have as senators is found in the Senate Constitution—to provide the voice for the faculty and to deal with a range of issues that come up on campus. Being familiar with all of the related documents (handbooks, policies, catalog, etc.) having to do with campus is essential.
 - Shared faculty governance is a balance between faculty governance and business management/administration. My current assessment is that the pendulum is too far towards business management of the university. This weakens the university as a whole and need to be address by a stronger faculty voice and an even more intentional connection to the faculty by the administration. This is an ongoing, and dynamic process.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents:
 - Moddelmog presented highlights from the June and July meetings:
 - There will be a 5% tuition increase to offset deductions from state revenue. About 30% would go to scholarships and student employment; 2% will go to possible raises (merit-based) if enrollment numbers support the cost. Petersen wondered what level was necessary to increase salaries. Mazachek will check on this but believes that it needs to meet last year levels.
 - There are now 10 designated smoking areas on campus. Holthaus noted that there will be a website that details these areas soon.
- V. VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek:
 - Mazachek introduced herself and provided some details regarding her background.
 - She added that she is interested in bringing in people to speak to the Senate on whatever subject they want to hear about; Senators should just let her know.

- The new tobacco policy begins this week; please direct questions or concerns to Holthaus. This isn't a policed policy; it's our responsibility to try to affect culture to get people to comply.
- Transfer sleds have been placed in various buildings around campuses. Petersen noted that these require some training.
- Liedtke presented enrollment report numbers. Total student credit hours are up 2.64% while total headcount is down 0.6%. Mazachek noted that these numbers are not public as of yet.
- Budget: It is expected we will have another reduction (possible 5%) of state aid in the coming year.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports:

- The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee of March 28, 2016 were approved.
- The minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee of April 25, 2016 were approved.

VII. University Committee Reports:

- The minutes of the Graduate Council of March 28, 2016 were received.
- The minutes of the Library Committee of April 27, 2016 were received.
- The minutes of the Research Grant Committee of April 27, 2016 were received.

VIII. Old Business: NONE

IX. New Business: NONE

X. Information Items:

- A list of Senate committees for FY17 was distributed and the Electoral, Academic Affairs, and Faculty Affairs committees selected chairs.
- Items that Faculty Affairs Committee will need to focus on this year (Schmidt):
 - The faculty appeals policy from University Counsel's office.
 - Possible release time for the Senate Secretary.
 - Getting rid of the Financial Aid Committee.
- Items that Academic Affairs Committee will need to focus on this year (Schmidt):
 - CLEP scores and AP exam scores (meet with Office of Prior Learning and Testing—do we need to make university changes or work on the department level?)
 - Need to put together an update of the STAR program.
 - University additions to syllabus: should we shorten them or consider different ways to communicate them and should we have faculty input on these policies?

XI. Discussion Items:

- Schmidt initiated discussion of enrollment: what is or should be our role in meeting the 8,000 mark in the University Vision 2022 statement? Wohl wondered if 8,000 were a realistic goal. Prasch noted that this is just one part of the conversation; we need to also consider things like faculty lines and over-use of adjuncts (in other words, we should focus on how we intend to grow and not just be focused on "growth"). Petersen asserted that perhaps our current enrollment level is where we are supposed to be. Mansfield indicated that she would like more context—where are we when compared with other area institutions? Petersen argued that how we conceptualize ourselves as faculty matters and should be considered; he reported the data suggests that Kansas's high school graduates attending a 4-year school are expected to decline—this needs to be considered. Kapusta-Pofahl argues anyone who hasn't

read the strategic plan needs to do so. The role the Faculty Senate plays in the strategic plan needs to be clarified (we shouldn't spin our wheels when E-staff is prioritizing certain things over others). Liedtke noted that faculty contributed a great deal to the initial crafting of the plan. Liedtke argued that this year, numbers of freshmen coming from Kansas's schools have bottomed out, though these are set to improve over the next five years. The pool of transfer students is also becoming limited, as our junior college sources are seeing decreased enrollment and as KU and KSU improve student retention. He also noted that nationally, only 20% of students enrolled at a 2-year school end up going on to a 4-year school. Treinen wondered what students we're focusing on in terms of marketing. Ball wondered if we could focus less on the 8,000 goal and more on the issue of what the faculty's role should be in terms of enrollment. Prasch said that the faculty role has increased tremendously over the last few years; as such, we need to raise our voice to bring up the faculty lines. Tutwiler asserted we need to focus on the student population (demographics, etc.) and focus on how can we teach courses and develop programs that will be interesting to students and diversify our faculty and improve how we teach. Scofield noted that knowing your advisees is crucial, and knowing about the ways to access advisees is important. Wasserstein wondered if enrollment connected with the questions of how we make ourselves better as teachers. Modellmog echoed the importance of focusing on quality. Petersen noted that we seemed to have covered almost all of the crucial topics; we should focus on how we can accomplish our goals. Sadikot asserted that we seem to have been doing everything we can as a faculty to improve enrollment; do we have the ability to do any more or are faculty just going to be provided with things (from administration) to do to improve enrollment? Schmidt clarified that these tactics don't seem to be doing much, so the purpose of this discussion is to lead to possible specific things that we can do that go beyond. Liedtke noted that there is no specific group of students we can target to take us over the 8,000 goal—it needs to be all of the above. Liedtke argues that the "culture of Washburn" is essential—to play up the relationships that students will have with faculty that sets us apart from other schools. Bearman noted that much of what we've asked faculty to do has been working (retention has improved). He added that now would be the time to re-evaluate what has and hasn't worked overall in terms of culture (and how these efforts by faculty fit in terms of service). Scofield wondered if the marketing plan is successful and appropriate. Barker questioned whether Washburn could actually handle 8,000 (logistical speaking). Bearman says that we do have facilities and can offer afternoon classes. Wohl: the Vision 2022 plan specifically targets populations of students, but we haven't been told how to do this. This aspect of the strategic plan needs to be provided/discussed and shared campus-wide so we know what all aspects of campus are doing. Schmidt closed discussion and said that he will ask the executive committee to meet for further action. Prasch suggested that we focus on campus growth versus just enrollment.

XII. Announcements:

- Schnoebelen announced that our next meeting on September 19th would be back in the Kansas room.

XIII. President Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:29pm.