

Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
October 25th, 2021 at 3pm
Zoom Meeting Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Byrne, Ewert, Florea, Friesen, Ginzburg, Griggs, K Huff, Juma, Kay, Kendall-Morwick, Klaes, Kohls, Lockwood, Lolley, Moore, Morse, Noonan, Ricklefs, Rivera, Sainato, Schmidt C, Schmidt S, Smith D, Smith M, Thor, Toerber-Clark J, Wagner, Wang, Wasserstein, Woody, Wynn, Zwikstra

Absent: Daniels, Kimberly

Guest(s): DeSota J, Luoma S, Mazachek J, Burdick M, Wisneski M, Grospitch E, Ball J, Liedtke R, Frank Z, Wagner P, Stephenson L, Cook S, McNamee B, Holthaus C,

- I. Call to Order at 3:02 pm
- II. Approve minutes-
 - September 27th, 2021 (pages 2-6).
 - Moved by T Ricklefs, seconded by C Zwikstra, motion passed
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - Vaccines – Boosters are available, please consider getting vaccinated (either initial vaccine or booster). You may want to consider it being done on the weekend, since it might have side effects.
 - We are moving the agenda item on electronic voting to another meeting
 - Just keep going, as it is that time of the semester and everyone is wearing out (plus we still are having increased burdens with COVID)
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update- Tonya Ricklefs and Kim Morse
 - No WUBOR/KBOR since our last Faculty Senate meeting
- V. VPAA Update - Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek
 - Graduation announcement – trying to get Marshalls lined up and make sure we can have plenty of space. We hope we will not have to limit guests.
 - Questions about the K-State, KU, WSU vaccine mandates. The vaccine mandate counts for them since they are federal contractors, but we are not, so the mandate does not apply to us. It is only for the employees, not for the students at those schools.
 - There is a General Education Task Force that is in place for all KBOR schools, community colleges and us. Jennifer Ball is our representative on this committee. Trying to get more uniform Gen Ed classes (to make transferring easier between institutions). Not sure how this will work since Gen Ed is not the same across the state. Some programs will feel like they win and others will feel like they lose.
 - Not anticipating a change in mask policy before the end of the semester, so it is left in place. Not really hearing a call from students or faculty to

change the policy.

VI. Consent Agenda

- Faculty Senate Committee Reports- pgs 7-10
 - FAC Minutes 2020-2021 and Oct 4, 2021
- University Committee Reports- pgs 11-13
 - ADIC Minutes (May and Sept meetings)
- Motion to accept Consent Agenda by S Schmidt and K Wynn seconded; Motion approved

VII. Old Business

- Action Item 21-1 Senate Resolution on Temporary Academic Policy (Amended) pgs 14-16
 - Kerry Wynn – these may look familiar because we have been extending these. Summer is clearly included here (which was always intended, but not clearly stated.)
 - Juma moved and Zwikstra seconded. Motion passes
- Action Item 22-1 Senate Resolution on Voting pg 17
 - Hoping to increase access to voting
 - Lolley moved, S Schmidt seconded; (29 yeas, 3 nays); motion passes
- Action Item 22-3 Senate Resolution on Course Modalities pgs 18-19
 - Result of concerns brought to Senate Attention. Some faculty have been asked to teach a course in two modalities at the same time (ie Synchronous live and remote at the exact same time.) This was done during COVID, but has been found to not be an ideal practice as it decreases the ability of the instructor to focus on the entire class since the population is split (therefore decreasing credit hours for students). It may also require more effort on the part of the instructor. The resolution is tied to specific language that the Faculty Senate received which asks that the HLC requirements be adhered to and that decisions regarding this would be done in consultation with the chair and faculty or division head and faculty members. Byrne asks if there is a modality that encompasses both of these, and if not, wouldn't that prohibit asking a faculty member to teach both modalities at the same time.
 - Thor says that some of these accommodations not just to COVID, but also due to other circumstances. This should not preclude a faculty member from being accommodating to a student, but should prevent the class being listed in two separate modalities at the exact same time but the faculty member only getting credit for one class.
 - Moore, says that some on SoBu have been asked to allow a combination class to keep the numbers higher (so that the class will go) but this means students can attend remotely AND in person. There is some concern that this may mean everyone will eventually have to allow students to attend completely remotely, or that

students may oscillate back and forth between in-person and remote.

- Kendall-Morwick says we don't want to add to loads without compensating them for juggling two modalities
- Thor – concerned that this would increase rates of failing/dropping (as this is what happened last Fall) Maybe need to have some classes be totally online, but not in both modalities.
- Morse – We're trying to make sure this is giving some clear ground rules to the handbook.
- Byrne – Faculty should still have the ability to accommodate students.
- Thor – Two different students that she is aware of are getting accommodations to Zoom in that have nothing to do with COVID.
- S Schmidt – this is just a recommendation and won't actually change anything.
- J Mazacheck – That is correct, it would require a policy change. On accommodations, Zoom is not the automatic response to accommodations. If you believe this is not the best option, please let Jennifer/Juli know so that it is possible to resolve that individual issue.
- Morse asked for a vote – Zwikstra moved, Wasserstein seconded, Motion Passes.

VIII. New Business- none

IX. Information Items- none

X. Discussion Items-

- ~~Modification of Procedure for Electronic General Faculty Votes on Curriculum—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek-Withdrawn~~
- Economic Conference – P Wagner would like a comment from Dr. Mazachek about the lack of masks at the conference, since there have been no policy changes at the University level.
- Morse –Clarifying that the Economic Conference happened at Washburn and there were signs on the door saying masks must be worn.
- Kendall-Morwick also had several faculty raise similar questions (since there was a similar situation at the Pitch Competition for Business)
- Ewert also asked about WUPO doing rounds without wearing masks when they enter buildings.
- J Mazacheck -Not sure I have a clear response. Community members don't have the same feeling about the mask mandates, so it is challenging. It doesn't mean that is it OK. It is fair to bring it forward, and we will have conversations about this. I completely understand your concerns.
- Morse has a regularly scheduled meeting with Dr. Farley tomorrow and will raise this issue there (in addition to the e-mail that went out yesterday). The concerns are legitimate.

- Kendall-Morwick: Is there any reason to rethink the ability to have food (since some are using food as a pretext to not wear a mask)?
- Morse -Based on comments from the Pitch Competition, there were some people eating, but others weren't and still weren't wearing masks.
- J Mazachek – there was food at the Economic Conference, but that can be confusing the issue.
- Wasserstein – This puts faculty in a difficult position, since students see some people NOT having to wear masks and then are being told they have to wear masks.
- Morse – Nurse who gave her the COVID vaccine on Friday said in Petro there is a clear defiance of students not wanting to wear masks.
- C. Schmidt – What about donors to the university? This is a difficult line because some of the donors may not agree with the masks.
- Thor – We are getting close to winter when everyone will be together in the same rooms which could increase spread. Appreciative that we get to have these conversations with different opinions and that Dr. Mazachek has taken time to call in even if “officially” off at this time.
- Morse: Congrats to Paul Byrne about the nice write-up in the paper.

XI. Announcements

- Thor – we have resumed In-person Bachelor of Fine Arts in person Exhibitions. Please come see the senior shows. Really excellent work is up.
- English has a Halloween Party this Thursday (Masks required, costumes optional.)

XII. Adjournment

- Move to adjourn at 3:48 by Marsha Griggs, seconded by _____ Motion passed.