

# Washburn University Staff Council Meeting Minutes

**February 9, 2021**

Members Present: Leah Brown, Matt Busey, Meagan Smejdir, Christa Smith, Blaine Smith, Marie Hall, Nancy Province, Erik Carlson, Jackie Askren, Beth Mathews, Jennifer Bixel, Janice Martin, Emily Schneider, Kathy Iwig

Members Not Present: Drew Liggett, James Scotti

Guests: Chris Kuwitzky, Dr. Eric Grospitch, Christy Smith, Jim Fosdick, Patty Robert, Megan Staab

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christa Smith at 3:01pm.
- II. Roll Call
  - a. Attendance was taken by Zoom chat.
- III. Guest Speaker – Dr. Eric Grospitch, Vice President for Student Life
  - a. COVID Update
    - i. Shawnee County is struggling with a low quantity of vaccines available
    - ii. Rapid Tests have been purchased, so now we will have antigen results in approximately 15 minutes
      1. Rapid Tests are available to only Washburn students, faculty, and staff
      2. Rapid Tests were approved at WU BOR last week, so they will likely be available in early March
  - b. SRWC Update
    - i. SRWC Personal Training Program was just recognized nationally through NASPA
      1. This program is free, so please feel free to utilize this program
      2. You will work with Jamie Thayer from the SRWC; you just need to schedule an appointment
- IV. Approval of January 12, 2021 Minutes (Motion)
  - a. Voting
    - i. Motion – Matt Busey
    - ii. Second – Erik Carlson
    - iii. Votes
      1. Yay – 13
      2. Nay – 0
      3. Abstain – 0
- V. Committee Reports:
  - a. Chair Report – Christa Smith
    - i. Meeting with Dr. Farley
      1. Dr. Farley is keeping updated on the following pieces of legislation
        - a. Transparency law in regard to property tax collection
        - b. Kansas Promise – modeled after America’s Promise grants; allows for tuition and potentially other funding for technical education

- c. Foster Care Bill – allows foster care students to enroll in 4-year institutions in KS for free
  - 2. SGA Initiatives
    - a. Safe Ride program – making updates to this program; the program originally had a contract with a local cab company, but are now looking at a contract with Lyft
    - b. Campus Newspaper – currently printed in hard copies, but they are not being utilized as much; considering not printing the campus newspaper anymore; Washburn Review app (College Newsource) is where you can get the information electronically
  - 3. If you have any questions for Dr. Farley, or if there is anything that we want/need to discuss, please let Christa know!
- b. Board of Regents Meeting Update – Christa Smith
  - i. February 4, 2021
    - 1. Updated Washburn Day of Giving amounts were updated
    - 2. Enrollment Updated – not quite to census yet, but enrollment is down a little bit; we are continuing fall 2021 recruitment with optimism
    - 3. School of Law Building – provided a virtual walk through
    - 4. Chris Kuwitzky presented – the budget is ahead of where we were last year, and there were some surprising areas of revenue
  - ii. Next meeting March 25, 2021 and can be streamed online
- c. All Faculty/Staff Email/Posting Committee – Jackie Askren
  - i. No meeting, no report
- d. Benefits Committee – Jennifer Bixel, Emily Schneider, Christa Smith
  - i. Scheduled for March 23, 2021 – planning to discuss BCBSKS utilization for 2020, and may also be attending a presentation from the WATCO Benefit Group
- e. Food Advisory Committee – Jan Martin
  - i. New App is available – GET
    - 1. You can deposit funds to Bod Bucks, you can view your balance, and you can report a lost/stolen card
    - 2. If you have questions about the app, please contact Janel Rutherford
- f. Parking Ticket Committee – Leah Brown and Blaine Smith
  - i. No meeting, no report
- g. Safety Committee – Beth Mathews
  - i. Most recent meeting held on January 26, 2021
    - 1. No new business discussed at this meeting
  - ii. Next meeting is February 23, 2021

VI. Old Business:

- a. Free access for Washburn & Washburn Tech employees to the SRWC for Spring 2021
  - i. Employees will have free access to the SRWC until June 30, 2021
  - ii. Free access is already active on your faculty/staff ID card, you just need to take your card to the SRWC to swipe in to the building
- b. WSGA's Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Resolution Letter
  - i. Campus will continue to allow tobacco use, and it looks like there may be some changes to the smoking locations on campus

VII. New Business:

- a. Faculty Update
  - i. Dr. Kelly Erby – discussing the impact of COVID on the lives of faculty, so they are considering extending the programs that faculty currently use to staff

1. They are looking for feedback on staff experiences during COVID to inform future initiatives to support staff during the current times, and the potential to transition back to the office
  - a. Childcare & family/work/life balance concerns
    - i. Staff members who have children they are responsible for providing care and/or access to online school for children
    - ii. Summer care for children
    - iii. Before and after school programs are either not being offered, or the enrollment is much smaller to accommodate for safety guidelines
    - iv. Balancing the transition back to the office with potentially competing family/home responsibilities
  - b. Please contact your constituents to ask about this and send feedback to Christa via email

VIII. Informational Items:

- a. Next Meeting: March 9, 2021 – Zoom Video Conference - 3:00pm – 4:00pm

IX. Adjournment (Motion)

- a. Motion – Matt Busey
- b. Second – Jackie Askren
- c. Vote
  - i. Yay – 13
  - ii. Nay – 0
  - iii. Abstain – 0

*Minutes submitted by Staff Council Secretary Meagan Smejdir.*