

Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
April 20, 2020 3:00 PM
Zoom Meeting Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Barker, Beatie, Byrne, Cook (M), Cook (S), Dodge, Friesen, González-Abellás, Grimmer, Grant, Huff, Jones, Juma, Krug, Mazachek, Miller, Morse, Prash, Ricklefs, Sainato, Schmidt, Smith, Stevens, Vandelsem, Wang, Watson, Wasserstein, Woody, Zwikstra

Absent: Douglass, Menninger-Corder, Pierce, Romig

Guests: Ball (A), Ball (J), Desota, Erby, Grospitch, Holthouse, Liedtke, Routsong, Stephensen

- I. Call to Order
- II. The minutes of the April 6, 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - Need to vote for General Faculty to approve new programs via online voting
 - Prash moved and Schmidt seconded
 - Items to be included:
 - 20-7 School of Business - Concentration in Data Analytics
 - 20-13 B.Ed. Government and Political Science Secondary Education
 - 20-14 B.Ed. Middle Grades STEM
 - 20-15 B.S. Computer Information Sciences, concentration in Data Science
 - 20-16 Minor: African American and African Diaspora Studies
 - 20-17 Minor: Museum and Curatorial Studies
 - Schmidt made a friendly amendment to include all of these
 - Wasserstein asked about items 20-8, 20-9, 20-10, 20-11, and 20-12. Each of these will be information items distributed at another time.
 - Motion to vote on new programs online passed.
 - Dr. Shermoen, longtime chair of the math department passed away April 13.
 - May 4th is our last meeting of the year. All new and leaving members should attend. Once old business is completed, officers for next year will be elected.
 - Take care of yourselves; thanks for working together to get things done.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents (Wasserstein)
 - The budget meeting included a presentation on the state of the budget which included a lot of question marks. We won't have a good grasp of things until July or August. Proposed budgets will be presented at the June meeting.

- Farley discussed Ichabods Moving Forward as well as other new ways to do things. New programs were approved, as well funding for nursing school equipment and a new roof for the LLC. A policy to give administration more flexibility over shared leave was approved; the board also approved adding *pandemic* to the emergency policy.
- Faculty were approved for tenure and promotion
 - Tenure and promotion to associate professor: Danielle Head, (Art/CAS), Alexandra Klale (Soc Anth/CAS); Linsey Moddelmog (Poli Sci/CAS)
 - Promotion to associate professor: Jane Carpenter (School of Nursing); Crystal Stevens (School of Nursing)
 - Promotion to full professor: John Mullican (Bio/CAS); Mary Sundal (Soc Anth/CAS), Kerry Wynn (Hist/CAS/Honors)

V. VPAA Update - Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek

- Moved to information

VI. Consent Agenda

- Faculty Senate Committee Reports
 - Approved the Faculty Handbook committee minutes from February 28, 2020; March 19, 2020; and March 20, 2020.
 - Approved the Academic Affairs committee minutes from March 23, 2020.
- University Committee Reports: None

VII. Old Business

- 20-19 Faculty Senate Summer 2020 Transition
- Per Morse, this is meant to formalize the conversation regarding this year's transition. Academic affairs approved the existing executive officers stay on as the new officers take on their role. Care was made to ensure this was in line with the constitution.
- Thanks from Mazachek for working to make this happen.
- Approved unanimously.

VIII. New Business: None

IX. Information Items

- Updates from the VPAA
 - Thanks from Mazachek for helping make this a smooth transition.
 - Faculty handbook will have materials coming through soon.
 - The effects of COVID-19

- Kuwitzky and Thornburgh have been looking at numbers from our funding mechanisms (e.g. tuition, city taxes, and state support). Usually these are all well separated; currently they are not. Each had seen an increase and now things are unsure.
- There are three potential scenarios that have been examined. Most likely scenario is that state sales tax and tuition will be down ten percent. Another scenario is that tuition will be down twenty percent; currently we are down fifteen percent. All in all, it is likely the budget will be six million dollars short. The deans have already worked to identify temporary and long term budget savings.
- There is a hiring freeze. Any hires will need to go through the VPAA. There is a very high chance positions will not be filled.
- Students are not liking the online experience. It is possible that we lose these students if fall is online as well.
- Planning for the fall
 - Unsure when the next wave of the virus will happen, though everything is point to November for the next outbreak. Need to ensure fifty people max in any area, with six feet of space between people to permit courses start in person in the fall. A new committee is being formed to look at how we do that. Recommendations will be made before the stay home order expires. Email Aileen Ball with interest. In the meantime, a survey will be conducted to see how faculty are doing and how they feel about remaining online come fall.
 - Wang asked if promotion and tenure will continue. Zwikstra asked about the salary increases approved earlier this year. Per Mazachek, there are no intended changes. The deadlines and process remain the same for tenure and promotion and faculty can get an extra year.
 - Schmidt suggested we might start the semester a couple weeks earlier. Ricklefs asked if those at risk employees can to remain off campus until there is a vaccine. None of this is determined currently. Morse asked if it could be coordinated that hand sanitizers are provided in all classrooms. This can be arranged.
 - Huff asked if current faculty searches should continue. Mazachek prefers positions be managed to prevent layoffs of current faculty.
 - Questions about money coming in from the CARES act. Mazachek reported that we are to receive about 4.5 million. Approximately 3.8 million will go to WU and 750,000 to WUTech. Half will be used for financial aid with the other half to overcome COVID-19 related costs of the spring semester. Per Holthouse, use of the money can be pretty general.

- Schmidt asked if the deans will look at course sizes and adjust to ensure that limits are met.
- Mazachek explained that the response to the 2008 recession was different. The economy tanked, but WU recovered, balanced the budget, and there was a positive outcome with higher enrollment. During a recession, people go back to school. Many of the considerations made did come to fruition. We cannot plan for this one, as it is both a health and monetary crisis, affecting every aspect of our lives. Similar tools have been identified. This time there will not be the increase in students; many have said they will take a year off.
- CARES added unemployment insurance for furloughed workers. Byrne asked if we have considered furloughing workers with paid health insurance, perhaps through July to save money. Lee and Kuwitzky have been looking into it. Workers can earn up to 1100 a week if furloughed or reduced for up to 39 weeks.
- Jones asked about how much of this is public. An email will go out soon to announce the work being done and plans to start fall in person. Grospitch would avoid talking to students about these things. WSGA has been in conversation about this, specific to residence halls. Options include upselling doubles as singles to create a balance but still permitting roommates. May also attempt to do one person per room. Need to avoid putting some students in a situation that will prevent them from living on campus.
- Miller asked whether salary cuts are being discussed. This is at the bottom of the list. We would have to be super desperate to go there.
- Some international students left after the dorms were closed. Byrne was curious about whether they will return. That is still up in the air. Currently, there are 60 international students on campus in the villages.
- Wang asked about commencement. Per Mazachek, there is conversation regarding remote options, with individual departments doing this already. There will not be a summer ceremony.
- Take care of you. This is weird for everyone.

X. Discussion Items: None

XI. Announcements: None

XII. Adjournment 3:57