

**Faculty Senate
Washburn University**

*Minutes of September 10, 2007 Meeting
Kansas Room, Memorial Union*

Present: Bayens, Bowen (VPAA), Boyd, Camarda, Chorba, Concannon, Cook, Croucher, DePue, Dick, Dinkel, Ginzburg, Jackson, Jacobs (President), Lockwood, Lunte, Martin, Munzer, Nobo, Ogawa (visitor), Patzel, Peterson, Pownell, Prasch, Ramirez, Ray, Rodriguez, Russell, C. Schmidt, S. Schmidt, Sharafy, Shipley, C. Sullivan, S. Sullivan, Walker, Winchester (proxy for Renn-Scanlan), Zhang (visitor)

- I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:30 PM.
- II. The minutes of the May 7th, 2007 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks.
 - A. President Jacobs announced that a group of faculty, including a small number of Faculty Senators, would be traveling to a General Education conference either in October or November. Those in attendance were asked to contact President Jacobs if they were interested in attending.
 - B. Volunteers were also solicited for the Higher Learning Commission Self Study Report "Roll Out" committee. This committee is charged with making certain that Washburn faculty, staff, and students are informed that the self study will be occurring this coming May as well as the major findings of the self study. Again, those in attendance were encouraged to contact President Jacobs.
 - C. According to the Faculty Senate Constitution, from time to time an assessment of the processes and procedures of the Faculty Senate should be determined. Those in attendance supported the idea of forming a Committee of the Whole to evaluate the workings of the Senate. President Jacobs, with the assistance of Secretary Russell, agreed to determine the outcomes of each of the action items that have been approved by the Faculty Senate.
 - D. A group of adjuncts requested the Faculty Senate to consider recommending that Washburn University reimburse a portion of an adjunct faculty member's tuition when they take a class at Washburn. Those in attendance agreed that this is an issue that should be addressed by the Faculty Affairs Committee.
 - E. It was noted that the list of Faculty Senate committee appointment were attached to the agenda and that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was largely able to give people their first choice
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representatives to the Board of Regents.
 - A. At the July 27, 2007 meeting, the Board approved the University budget, the dual JD/MBA program, a budget of \$5 million for the athletic strength and conditioning facilities and other renovations to Whiting Field House, and the hiring of Dr. Robin Bowen as VPAA.
 - B. At the September 7, 2007 meeting, the Board authorized a change in the University's life insurance provider. Under the new plan, each employee will continue to have a maximum of \$50,000 life insurance provided by the University at no charge to

the employee and will also have \$150,000 of accidental death and dismemberment coverage. Employees will have the option to purchase additional voluntary life insurance coverage through payroll deduction. The Board also approved the renewal of the University's health plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. For the first time in four years, there will be a premium increase of 5 percent. No other changes will be made to the health insurance program.

V. Faculty Senate Committee Reports.

A. The minutes of the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting of 05/08/2007 were accepted.

VI. University Committee Minutes.

A. The minutes of the Research Grant Committee meeting of April 25, 2007 were accepted.

B. The minutes of the International Education Committee meeting of May 3, 2007 were accepted.

C. The minutes of the Assessment Committee meetings of October 12, 2006, November 16, 2006, February 14, 2007, and April 10, 2007 were accepted.

VII. Old Business. There was no Old Business.

VIII. New Business.

A. With respect to the "Establishment of a policy relating to the review of student "research." (07-04), the motion was passed to create a task force whose task will be to address the issues contained with the action item. It was also agreed upon that the task force should be composed of an equal number of Faculty Senators and IRB members. The recommendation of the task force will be treated as Old Business at a subsequent meeting.

IX. Discussion Items.

A. Baili Zhang, Director of International programs and Area Director for the International Education WTE, discussed the use of student gpa as a determining factor in funding WTE study abroad classes. Baili noted that Appendix D of International Education scholarship guidelines states that gpa could be used as a factor in scholarship decisions and in scholarship eligibility. Baili also noted that the difference between the highest and lowest scholarships was only \$300 and that gpa was used as a result of other differentiating factors. Others made the argument that the rules for determining scholarships existed prior to, and therefore are not applicable to, WTEs. It was also argued that students should not be excluded or dissuaded from a WTE due to their gpa, despite the fact that alternatives are available. It was also argued that student funding should not be adversely affected by their gpa. In short, each WTE student should be treated equivalently. It was recommended that it might be more useful to not consider WTE funding a scholarship.

B. It was announced that faculty will not have the opportunity to receive monetary compensation for supervising of WTE projects, with the exception of the School of Business faculty. It was noted that the decision about faculty compensation have been made without consultation with the Faculty Senate leadership, as is

required according to the approved Washburn Transformational Experience document. It was reported that this recent development was established by senior administration. Concern was voiced as to whether the administration would make additional changes without faculty input or approval and that would negatively impact those individuals who are responsible for supervising WTE projects. It was noted that the WTE is a voluntary project and that faculty participation is not mandatory and that the option of disapproving the WTE will always remain a possibility. The Faculty Senate directed President Jacobs formally to inquire as to how these decisions are being made, and to work toward the establishment of the committee required by the action that created the WTE.

X. Announcements.

A. With regard to HiPACE, it was reported that the computers were delivered in May. Due to the renovations in Stoffer, the computers were placed in Bennett. The machines were to be administered by the HiPACE's principal investigators, but are now under the control of ISS. Discussions are being held with the administration so as to rectify this situation.

B. Those in attendance were asked to review the unapproved Conflict of Interest policy and the previously established Grievance policy. Of interest is whether the Grievance policy is sufficient to also serve as a Conflict of Interest policy. Those with comments are encouraged to share and/or send them to the members of Faculty Affairs Committee.

XI. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Russell, Secretary to the Faculty Senate