

Faculty Senate
Washburn University

Minutes of Sept. 8, 2008 Meeting
Washburn B, Memorial Union

Present: Arterburn, Berry, Bowen (VPAA), Byrne, Camarda, Chorba, Concannon, Croucher, Ding, Ginzburg, Jackson, Jacobs, Kaufman, Kerchner, Lockwood, Lunte, McGuire, Melick, Naylor, Patzel, Porta, Pownell, Prasch (President) , Ray, Routsong, Russell, C. Schmidt, S. Schmidt, Sharafy, Shipley, Sullivan, Unruh, Walker, Wunder, Wynn

I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:34 PM.

II. The minutes of the May 12th, 2008 Faculty Senate meeting were approved, but amended with a note concerning the wording of action item#08-02 (VII. Old Business). On the General Faculty agenda, the item listed the review cycle for the Washburn Transformational Experience as every three years.

III. President's Opening Remarks.

- A. President Prasch welcomed the newly elected Faculty Senate members to the first meeting of the 2008-2009 academic year and invited Carol Vogel, Equal Opportunity Director, to speak to Senate members for 10 minutes about the changes to the university's grievance policy (please see summary under Information Items). Prasch delivered the report from the Faculty Representatives to the Board of Regents, and then continued with his opening remarks.
- B. President Prasch also summarized the issues the Senate officers discussed with Robin Bowen over the summer. At the suggestion of OASIS, Bowen has convened a special committee on General Education that will report directly to the Academic Affairs Committee, which in turn reports to the Senate. Prasch also mentioned that he is still working on the language of the joint appointments description that never made it into the handbook as approved by the faculty ten years ago. He will discuss the document with Lee Boyd and bring the issue before the Senate again in the near future.
- C. Citing the current mood of anxiety due to proposed budget cuts and unresolved issues concerning WTE compensation, Prasch decided to open up the floor to issues senators felt needed addressing this year. Senators cited sixteen concerns that are summarized briefly below:
 - 1) Faculty compensation in regard to WTE scholarly and creative works.
 - 2) Responsiveness of ISS and control issues.
 - 3) A growing disregard (not by students) of faculty on campus as illustrated by ISS (ie lack of administrative privileges by faculty members) and micro-managing by administrators of class sizes.
 - 4) ISS invents policies the faculty have never heard of before and implements them even though they negatively affect faculty research. A key example for disdain of faculty is the fact that although they won the HiPACE (High Performance Academic Computing Environment) innovation grant, ISS took

administrative control and this has seriously hampered faculty access to research materials. (Karen Camarda and Tom Prasch will soon be working up an action item on this issue).

5) Funding for the International WTE.

6) What is the strategic plan of ISS?

7) Questions (and frustration) about why Parking Lot J is no longer reserved for faculty.

8) Faculty and students alike are still unclear about the WTE requirements. The process and website need to be clarified so both students and faculty will understand their obligations.

9) Assessment.

10) Enrollment/ retention. The university paid experts a significant amount of money to evaluate enrollment issues at Washburn and the faculty would like a report on what exactly the experts recommended.

11) Is the WTE positive or not? What role, if any, does it have on decline in enrollment?

12) Enrollment is often difficult due to website difficulties.

13) We need to keep pushing the advancement of library facilities because it has been too low for entirely too long.

14) Reservations about the pre-employment disclosure release.

15) Faculty formerly had access to \$100,000 in funding for research projects, but the amount was cut to \$50,000. Though the Senate recommended the sum be moved back to \$100,000, the administration has yet to respond to the recommendation.

16) Faculty should have a voice in budget decisions at the Board of Regents level.

IV. Report from the Faculty Representatives to the Board of Regents.

A. Prasch reported that the Board of Regents met four times over the summer break. At the first meeting, the Board listened to a report on the overspending of \$500,000 in scholarships due to a programming glitch. The second meeting dealt with issues of absorption of KAW, which has taken massive amounts of administrative time. The Board of Regents also discussed the 2% budget cuts.

V. Faculty Senate Committee Reports.

A. Russ Jacobs, Chair of the Electoral Committee, reported that there was only one nominee on the ballot to replace the At-Large Senate position G. Crews left vacant. Jacobs reported that the ballot would be sent on Sept. 15. Michelle Shipley raised the question of whether all faculty members, on an annual contract though not on tenure track, were eligible to run for the position. After some discussion, it was decided that as long as a faculty member is on an annual contract, he or she may run for a Senate position.

B. Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting of April 7, 2008 were accepted.

C. Minutes of the Academic Affairs Committee meeting of April 21, 2008 were accepted.

VI. University Committee Minutes.

A. Minutes of the Library Committee meeting of May 5th, 2008 were accepted.

B. Minutes of the Internal Education/International WTE Committee meeting of May 8th, 2008 were accepted.

- C. Minutes of the Research Grants Committee meeting of April 30th, 2008 were accepted.
- D. Minutes of the Curriculum Grants Committee meeting of April 29th, 2008 were accepted.
- E. Minutes of the Faculty Grants Committee meeting of April 29th, 2008 were accepted.
- F. WU Library Strategic Plan 2008 – 2010 was accepted.
- G. Minutes of the Assessment Committee meetings of October 26, 2007 and January 25, 2008 were accepted.
- H. Minutes of the LMS [Learning Management Systems] Subcommittee of August 27, 2008 were accepted.

VII. Old Business.

- A. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve action item #08-08 (“Procedure for the conduct of General Faculty meetings”). The item will go before the General Faculty and then on to the Board of Regents.

VIII. New Business.

- A. Discussion was given to action item #08-09, entitled “Revision to the Composition of the Academic Affairs Committee.” Mike Russell, concerned about issues in voting equity, proposed the action item. Prasch suggested the item was revisiting an old issue. Russ Jacobs defended the composition of the AAC, saying that the composition works as it is and that CAS has more votes because it has more than half of the university’s faculty members. Mark Kaufman argued two points: functionality and equity. He claimed that the more faculty members across the campus give their opinions, the more diversity involved in the working up stage of items, a fact that he believes strengthens the senate. He also argued that the majority of majors are not in the college and gave the rough analogy of the House of Representatives (based on proportions) vs. the Senate (not based on numbers). Prasch insisted that the Senate had already hashed this out before and put it before the faculty. Bowen mentioned that the deans and the VPAA were left out of the new description of the AAC composition, and Russell mentioned that this was intentional, the idea being that senators were wary of the deans’ presence at senate meetings. Shaun Schmidt mentioned that all meetings are open and that deans are free to attend meetings. Karen Ray agreed that the absence of deans from AAC membership was ideal, citing the dominating presence of administrators on the University Council in the past. She said that with the UFC, the issue of control by administrators was originally very important. A motion was made to close discussion, but James Concannon proposed a friendly amendment to the item, suggesting that “(CAS, SOB, SON, SAS)” be replaced with “other than the School of Law.” The amendment was accepted by Mike Russell and the motion to close the first reading was approved. The document now reads “The Academic Affairs Committee shall consist of two (2) Faculty Senate members from each Major Academic Unit other than the School of Law, and the Senate representative of Mabee Library/CRC. Each member will be elected to a one-year term by the Faculty Senate from its ranks.”
- B. Prasch handed out a paragraph on joint appointments that VPAA Bowen, Prasch, Sullivan, and Wunder worked on revising this past summer. He emphasized that he handed out a provisional draft he intends to run by Lee Boyd. The draft, according to Prasch, will give senators a text to work with this next year. Tony Naylor, who worked on the document 10 years ago when it was first passed,

wondered why the approved wording never made it correctly into the by-laws and handbook. Jacobs suggested that we need to make sure that items are carried through after they are passed in the senate and then properly changed.

IX. Information Items.

A. Carol Vogel said that the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights reviewed Washburn's grievance procedures and recommended changes. She reported that the Office of Civil Rights did not believe the university had a narrow enough time frame for complaints and recommended a 10-day limit. Vogel said that the university did not feel this was appropriate because it may stifle complaints in individuals who might need more time to work up the courage to lodge a complaint. This is why the language now reads "10 days is normally appropriate." She also mentioned that the university does not permit retaliation against individuals and passed out two handouts on "Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity/Harassment—Complaints" grievance procedures and "Q and A's for the discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure."

B. Prasch asked the Senate committee members to break out in groups, elect chairs, and then give their names to Sullivan.

X. Discussion Items.

There were none.

XI. Announcements.

A. Russell, as a member of the benefits committee, learned at the last meeting that Mike Eichten recommended the university increase employee insurance premiums by 10 percent. Russell reported that although the type of claims remained largely the same this past year, the cost for roughly the same services increased by \$700,000.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Courtney Sullivan, Secretary to the Faculty Senate