

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
Monday, February 27, 2017
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Thomas Room

Present: Annie Collins, Sungkyu Kwak, Bobbe Mansfield, JuliAnn Mazachek (ex officio), Kandy Ockree, Takrima Sadikot, Sean Stacey, Vanessa Steinroetter, Melanie Worsley

Guests present: Alan Bearman, Shaun Schmidt, Jennifer Wiard, April Dohrman

Chair Kwak called the meeting to order and asked everyone present to introduce themselves. Chair Kwak then moved to the order of the business meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2017 meeting

The minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting for review. The minutes were approved and will be forwarded to Faculty Senate.

2. Discussion Items:

a. Feasibility study for +/- grading system

This agenda item was received from Tom Prasch but he was not present at this meeting. The committee members offered some discussion but felt overall this item should be deferred to a later meeting.

b. STAR report

Dean Bearman indicated the annual report was submitted for the Academic Affairs committee's annual review.

Jennifer Wiard offered the students who are involved in the STAR program showed an increase in their GPA from the time they started to the end of that calendar year. At this point in its existence, it is felt the STAR program is beneficial to those students involved.

Chair Kwak thanked Jennifer, April and Alan for coming to the committee meeting, and for their work on the report.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the STAR report. All approved.

3. Action Item:

a. Revised Prior Learning policy

Chair Kwak indicated the Prior Learning Credit Agenda item was recently revised based upon conversations held since this appeared before the Faculty Senate last week. He indicated the last few paragraphs on the last page were specifically added.

Faculty Senate President Shaun Schmidt asked for the floor to offer some explanations on why this agenda item was returned to the Academic Affairs committee. FS President Schmidt indicated he felt Washburn University didn't have to follow along with the Kansas Board of Regents inclinations as we were not a Regent Institution. However after reviewing the available information and having many conversations, he now feels that he was inaccurate and Washburn does need to align with the KBOR concept policy. FS President Schmidt indicated we simply do not have a choice in this matter. FS President Schmidt stated the departments will still have some control as to how the implementation will happen.

Thoughtful discussion occurred as senators questioned FS President Schmidt on points of the concept policy, administrative discussions he has been involved with at KBOR and how the scores would impact departments.

There was a question as to whether Washburn University administrators are truly included in conversations with the Regent Institutions. Dr. Mazachek indicated she believed we were truly engaged with the other institutions but will follow up with the KBOR administrators to ensure our voice is heard.

There was discussion as to why informational items needed to process through committee meetings and faculty senate. All felt, after discussion, this was an excellent way of ensuring Senators received information about impactful changes so they can provide details to their departments and divisions. It was also discussed that if the Senators disagreed with an informational item, they can disagree with the item for the record and then we as the institution would move forward.

It was requested that the revised agenda item be returned to the Faculty Senate for the March 6, 2017 meeting as an old business action item.

A motion and second were made, with all approving this to be moved forward to Faculty Senate.

4. Revisit 9/12/16 minutes

Chair Kwak asked for discussion regarding the request from Parliamentarian Rick Barker to revisit the 9/12/16 minutes. Parliamentarian Barker indicated in the Faculty Senate meeting that the minutes should be returned for correction.

Many of the Academic Affairs committee members expressed their views that minutes can not be changed because they aren't "liked". The members indicated the minutes were not incorrect and they were factual.

Chair Kwak asked the committee to review the sentences of:

Changes, should there be any, will be brought forth to the Academic Affairs committee through agenda items. The agenda item will be submitted to Faculty Senate as an Information Item.

Chair Kwak asked if the committee members would agree to a word change of THE to THIS in the last sentence. All agreed this was an acceptable change, and hopefully will appease those who had the initial issue.

A motion was made to change the word to "This"; it was seconded and all members approved the editing change to the 9/12/16 minutes. The modified minutes will now be sent to Faculty Senate.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.