

**Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 7, 2016
3:00 PM – Kansas Room, Memorial Union**

PRESENT:

Ball, Barker, Erby, Francis, Garritano, Kapusta-Pofahl, Kwak, Mansfield, Mazachek, Memmer, Moddelmog, Ockree, Petersen, Sadikot, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, Siemens, Sourgens, Stevens, Treinen, Tutwiler, Wasserstein, Weiner, Wohl, Worsely, Zwikstra

ABSENT:

Alexander, Farwell, Mastrosimone, Matthews, Prash, Scofield, Smith, Stacey, Steinroetter

GUESTS:

Foster, Grospitch, Rutherford, Peterson, Daniels, Traylor, M Routsong, Mikkelson, Rodriguez

- I. **President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.**
- II. **The minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 3, 2016 were approved.**
- III. **President’s Opening Remarks:**
 - **To answer a question from last time with regard to the graduate council minutes from last time (the incomplete policy): this was a change in process and not a policy, which is why it didn’t need Senate approval.**
 - **The Academic Affairs committee is working on prior learning assessment, but waiting on departments and units to gather data to provide the AAC.**
 - **The Faculty Affairs Committee is still discussing release time for the Faculty Senate Secretary and will send an action item soon (they are waiting on Schmidt for language). In terms of the Financial Aid committee, Liedtke will be reaching out with VPAA to discuss a possible new form of this committee (perhaps one that is more advisory).**
 - **Update: We are still waiting on the intellectual property policy from a few years ago to come forward for discussion. Also, the appeal policy for faculty is still waiting to come forward for discussion, too. Mazachek said that she and Fried had discussed the appeal policy (since it involves revising the bylaws, it needs to be reviewed by others first. Mazachek also indicated that in terms of the intellectual property policy, they have had difficulty getting the Washburn Board of Regents to sign off on such a policy, so they will be talking about this some more in the near future (particularly in terms of how such a policy is affected by online instruction).**
 - **Schmidt indicated that he and VPAA Mazachek might move to make the Faculty Handbook revision committee a standing committee rather than just one that is ad hoc.**
 - **VPAT search update: it is being re-opened. The timeline is “as quick as possible,” but nothing specific has been set.**
 - **VPAA search committee update: the ad is done and should be going out soon. The timeline is to have Zoom interviews and on campus interviews by the early spring.**
- IV. **Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents: NONE**

V. VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek:

- We are moving forward with the previously mentioned salary increase, to be implemented at the first of February for faculty (if it's approved by the Washburn Board; it is on the agenda for this Thursday, November 10, 2016).
- Summer school: We're looking at providing (at least) a rough draft of the summer schedule earlier so spring and summer planning can happen earlier. For next year, the university may push to move it forward so that spring and summer enrolling can happen at almost the same time. Mazachek indicated that they are trying to target freshmen and sophomores for summer classes. Petersen wondered if summer school enrollment needs its own period for registration and advising. Mazachek indicated she would share this idea with the team addressing summer enrollment. Garritano wondered if there would be financial aid considerations. Mazachek said this was being considered. Modellmog wondered about how the limits were set for each department that governs how many courses can be offered. Mazachek was unsure of specifics for departments, but knows that the University seeks to make \$2 million overall for the summer sessions.
- Handbook committee: Mazachek would like to explore how we can connect this committee more closely to the Senate in the future. She said she would work with Schmidt to propose some language and bring it before the entire group seeking to make it a standing committee. Ball wondered what would be different since it had been flowing through FAC and coming to Senate for approval; Mazachek clarified that she thought there was value in making this a standing committee. Barker said that he liked the idea so that they could access and approve the minutes from this committee. Petersen noted that if it is more normalized and Senate has the opportunity to provide feedback to such a committee, it would make some faculty less resistant to proposed changes coming from this committee.
- Mazachek noted that we have awarded many grants recently and thanked the faculty for their work.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports: NONE

VII. University Committee Reports:

- The Graduate Council minutes from August 29, 2016 were received.
- The Research Grant Committee minutes from April 27, 2016 were received.
- The Honors Advisory Board minutes from September 7, 2016 were received.
- The International Education Committee minutes from September 15, 2016 were received.
- The Graduate Council minutes from September 26, 2016 were received.

VIII. Old Business: NONE

IX. New Business: NONE

X. Information Items: NONE

XI. Discussion Items:

- Open Educational Resources (initiated by WSGA President, Malcolm Mikkelsen, and WSGA Vice President, Nikki Rodriguez): Rate of inflation of textbook prices has out-paced the inflation rate of tuition increases. Online passcodes specifically are very expensive.

Openstacks specifically is a great source that several schools (K-State and KU) are using to help reduce costs for students. Ball said flatworld is another great source for open source texts (at least for lower-division courses), though she noted that the quality was not as good. Still, Ball asserted that they're free versus the \$200 her intro course students might otherwise pay for texts, so she argued that key question is how much better are our current texts versus the open source? Petersen said that he only teaches two courses with textbooks in order to keep costs low, but it is hard work to provide and keep up with the resources necessary to get away from texts completely. Perhaps, he suggested, we could share course modules from D2L outside of our departments/unit to help with teaching similar subjects. Kapusta-Pofahl indicated that the support provided by some textbook publishers is, to an extent, what students pay for. Ball noted that the expense associated with such support will likely get better in the future since they open resource sites often do include shared information from professors. Modellmog noted the equipment at the library to print entire textbooks would be very expensive. Sadikot pointed out that some opensource text images aren't as high quality which can be a factor for certain classes (like Cell Biology), and that some texts lack good organization; thus, not all disciplines will be able to adapt to what is offered on open source sites. Ball indicated that the texts she uses are put out by Rice University and the books are written by various committees representing MANY universities (which has led to some organization and content issues). Ockree indicated that another option that is available to almost everyone is a custom book that some publishers offer on their websites (only in black and white) for about half of the price of the standard book. Daniels (from the bookstore) noted that they are exploring cheaper options. Specifically, she said that they are working with a company that allows faculty to make their own customized textbooks. Red Shelf, for instance, allows some faculty to design their own texts and then post these online. She encouraged faculty to also coordinate with their publishers to inquire about cheaper options that also work with the bookstore. Daniels also pointed out that the Washburn bookstore is somewhat unique in that it is a department of the university and contribute/help Washburn economically. Wasserstein argued that we as faculty should put more pressure on textbook companies to be more transparent (and thus, competitive) about prices. Schmidt wondered about the economic implications of making some open source; Rutherford indicated their revenue has been decreasing annually as all of the changes mentioned previously happen, but asserted that they were trying to remain competitive. Grospitch noted that it might be more helpful for the bookstore to inquire earlier about what books will be reused in upcoming semesters to help students (in selling them back and buying them used). Daniels said that this is why textbook orders need to be submitted (as requested) in October. Scofield asked about buying back books that are used once a year; Daniels noted that this is an issue since they will only buy back books that will be used during the next semester.

XII. Announcements:

- Weiner encouraged Senators to see *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*.
- Grospitch reminded everyone that the Veterans Day ceremony is on Friday at 11:45am.

XIII. President Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.