

Academic Affairs Committee Minutes
Monday, September 25, 2017
3:00 – 4:00 pm
Thomas Room

Present: Sarah Cook, Anne Fredrickson, Jason Jolicoeur, Sungkyu Kwak, JuliAnn Mazachek (ex officio), Tom Prasch, Kandy Ockree, Sean Stacey, Melanie Worsley

1. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2017 meeting
The minutes were sent to the committee for review. The minutes were approved and will be forwarded to Faculty Senate.

2. Action Items:

- a. BS in Anthropology-Forensics Concentration

The agenda item was introduced by Chair Worsley indicating changes have been proposed in the requirements for the Forensic Anthropology major and minor.

A motion and second were made to discuss the agenda item.

Dr. Sundal provided an overview of the forensic anthropology program as it was developed in the beginning stages. When the forensic anthropologist, Dr. Klaes, was hired it was determined changes should be made to assist students to be better prepared within the discipline.

After thoughtful discussion, the committee recommended a friendly amendment to Dr. Sundal regarding language within the rationale section of the agenda item.

Rationale:

~~When this program was created, it was designed as an Academic curriculum.~~
Dr. Alexandra Klaes envisions not only an Academic program, but also a curriculum that puts upper-division students in the field practicing forensic anthropology (under her guidance). The goal is to also have a degree that prepares students (1) who wish to enter the labor market immediately upon graduation and (2) who wish to go on to graduate school, whether in forensic anthropology or medical school.

Dr. Sundal agreed the agenda item should be amended by the committee prior to sending the agenda item to Faculty Senate. Suggestions were also made to have the CAS change form modified

Once all answers were provided, a motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed changes. All committee members approved this agenda item.

b. Continued discussion on Freedom of Speech statement

A motion was made to reconsider the discussion the Committee had at the last meeting. The motion was seconded with all approving further discussion.

Chair Worsley asked several questions about the initiation of the discussion, and committee members provided information as to why this was introduced. It appears a few members indicated Washburn has policies that might cover freedom speech and academic freedom however they are disjointed, and difficult to find.

Chair Worsley asked why this committee is asking for consideration of a task force? After thoughtful answers, it was determined members wished to take a proactive approach for the campus regarding these policies.

Committee members discussed the processes of creating a task force and some concerns regarding the development of statements.

It was determined the Academic Affairs committee should request the Faculty Senate to consider the exploration of academic freedom and freedom of expression statements through the creation of a task force assembled by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Vice President of Student Life, 2) if a task force is to be created, Faculty Senate should generate a list of names of faculty for consideration to participate on the task force named by the Vice President of Academic Affairs, and 3) if the task force is created, regular and on-going communication regarding the progress should be made to Faculty Senate.

A motion was made and seconded to have this submitted as a discussion item to Faculty Senate for the next meeting, scheduled for October 2, 2017. Chair Worsley asked the Academic Affairs committee members to attend the senate meeting to help with the discussion.

The committee meeting was adjourned with a motion/second and all approved.