

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 30, 2020

3:30-5:00 pm Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Senators Present: Allen, Asmatulu, Bailey, Bann, Billingham, Bowen, Buerge, Carlson, Celestine, Connor, Core, Decker, Dowling, Figy, Hakansson, Hammond, Jarman, Johnson, Lockard, Ma, Marble-Flint, Markova, Mirasol, Moody, Mozzani, Muthitacharoen, Myose, Navarro, Newman, Parham, Price, Pulaski, Ramana, Rawson, Robinson, Ross, Schwartz, Small, Sternfeld-Dunn, Tamtam, Weheba.

Excused: Harrison, Hull.

Absent: Bray, Bukonda, Byun, Flynn, Jeffres, Kalomo, Lee, Millar, Mullins, Solomey, Sylvester.

[Attendance 2020-2021](#)

| Agenda Item | Notes / Discussion / Process / External Link | Outcome/Action/Completed |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Call to order | 3:30 pm | |
| Informal statements and proposals | None | |
| Approval of minutes | November 9, 2020 | MSC |
| President's Report Aleks Sternfeld-Dunn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGA Cr/NCr resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The root is that students are feeling stress now; President Sternfeld-Dunn encouraged compassion and pointed out the University's work of extending the withdrawal deadline and the ability to petition to stay on scholarship. A faculty members' letter is read pointing out that faculty have worked tirelessly and are tired as well. • Spring mental health days - March 16, April 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These days will be singled out for sharing information about help resources for students. Senator Myose points out that classes shouldn't be canceled because the semester is already abbreviated. President Sternfeld-Dunn suggests instead of canceling to check in with students and work to be flexible. • COVID-19 Updates - Informational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Class capacity caps will be the same for the Spring as for last Spring and this fall. Vice President Teri Hall indicated that Fall 2021 may have mid-week breaks rather than three day weekends - allowing more breaks in the semester while discouraging travel. • University Town Hall will be on December 11 at 3:00 pm | |

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| Committee Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed revision to 3.17 Political Activity Policy • Senators pointed out that the definitions of national service are only Congress and the language says ‘leave shall be granted’ though it has been interpreted by KBOR’s attorneys to mean ‘leave must be taken.’ Rebecca Reiling of Human Resources says it is because one can’t receive State pay at WSU and the Kansas Legislature. • Suggestions will be sent back to Faculty Affairs | |
| Old Business: | None | |
| Freedom of Expression Statement Vice President Teri Hall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Concerning Free Speech, Expression, and Academic Inquiry at WSU • Vice President Teri Hall updated the Senate as to the goal of this statement - WSU has good freedom of expression policies but wanted a philosophical statement to undergird it. • Senators express concern that this document could prevent discussion on free speech policies and has real consequences for situations in class. VP Hall indicates that the university is creating a bias incident response group that would give support to students while providing educational, non-punitive responses to issues. • Senator Allen raises a concern of the process, indicating that this is an administrator-created statement which is appropriate, however it isn’t something that the Faculty Senate should vote on. If the vote fails, it would look as though the senate were against free speech - which it was clear from discussion senators supports free expression. • VP Hall asked faculty to provide feedback through President Sternfeld-Dunn so that every constituency feels they have a part in shaping the document. | |
| As May Arise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Bailey reads another statement from an Applied Studies constituent expression concern for coaches, administrators, and staff who have been terminated with a buy-out package - the main concern being whether the university’s budget crisis is made worse by these agreements. President Sternfeld-Dunn notes that the \$7.5 million buyout of Gregg Marshall comes out of the Athletics budget which is independent of the University budget. • Senator Billingham will be leaving the senate in order to go on sabbatical for the fall. He thanks the senate for their time and their work and wishes everyone a good semester. | |

Next Senate Meeting: Adjourned for Fall

Adjourn: 4:53 pm

Prepared by John Hammond