

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025

3:30-5:00 pm Hubbard Hall 211

Attendance

Present: Amos, Asmatulu, Billingham, Bowen, Boynton, Butler, Cossell, Delacruz, Foster, Gilstrap, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Kuhlman, Li, Loibl, Lynch, Ma, Marble-Flint, Moscoso, Muether, Myose, Nelson, Nicks, Ott, Price, Rai, Ray, Ross, Sherif, Showstack, Small, Sterrett, Stone, Sun, Tew, Thompson N., Thompson, V., Zhu

Excused: Celestin, Cooper, Dowling, Dudley, Figy, Jarman, Kirby, Pang, Proctor, Sherwood, Williams

Absent: Bussard, Gregory, Markova, Moody

Call to Order

- President Muether at 3:31 pm
- Two items added to agenda via unanimous consent
 - Discussion of House Bill (HB) 2348
 - KBOR Faculty of the Year (FOTY) award revision

Approval of Minutes

- [January 27, 2025](#) – one correction noted by Senator Billingham; passed unanimously as corrected.

Informal Statements

- Senator Billingham – [Statement on HB 2348](#)

President's Report

- [HB 2348](#) – Zach Gearhart – Weekend was spent reviewing the bill. Shared the history of Emporia State University and their dissolution of tenure (which is currently being litigated). Notable points shared:
 - Tenure is a property right under constitutional law, but the Bill states that tenure is not a property right.
 - Court costs (estimated \$2mil) to litigate if the bill passes
 - Likely will lead to problems with attracting faculty
 - President Muma does not support
 - Working with KBOR to strategize
 - House judiciary committee meeting on 2/11/25
 - Expedited timeline (out of house and to senate)
 - First hearing and first committee (many more steps)
 - Talking with governor and legislators

Much discussion and many questions among senators. Main takeaways include:

- We are still in information gathering mode.

- Regarding individual faculty/staff reaching out to KBOR - work through senate exec committee to stay within policy. May reach out individually as private citizen, but not as WSU employee.
- KBOR is working to understand the perceptions and practical implications of tenure.
- Trying to learn about impact at the federal level: grant sources, indirects, pauses on grant funding, etc.
- Looking at R1 implications.
- President Muether – next steps
 - Council of Faculty Senate Presidents (COFSP) rep will be there
 - We will set a meeting as needed to the best of our ability, remote meeting is likely.
 - More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- University Staff/Faculty Town Hall - Virtual town hall Feb 27, 8:30-10 am on [YouTube](#); strongly encouraged to submit questions in advance to townhall@wichita.edu
- Tuition Assistance Program Survey – should receive the email with the survey soon. Please complete it by March 7th
- WSU/WSU Tech Joint Senate Meeting - March 31 at 3:30 pm at the Marcus Welcome Center
- Faculty Awards – FS Executive Committee will review KBOR FOTY and WSU President’s Distinguished Service award nominations on Feb 17. Thank you for the nominations.
- Update on Budget Process - Project Bridge taskforce provided recommendations to President Muma. Feedback expected shortly. Then the committee will share. Senate Planning and Budget reviewed. Also involved with the Budget Advisory Committee. Detailed updates are expected at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

- Vice President Sherif – [Rules Committee report](#).
 - Email sent today regarding FS elections.
 - Call open until 2/21, votes due 2/28.
 - Nomination process and eligibility reviewed.
 - College level in March
 - Nominee for Rules Committee, Fine Arts representative approved unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

- Faculty Advancement, Retention and Excellence (FARE) – Dr. Jan Twomey and Dr. Debby Adams Hinsdale
 - See [slide deck](#)
 - Several questions from senators regarding DEI research – please reach out to FARE and/or research office for guidance.

- FOTY Award Revision – For non-tenure track (NTT) – revised language to the [criteria](#) related to adding NTT and adjusting timeline and revised language to the [award description](#). Please send any input to President Muether, who will take to KBOR if needed.
 - Clarification that the 15-page limit does not include CV.

As May Arise

- Billingham – Concerns regarding the inclement weather language from university being confusing. Faculty maintain prerogative as to how to deliver their courses. Faculty are encouraged to please communicate with students. Second comment: emergency meeting regarding current legislation, no provision for emergency meetings in rules. Should consider adding.
- Rai – Concerns with the accommodations policy, such as delays with assignments and implementing the accommodations. Recommends consider a policy change.
 - President Muether referred any accommodations questions to the office of [Student Accommodations and Testing](#).

Adjourn

- Next meeting is February 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm in Hubbard Hall 211.
- President Muether adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chris Stone