

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2025

3:30-5:00 pm Hubbard Hall 211

Attendance

Present: Amos, Asmatulu, Billingham, Bowen, Boynton, Bussard, Butler, Celestin, Cooper, Cossell, Delacruz, Dowling, Dudley, Foster, Gilstrap, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Jarman, Kirby, Kuhlman, Li, Loibl, Lynch, Ma, Marble-Flint, Markova, Moody, Moscoso, Muether, Myose, Nelson, Nicks, Ott, Price, Proctor, Rai, Ray, Ross, Sherif, Sherwood, Showstack, Small, Sterrett, Stone, Sun, Tew, Thompson N., Thompson, V., Williams, Zhu.

Excused: Figy, Pang, Proctor

Absent: Gregory, Tew

Call to Order

- President Muether at 3:31 pm – [Meeting Slide Deck](#)
- Agenda adjusted via unanimous consent
 - Dr. Hall will speak before Z. Gearhart

Approval of Minutes

- [February 10, 2025](#) – passed unanimously as submitted

Informal Statements

- Senator Billingham – Student Senate (i.e., Student Government Association [SGA]) passed a resolution (A.R. 67-013) and encourages Faculty Senate (FS) to do something similar. More information can be found in this [Sunflower article](#).

President's Report

- May 12th FS meeting will be in 233 Santa Fe Trail room with SGA setup (streaming, microphones, etc.).
 - Myose – will be a big meeting because the final meeting has both out-going and in-coming senators, so room may be tight. Per President Muether, this was the only date that the room was available.
 - Moody – shared more of the rationale on why she's been requesting remote option for meetings and expressed gratitude for FS Executive Committee looking at solutions.
- Updates from KBOR Meeting
 - Met virtually on Feb 12 due to the weather; see slide deck (#4) for overview.
- Informational notices
 - 11.10 Poster/Flyer Policy for [University Grounds and Facilities](#), [Comparisons](#)
 - 11.12 Use of [University Campus for Free Expression Activities](#), [Comparisons](#)

Committee Reports

- Vice President Sherif – [Rules Committee report](#).
 - Nominees for an Electrical and Computer Engineering Senator and for Rules Committee, Engineering representative, approved unanimously.

New Business

- Introduction of Free Expression and Campus Posting Policies – Dr. Teri Hall, Vice President for Student Affairs
 - See above policies (11.10 and 11.12) for full language. Shared some background info and rationales for the policy changes and will revisit later, given time constraints today. Clarified that the updates are part of routine policy review and due to recent events. The motive was to ensure the policies are clear.
 - Much discussion among senators, including (but not limited to) seeking additional clarification for language in the new policies, asking whether other universities have similar policies and if other universities were reached out to in this process, and whether SGA has reviewed the policy changes.
 - Clarification that while Student Affairs prefers that faculty and students support the changes, neither is required.
 - President Muether will add this to the next FS agenda for further discussion.
- Senate Response to HB 2348 – President Muether
 - [Position Statement of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents of the Kansas Board of Regents; Opposition to Kansas House Bill No. 2348.](#)
 - See Old Business, Updates on HB 2348.

Old Business

- Updates on HB 2348 – Zach Gearhart, Chief of Staff
 - Background – was introduced roughly 2.5 weeks ago by Representative Stephen Howe; removes “property right” from tenure and is retroactive.
 - Update - There was one proponent and then roughly 27 opponents. Those that testified, clarified how tenure is awarded, how it is reviewed, etc. Bill has been moved in/out of committees and submitted back into the Committee on Judiciary by the House Speaker to avoid “dying” in committee, so it is no longer tied to legislative deadlines.
 - Next Steps – Provided an overview of how the bill will be handled moving forward; Mr. Gearhart will follow closely. Most likely committee will meet on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Since we don’t know the exact path the bill will take, trying to cover multiple bases: frequent contact with colleagues and engaging house leadership and members and also senate committee members and Governor’s staff. Bottom line we must be flexible.
 - Much discussion among senators, including how updates will be shared, steps faculty can take, and access to real-time bill information.
 - Overview of answers to questions
 - Everyone can attend Mr. Gearhart’s legislative updates, typically weekly on Friday afternoon. Notices are in WSU Today.
 - The bill can be followed at https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/committees/ctte_h_jud_1/.

- Communications with the legislature: Be respectful in any correspondence; be factual, not emotional. Must reach out as private citizen, not as faculty at WSU.
- Senate Response
 - Reviewed draft of “Resolution in Defense of Tenure and Opposition to Kansas House Bill HB 2348”
 - Several editorial changes proposed and accepted as friendly amendments.
 - Motion, second, and unanimous FS approval of the [Resolution](#).
 - President Muether will disseminate to WSU leadership, the WSU SGA president, the WSU Staff Senate president, KBOR, CoFSP, the Governor’s office, the chair of the House Judiciary Committee and the Speaker of The House.

As May Arise

- Senator Price - SB254 restrictions on undocumented individuals, to not be eligible for in-state tuition. Testimony is due tomorrow. Mr. Gearhart is aware; has asked GC to review and is closely monitoring.
- Senator Chang - how likely HB 2348 will pass? Mr. Gearhart feels there is a high likelihood of passing; not sure yet if it will have a veto-proof majority.

Adjourn

- Next meeting is March 10, 2025, at 3:30 pm in Hubbard Hall 211.
- President Muether adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by Rhonda Williams