

WSU & WSU Tech Combined Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 31, 2025

3:30-5:00 pm Marcus Welcome Center (WSU) and Microsoft Teams

Attendance (WSU)

Amos, Asmatulu, Bowen, Celestin, Cooper, Delacruz, Dowling, Dudley, Foster, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Kirby, Kuhlman, Li, Loibl, Lynch, Ma, Moody, Muether, Myose, Nelson, Nicks, Ott, Price, Rai, Rani, Ray, Ross, Sherif, Showstack, Small, Sterrett, Stone, Sun, Tew, Thompson N., Thompson, V., Williams.

Excused: Boynton, Butler, Gilstrap, Jarman, Marble-Flint, Pang, Proctor, Sherwood, Zhu.

Absent: Billingham, Bussard, Chang, Cossell, Figy, Gregory, Markova, Moscoso.

Call to Order

- President Muether at 3:44 (Technical issues)

Welcome and Introduction

- Mathew Muether – WSU Faculty Senate President
- Lauren Thornhill – WSU Tech Faculty Senate President
 - Penny Siewert representing WSU Tech – President Thornhill unable to attend

WSU President's Report

- Updates on WSU Senate and Campus Activities
 - R1 is a priority goal.
 - Project Bridge – Taskforce to find ways to fund faculty and staff salaries to move towards market-based compensation levels.
 - New Senior Executive Vice President and Provost – [Dr. Monica Lounsbery](#)
 - State funded applied learning pilot program launched.
 - New Faculty focused offices – WSU [Office of Community Partnerships](#) and [FARE](#)
 - University policy updates – Inclement weather; free expression; campus postings
 - Non-Tenure Track (NTT) forum held to get feedback from NTT faculty on their questions, needs, and requests.
 - New programs – criminal justice grad programs; ABA masters program
 - State-wide initiatives – Blueprint for literacy; Faculty of the Year award eligibility has been approved by KBOR to include NTT faculty; HB 2348; implementation of statewide gen education requirements.
 - Ongoing monitoring of the impact(s) of national policy
 - No questions from the audience.

WSU Tech President's Report

- Switched to Canvas LMS and has been a good experience so far.
- “Future Ready Centers” for high school students are thriving, especially the healthcare Center (has a waiting list); others are biology and other science courses – adding more faculty to support increased enrollment/interest in the Centers.

- Adding facilities – City Center remodel complete; automotive program has partnerships with multiple dealerships in town; Biomedical Campus in downtown Wichita.
- Book series on STEAM and will have a book signing.
- This year’s commencement will be 60th anniversary.
- Questions:
 - WSU Senator Showstack inquired about challenges that WSU Tech Senate is addressing. Siewert reported that it has been a challenge to keep up with growth and finding faculty to fill needs.

New Business

- Systemwide Gen Ed Discussion
 - WSU - Implementation has involved mapping gen ed courses to correct “buckets” and submitting exceptions; this is the first semester under the updated framework; seems to be going relatively well. Also finalizing math and English pathways.
 - WSU Tech – lots of discussions; lots of course mapping to the buckets; interested in collaborating with WSU faculty to compare findings. Also implemented the new framework this spring, may re-classify some courses; also participating in math/English pathway work and receive monthly updates
- Faculty Tuition Assistance Programs
 - WSU recently has expanded the tuition program to include faculty. Working with KBOR for system-wide Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).
 - WSU Tech - Siewert does not have any information to share at this time.
 - Questions
 - WSU Senator V. Thompson – has visited with several WSU Tech employees who are interested in taking courses at WSU using tuition assistance. President Muether will follow up and update Senate.
 - WSU Senator Price – clarification on who is eligible for tuition assistance at WSU Tech. Siewert unsure.
- Improving cross-campus connections
 - WSU Tech senate functions differently than WSU’s senate. Is an annual joint senate meeting the best format for collaboration moving forward? Consider having the two senate leadership teams meet to discuss. Siewert thinks this is a good idea for the fall.
 - WSU Senator Showstack suggests 1:1 connections between faculty in similar programs.
 - WSU Senator V. Thompson – suggests informal/social affairs between the two groups, perhaps in evenings.
 - Both senate leadership teams will discuss and bring recommendations forward to the respective senates for discussion and input.

As May Arise

- Siewert recommended collaboration on artificial intelligence or any other topic that’s of interest to both Senates.

- WSU Senator Sterritt had several questions regarding the Canvas LMS. Siewert shared that WSU Tech had a committee that looked carefully at all options before choosing Canvas. Reports that considerable training and support has been available for employees, leading to a relatively smooth transition given the magnitude of the change. Not aware of any issues that students are having. Not aware of any privacy or security concerns or issues.

Adjourn

- Next WSU Faculty Senate meeting is April 15, 2025, at 3:30pm in Hubbard Hall 211.
- President Muether encouraged attendees to mingle and enjoy the refreshments after the meeting.
- President Muether adjourned the meeting at 4:25.

Minutes prepared by Rhonda Williams