

Faculty Senate (2023 – 2024) Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024

3:30-4:40 pm Woolsey Hall 110A

Attendance

Present: Barut, Billingham, Bowen, Bradley, Bussard, Butler, Castro, Celestin, Cluff, Cooper, Dehner, Delacruz, Dowling, Dudley, Figy, Gilstrap, Hammond, Heilman, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Jarman, Kuhlman, Lynch, Marble-Flint, Markova, Moody, Moscoso, Muether, Musaji, Myose, Nicks, Pang, Parham, Pulaski, Ross, Sherif, Sherwood, Small, Solomey, Sterrett, Tew, Thompson, Wallace, Williams.

Excused: Price, Proctor, Rai

Absent: Ahmed, Allen, Bubp, Chang, Connor, Salinas Monroy, Urick

Call to Order

- President Dowling called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Approval of the minutes

- The minutes from [April 22, 2024](#) were approved.

Informal Statements and Proposals

- Senator Solomey [read a statement](#) raising concern with antisemitic signage posted in Jabara Hall.
- Senator Dehner [shared that](#) KU has voted to unionize by an overwhelming majority and compared market-comparison compensation data between faculty at unionized Fort Hays State and Wichita State.

President's Report

- KBOR extended the exceptions for the General Education program from May to July 1, 2024.
- President Dowling reported Faculty Senate Executive Committee heard concerns from Senator Heilman previously voiced at the April 22nd Faculty Senate Meeting. Faculty Senate Executive Committee referred proposed policy statements related to off-contract workload and compensation to the Faculty Affairs Committee for consideration when the committee reconvenes in Fall 2024.
- President Dowling reminded the senate of the WSU Presidents organizational restructuring and how it impacts the office of research from the graduate school.
- [Senate Committee annual reports are available online.](#)
- Call for volunteers to help drive golf carts for the state softball and track meets.

Committee Reports

- Rules Committee – Mat Muether
 - Muether brought forward the list of senators who were elected to serve for the 24-25 academic year as well as a list of senators who were nominated from the Rules Committee. Those nominees were approved unanimously by the full senate.
 - Muether also brought forward nominees to serve in committee roles. The senate voted unanimously to approve the nominees.

Old Business

- [Market-based Compensation Update](#)

Zach Gearhart, Chief of Staff, and Vicki Whisenhant, Executive Director of HR gave a brief update regarding the legislative funding for higher education pay raises, and the administration's decision to provide 1% across the board pay raises to employees. Whisenhant noted that there is a \$24M gap between where we currently stand and the median of the market.

Senator Billingham registered his disappointment in the process, observing that other priorities of the university are not dependent on a legislative veto session. He asked again how the administration plans to make this a top priority for the upcoming fiscal year.

Senator Hammond also shared his disappointment with the across-the-board raise, noting that this is against the goals of market-based-compensation, further observing 1% for the highest paid faculty member on campus is more than four times his own raise; and instead the university should prioritize those underpaid faculty in the humanities and the fine arts.

As May Arise

- Professor Twomey asked about the organizational restructuring
She raised concerns that in the past the Office of Research was not in Academic Affairs and as a result faculty requests were not high priority. Provost Lefever commented that the reorganization is bringing Industry and Defense Programs and Academic Affairs together under one leader with intention of helping the university reach R1 status. Gearhart also noted that President Muma was clear to VP Tomlin that IDP and AA would work closely together. If they do not, President Muma will ensure that they do.
- Senator Billingham asked the Planning and Budget Committee to meet their charge
He noted that this was the second straight year in which the committee didn't meet their charge and that faculty should be in the room when long term decisions are made by the Board of Trustees regarding funding university priorities.

New Business

- Passing the gavel
President Dowling shared her thanks to the Executive Committee and to all senators as we tackled difficult issues this year.

Adjournment

- President Dowling adjourned the meeting at 4:18 pm.
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4:19-4:40 pm Woolsey Hall 110A

Call to Order

- President Muether called the meeting to order at 4:19 pm.

Approval of the minutes

- None

Informal Statements and Proposals

- None

President's Report

- A word of thanks
President Muether thanked now Past President Dowling for her service to the senate and presented her the gift of a personalized Shocker basketball jersey.

Executive Committee Nomination

- Presentation of the slate of candidates
President Muether presented a slate of candidates for nomination. Each was voted on and approved unanimously by the senate:
 - President-Elect: Christopher Stone
 - Vice President: Victoria Sherif
 - Secretary: Rhonda Williams
 - At Large: Shirlene Small and Roy MyoseAnd Jay Price will serve as the appointed member.

As May Arise

- Senator Billingham thanked President Dowling for her service and recognized John Hammond for serving as Secretary for many years.
- Secretary Hammond (taking a moment of secretarial privilege to make a personal comment in the minutes) wants to also thank the senators for their support over the years. It has been a privilege to serve in this role for four years. Thanks for reading 🦫.

Adjournment

- President Muether adjourned the meeting at 4:40 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Hammond