

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 23, 2021

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

Attendance 2021-2022

Senators Present: Allen, Asmatulu, Bailey, Bann, Billingham, Boldsaikhan, Bowen, Bray, Buerge, Bukonda, Byun, Carlson, Castro, Celestin, Cerri, Clawson, Connor, Decker, Dowling, Dudley, Figy, Hakansson, Hammond, Hepburn, Jarman, Kalomo, Lee, Marble-Flint, Meyer, Muether, Mullins, Muthitacharoen, Myose, Parham, Pisano, Price, Pulaski, Rai, Ramanan, Richburg, Ross, Sherwood, Small, Solomey, Stone, Tamtam, Williams.

Excused: Moody

Absent: Baker, Johnson, Lockard, Newman, Rawson, Zewde

Agenda Item	Notes/Discussion/Process	Outcome/Action/Completed
Call to order	3:30 pm	
Informal statements and proposals	Senator Hakansson noted that President Biden signed an executive order on diversity, equity, and inclusion and included under that umbrella accessibility. Hakansson encouraged the university adopt the recognition for accessibility to be included in our DEI efforts.	
Approval of minutes	May 10, 2021	MSC
President's Report President Bailey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covid FAQs will be continually updated by the COVID Operations Team.• President's Retreat included SGA, USS, and Faculty Senate presidents in the discussion of priorities of the university.• KBOR Update – Deferred Maintenance, Gen Ed state-wide – noting that these will be discussed by President Muma and Interim Provost Lefever.• Current Mask Mandate – applies to classrooms and labs only. Offices cannot require masks, but can strongly recommend them. Senators raised questions on why a mask is not required in a building spaces – answered more space to maneuver and distance outside the classroom; question on mandating the vaccine now that it is fully approved by FDA – answered that full approval was Monday; the Covid operations team will take this up in their next meeting.• Provost Search – will be a national search; chaired by VP Golling and Senate President Bailey. Will include four additional faculty members: if you would like to nominate someone to serve, please share with the Exec team who will meet to discuss the membership in their 8/30 meeting.	
Committee Reports	Rules Committee - Susan Castro, chair - Proposed slate of nominations for positions on Senate committees.	Slate is approved unanimously
WSU President's Report WSU President Muma	Presentation Slides and Strategic plan priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates on the fee proposals – the college and online fee change was approved by KBOR;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas is required to meet “maintenance of effort” requirements for the COVID relief money that this year provided one-time funding for need-based aid of \$2.1M and an operating grant of \$1.7M; this is expected next year as well. • Bond resolution for the National Institute on Research and Digital Transformation (NIRDT) building was passed, and KBOR approved the Shocker hall refinance to get savings. • Deferred maintenance: KBOR passed a “Capital Renewal Initiative”; can’t use the mill levy \$5M building fund, it needs to come from GU fund. The fund will accumulate to \$14M over six years, with each year funding an addition \$2M. • President’s vision of priorities for 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase need-based aid to students and DEI plan. ○ Applied learning opportunities through partnerships and timely graduation with jobs ○ Digital transformation, an academic health science center ○ Compensation for employees ○ Provost search 	
<p>Provost Updates Interim Provost Lefever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of COVID safety protocols linked above. • KBOR goal of decreasing graduation rate equity gap; KBOR has contracted with the National Institute for Student Success at Georgia State to conduct a survey. • KBOR is currently considering increasing the number of credit hours that can be transferred from community colleges to four-year institutions. So far, this would only work for 1 (one) program at WSU. More information will be provided as the discussion continues. • KBOR is working on transferability of general education. This requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing a range of total gen ed hours (to be determined); George Dehner and Linnea Glenmaye are representing WSU on this committee. ○ Establish learning outcomes at specific institutions (to be determined); Will have discipline-specific committees from the Regents institutions to determine learning outcomes • WSU specific initiatives under way (Equity taskforce, DEI, Title IX training for all students) and SGA initiatives this year (Diversity week, mental health awareness, Title IX training) • All faculty are encouraged to attend the WSU presidential inauguration. RSVPs have been emailed out. 	
<p>Questions of President and Provost</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-related: question on staff being unable to enforce masking in their offices – answered staff can limit the number of people in the office to maintain distancing; Additionally, Muma notes that Sedgwick County numbers are coming down though we may see a spike. Currently offering incentive program to encourage students to get vaccinated, paid for by COVID relief money. • Senator Billingham raised the issue of ‘deferred maintenance’ of faculty pay. Specifically noting that the Market-Based-Pay report showed him significantly below 75% of his peers. “What specific steps this year are being taken to find resources?” 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muma answered that after completion of the market-based compensation study for faculty, half of the money was paid. The pandemic prevented going forward with the rest of the adjustment. He regularly has conversations with the VP of Finance and he is still committed to the program. He additionally noted that he plans to give a bonus to people on campus, to be determined. ● Senator Billingham followed up wanting to know the priority of education of our students in the university's goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muma responded that the number one priority on this presentation is need-based aid. "If we can prioritize this from the state, or philanthropically, those students come here, and the money comes with them." 	
As May Arise	Question about NTT faculty and market-based compensation that was answered individually by HR.	

Adjourn: 5:06 pm

Next Senate Meeting: September 13, 2021, 3:30-5:00 pm, via Zoom.

Prepared by John Hammond