

Faculty Senate (2023 – 2024) Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 28, 2023

3:30-5:00 pm Woolsey Hall 110A

Attendance

Ahmed, Allen, Barut, Billingham, Boynton, Bussard, Butler, Castro, Chang, Cluff, Dehner, Delacruz, Dowling, Dudley, Figy, Gilstrap, Hammond, Heilman, Hulett, Jamkartanian, Jarman, Kuhlman, Lynch, Marble-Flint, Markova, Moody, Moscoso, Muether, Musaji, Myose, Nicks, Pang, Parham, Price, Pulaski, Rai, Ross, Salinas Monroy, Sherif, Sherwood, Small, Solomey, Sterrett, Storrer, Tew, Thompson, Williams.

Excused: Bowen, Celestin

Absent: Alberton, Bubp

The meeting was called to order by President Dowling at 3:33pm

Approval of the minutes

Minutes from [May 8, 2023](#) - msc

Informal Statements and Proposals

- Senator Myose made a statement sharing that the Engineering Technology program changed its name to Applied Engineering in order that it could be accredited by a different body. He indicated that this circumvented the proper approval process for new programs: Faculty of the College of Engineering must first approve the new program, followed by Faculty Senate approval. He called on the College of Engineering to follow the appropriate approval process for this program. Two engineering Senators spoke in favor of his statement.
- Senator Dehner shared that faculty should [view a recent episode of Topeka's PBS affiliate KTWU's "I've Got Issues" program](#) that discussed the importance of tenure and academic freedom. The discussion included AAUP President Irene Mulvey.
- Senator Nicks asked that going forward, the University have a timely deadline for final updates to the syllabus template. This year, the updated version was posted August 6, long after many faculty had already prepared their Fall syllabi.

President's Report

- Welcome New Faculty
The Senate recognized new faculty in attendance and welcomed all new faculty to the University.
- KBOR Update
KBOR met in June and discussed the framework for program review (to be discussed later in the agenda), systemwide transfer, and a systemwide standard workload policy. Additionally, the Senate requested that KBOR send a report on how the RPK group and the feedback of university members informed the development of the program review framework. KBOR did not share that feedback, and President Dowling does not believe that they will.

Instructional Workload Policy to ensure all regent universities establish a standard workload policy. WSU already has a workload policy which meets the standard.

KBOR approved a systemwide transfer Associate Degree in Elementary Education.

- **Market Based Compensation (MBC) Update**
Dowling acknowledged that all faculty and staff received a 2.5% increase in salary, but that we will fall below market. The University administration are continuing to keep this as a priority, and faculty are encouraged to watch the recording of [President Muma's Fall Address](#) which does discuss this. HR is scheduled to talk to the Senate on this topic in October.

- **Academic Integrity Committee Update**
This committee is the pool of faculty who hear cases of alleged academic integrity violations. The Office of Student Conduct will be planning established, regular hearing dates and times in order that faculty pool members can plan accordingly. The desire is that 6 faculty members from each college and 12 from engineering serve, as the goal is to have at least two members on each hearing come from the college of alleged violation.

VP Hall has asked the Deans to solicit names for nomination. Those names will be forwarded to the Rules Committee for confirmation and then to the Senate for confirmation.

President Dowling will follow-up with Student Conduct to learn the standing hearing times so that prospective faculty members can know if it fits their schedules.

- **CES / SPTE Update**
The SPTE system has sunsetted, and CES will be used by everyone this fall. Senator Billingham noted that although he was critical of the system in the Senate, having used it in Spring and Summer he learned it was seamless and the data provided was valuable.

Senator Allen raised a concern that 5 responses is required in order for any quantitative results, which is a problem for low-enrollment courses. Senator Castro, who serves on the Faculty Evaluation Committee noted that this is an appointment that has been raised in the committee, and they are currently working on a solution for this fall. Also raised was that there is currently no university policy regarding whether to include or not include student comments for tenure and promotion. This will be discussed, but in the mean time, faculty should continue to follow existing department / division / and college guidelines.

Senator Castro also encouraged faculty members who have questions to watch the [August 2023 ARC session about this](#), hosted by Sandy Ranney and Carolyn Speer.

- **NTT Appointment Policy Update**
The NTT Appointment Policy that was approved by the Senate in the Spring term is currently in the General Counsel's office for review. Both President Dowling and Provost Lefever are both following up in order to ensure that the policy changes are enacted.

Committee Reports

- **Rules Committee – Mathew Muether, Chair**
 - The Rules Committee presented for approval a nomination of a senator and for a membership on a committee. The nominations were approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Muether noted the large number of vacancies on the Senate and standing committees, and encouraged faculty members to volunteer for service. Additionally, the committee interest survey will be sent out again to all faculty members in order to seek out volunteers. More information about the charges of the standing committees [can be found here](#).

Old Business

- **General Education Transfer Policy – Update on Implementation**
Senator Muether, former Chair of the General Education Committee, shared progress of the general education implementation committee. They have submitted the master list of all general education courses allocated to the appropriate buckets. KBOR provided feedback, which AVP GlenMaye shared with the committee hours before the Senate meeting. This information will be shared with the Senate in the future.

In July, the committee submitted all exceptions to the general education policy. There were 53 total exceptions in programs due to accreditation.

The committee will reconvene in September for revising the catalog, degree sheets, websites, etc to reflect the changes. This has a deadline of January 2024.

- **Faculty Evaluation Alignment Committee – Update on Implementation**
President Dowling shared that a “Program Manager” position is being created to interface between the university stakeholders and the vendor as WSU adopts the new faculty evaluation system which unites the FAR and T&P documentation. This role is just through production of the system, and Rachel Crane has expressed interest in serving in this role.

New Business

- [Program Review Process and Framework](#)
AVP Ashlie Jack shared the linked information about KBOR's update to the program review framework. She noted that much of the requests by KBOR are already met by WSU and that other institutions did not have the same robust review process.

WSU will be formally reviewed in the 2025-2026 year, with that review including all program reviews from the previous 8 years – the last two reviews for each program in the four year cycle.

Additionally, KBOR wants every institution to review specific programs yet to be determined. The list will be provided by September 30, 2023 and submitted to KBOR in Spring 2024. When WSU receives that list, administration will meet with faculty and the chair of the program and the dean and determine an action plan. Provost Lefever indicated that the list will be shared with the Senate.

Senator Billingham voiced concern that KBOR could shutter programs if they were not “mission critical.” Provost Lefever noted that the provosts put forward to KBOR the definition that programs the “align to the university mission” are “mission critical.” She noted, for example, physics and philosophy are mission critical as they serve a large number of degree programs. When pressed as to whether faculty could be eliminated if programs are closed, Provost Lefever provided reassurance, saying, “if I were sitting in your shoes, I would not be alarmed.” She shared that at WSU we are trying to prevent programs from being on “the list” by being proactive and making program changes if we begin to see declining enrollment.

Senators expressed a desire that the program review form be shortened and better guidance for locating required information. AVP Jack noted that the form had been condensed, aligning the KBOR and HLC requirements.; though the need to meet requirements of KBOR and HLC means some complexity. She also noted that the template now has instructions guiding programs where to look for particular data.

Senators also expressed concern regarding the KBOR metrics of “51% employed in the region” and five year minimum salary. AVP Jack replied that in areas where this isn’t met, for example graduates go on to prestigious out of state positions, this can be shared in the narrative to “tell the story of your program.”

- **WSU Connect Proposal**
Provost Lefever shared a plan to use the vacated Wonder School space to house a new welcoming destination for all K-12 student engagement. The idea is that any programming with K-12 students and the community can begin at WSU Shocker Connect and then travel to their respective locations. For the timeline – September 11 will be a walkthrough of the space, the university will then begin looking for funding for minor renovations and hiring a director who will be housed in the space and coordinate its use. The goal is to have an opening in March.

As May Arise

None

Adjournment

President Dowling adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm

Minutes prepared by John Hammond

Next Senate Meeting: September 11, 2023