

Faculty Senate
Washburn University

Minutes of September 23, 2013
3:00 PM Kansas Room, Memorial Union

Present: Arterburn, Ball, Chamberlain, Edwards, Francis, Frank, Fernengal, Florea, Friesen, Jackson, Kitts, Lunte, McMillen, Mercader, Palbicke, Pembroke, Reynard, Roach, Rubenstein, Russell, Schbley, Sheldon, Smith, Stevens, Stoner-Hawkins, Sun, Treinen, Ubel, Wade, Wagner, Weber, Weigand, Weiner, Wisneski, Wood

- I. The meeting of the Faculty Senate was called to order at 3:05 PM, Matt Arterburn presiding.
- II. The minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of August 26, 2013 were approved.
- III. President's Opening Remarks
President Arterburn reminded those in attendance that updates for the Faculty Handbook will be coming before the Faculty Senate.
- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
Arterburn reported that the health plan will be renewed. There are no suggested increases. A new Flexible Spending Account agreement between the University and ASI Flex will replace the University's agreement with Security Benefit. The administration will investigate if we can move to a more competitive rate for the Family Plan, in keeping with the rates at peer institutions.
- V. Report from the VPAA, Dr. Pembroke
CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND LEARNING. After receiving input from faculty at town hall meetings, information on the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning will be sent to HLC for approval. The Center will feature faculty development opportunities, funds to establish new courses, travel funds, and other opportunities to enhance teaching. An Advisory Board will be formed.

FINK/FARLEY PROFESSORSHIPS. Nominations for the Fink Visiting Professorships and Farley Professorships should be received by early October.

VISION 2022 DOCUMENT. At recent roundtables, there has been discussion on whether Vision 2022 is part of the original Strategic Plan or an appendix to the Strategic Plan. Anyone who wants material from the Strategic Plan embedded within Vision 2022 should notify the Vice President.

STOP-THE-CLOCK. In discussions on the tenure process moving through the University, one item being considered is a Stop-the-Clock feature which would allow a candidate to ask administrators to stop the clock at any time during the process.

DEANS SEARCH COMMITTEES. The searches for deans are continuing with John Mullican as chair for the CAS Search and Harrison Watts as chair for the SAS Search.

VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports

The Faculty Affairs Committee Minutes of October 29, 2002 were tabled until the Faculty Senate meeting on October 28, 2013.

VII. University Committee Minutes

A. The Assessment Committee Minutes of August 22, 2013 were accepted.

B. The Honors Advisory Board Minutes of April 13, 2013 were accepted.

VIII. Old Business

None

IX. New Business

None

X. Information Items

DIVERSITY CLIMATE SURVEYS, 2010 & 2013. Kim Morse reported that the University is making significant progress through a willingness to work across college lines to create a diverse climate. Morse cited "Respectful" and "Supportive" as two areas in which respondents continue to rate the University at a high level. According to the 2013 survey, one of our greatest areas of improvement has been in our inclusion of regularly offered courses and course material on race, culture, ethnicity, and other issues of diversity. Challenges still remain. Twenty-three percent of respondents still feel that the group they identify with is not an active part of campus community life. Many respondents also feel that they must hide something about their group in order to fit into the University. In particular, the University needs to attend to such groups as veterans, the LGBT community, students with disabilities, non-traditional students, and students from a broad range of religious affiliations, ranging from atheist to fundamentalist Christian. Morse concluded, "There are still conversations to have."

Morse added that Sharon Sullivan was elected chair of the Diversity Initiative Committee for the 2013-14 school year.

FACULTY VOTING. Sarah Ubel volunteered to assist Bill Roach, General Faculty Secretary, when D2L faculty voting is required.

XI. Discussion Items
None

XII. Announcements
The next Faculty Senate meeting is set for October 28, 3 PM.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.