

**Washburn University  
Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
October 2, 2017  
3:00 PM – Forum Room, BTAC**

**PRESENT:**

**Barker, Cook, Erby, Fredrickson, Garritano, Grant (Emily), Grant (Erin), Hockett, Jackson, Jolicoeur, Mansfield, Mark, Memmer, Modellmog, Petersen, Prash, Schmidt, Schnoebelen, Sheldon, Sourgens, Stacey, Todwong, Wasserstein, Watson, Watt, Wohl, Worsley**

**ABSENT:**

**Black, Hickman, Krug, Kwak, Ockreee, Scofield, and Steffen\***

**GUESTS:**

**Holthaus, Powell (\*present on behalf of Steffen), and Simmons**

- I. **President Schmidt called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.**
- II. **The Faculty Senate minutes of September 18, 2017 were briefly amended and approved.**
- III. **President's Opening Remarks:**
  - **Schmidt noted that we still need a School of Nursing member (outside of Senate members) for committee work.**
  - **Schmidt encouraged senators take part in the Strategic planning meeting dinners to share your thoughts.**
  - **Finally, Schmidt noted that the agenda for 10-16 might be light so this meeting may be cancelled.**
- IV. **Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents:**

**Worsley reported the following from the most recent meeting:**

  - **The new health care plan changed so that the top 3 pay tiers will start paying for health care coverage, and deductibles and co-pays have been increased for all levels. She also noted that there would be a new vision plan, changes to short- and long-term disability coverage, and broader mental health care options are also being added.**
  - **Sharon Sullivan and Dennis Etzel were both recognized for their community involvement.**
- V. **VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek:**
  - **Mazachek said that this evening is the first of several discussions of cross-campus academic issues (tonight's topic will be on the quality of online education).**
    - **Barker wondered if the cost of online education versus face-to-face classes would be addressed. Mazachek indicated that the discussion would focus only on content of online courses but that the topic is worthy of discussing at some point. Sheldon added that she had also heard students distress over the cost of online education.**
  - **Mazachek asked senator to please attend one of the 4 strategic planning sessions and encourage their colleagues to do so, as well. She said they anticipate the sessions will last approximately two hours, and indicated that they're looking to complete this process by the end of October.**

- Mazachek said the student success collaborative was also approved at the recent Board of Regents meeting. She also said there will be a presentation about this program to Senate in the coming months as they're hoping to implement the program in time for fall 2018 advising.
- Finally, Mazachek said the consensual and familial relationship policy has moved out of committee and is being reviewed by e-staff. It should be sent to the Faculty Affairs Committee (as a discussion item) soon. Petersen wondered why it would only be a discussion policy—is it because it doesn't just affect Faculty? Mazachek said his assessment was correct. Barker said we should develop a resolution to send along with it. Mazachek asked what we did with the gun policy, and encouraged us to be thoughtful because of the precedent actions regarding such policies would set. Mazachek said she didn't think there was a rush on this policy, but that there had been a substantive process behind it, so she is comfortable with a support/not support resolution from the Senate. Prasch said we could just then express our support (or not) as we did with the Conceal Carry policy. Schmidt wondered then if FAC should do a resolution that accompanied it. Mazachek said she hoped we could still have open discussion in the FS generally to finalize the discussion rather than possibly stifling it by sending it out of FAC with such a resolution. Erby wondered if such a resolution should then come after the discussion in FS. Mazachek agreed that a resolution should come after a final version is prepared so as not to stifle discussion.

**VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports:**

- The Academic Affairs Committee minutes from September 11, 2017 were approved.
- The Academic Affairs Committee minutes from September 25, 2017 were approved.

**VII. University Committee Reports:**

- The Honor's Advisory Board minutes from February 8, 2017 were received.
- The Interdisciplinary Studies Committee minutes from September 5, 2017 were received.
  - Schmidt noted that the change in KS Studies noted in these minutes would also have to go to Academic Affairs for approval.
- The Library Committee minutes from September 20, 2017 were received.
- The Assessment Committee minutes from September 14, 2017 were received.

**VIII. Old Business:**

- 18-2 Faculty Handbook-Adjuncts and Instructor Qualifications (was presented by Mazachek). Cook wondered about the timeframe for current CEP instructors to gain the qualifications newly required under this policy. Mazachek said that this was included in the policy, and that such requirements will go into effect in 2022. Petersen wondered if this would bring Washburn in compliance with Higher Learning Commission (HLC) standards. Mazachek said that it would. The motion was passed unanimously.

**IX. New Business: NONE**

**X. Information Items: NONE**

**XI. Discussion Items:**

- AAC Task Force to Explore Academic Freedom Policy and Freedom of Expression Statement (was presented by Worsley). Schmidt added that the AAC minutes reflect that they support this action, but thought discussing the action here would be helpful. Prasch said this was in

part from our statement regarding the events in Charlottesville and also reflects a broad statement nationwide that we should consider with regard to academic freedom (since in our handbook they're two different concepts, but they have connective frameworks in common). Petersen asked if we're looking for one expression that covers both or to address the issues separately. Prasch said it would ideally cover both. Petersen wondered if it makes sense to look at these two issues with a single task force. Prasch said he doesn't believe they're in conflict from a policy perspective, and the template from the University of Chicago provides a potentially useful framework for considering them together. Worsley noted that the current academic freedom policy is currently in the handbook; is it going to move? Petersen was concerned with having an understanding of the outcome of this task force; he suggested forums for discussion to help foster a better outcome. Fredrickson said that such a task force would help us consider these issues before doing anything with the policy. Garritano noted that academic freedom implies an academic context that is linked to instructional issues/expression where as freedom of expression is much more broad and different concept. Barker wondered who would approve such an item if it comes along, and asserted that faculty should be part of the approval as such a policy would be part of the Handbook. Prasch said that any changes to the Handbook would have to come back to the Senate. Watt wondered if the question is really action from a task force or the Senate as a whole; what does a 'task force' look like? Petersen noted that these two ideas are different, but that a task force may not cover academic freedom. Mazachek interjected that academic freedom and freedom of expression should be explored together (as academic freedom is found within freedom of expression, and thus, two separate committees might be looking at the same things). Sourgens argued that these aren't really rooted in the same concepts, as in one, we're look at who has and may present the truth and the other refers to how we engage in political discourse. Jackson said that the language between these concepts is different on the surface as the concepts have different 'missions.' Jolicoeur observed that he didn't seem to hear opposition to the task force; maybe just some confusion about the ends of the process. Wasserstein expressed that he's not in favor of treating these separately (particularly for any faculty member who's creating art). Barker reminded everyone that we're just providing feedback. Watt suggested some key topics that had been discussed include: Should these concepts be considered together or separate and who will be on the committee (she suggested that an eye to diversity on that task force would be positive). Mazachek said we should appoint the best task force possible to ensure we're not wasting time and ensuring the best outcome while also expressing a variety of perspectives. She also said it should be thorough and indicated that it doesn't have to be a quick process).

**XII. Announcements:**

- Prasch encouraged all to attend the Kurdistan forum on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm in Henderson 112.
- Mark reported that Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> would be a pottery "throwing night" sponsored by the Art Department.
- Holthaus invited everyone to attend the Byron Hurt presentation "Locker Room Talk or Toxic Masculinity? Let's Talk" on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in the BTAC.

**XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm.**