

**Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 4, 2019
3:00 PM – Forum Room, BTAC**

Present:

Barker, Beatie, Byrne, Cook (Matthew), Cook (Sarah), Erby, Fredrickson, Grant (Emily), Grant (Erin), Hickman, Jones, Krug, Leahy, Mansfield, Mazachek, Morse, Prasch, Sheldon, Smith, Steffen, Thor, Todwong, Wasserstein,

Absent:

Jackson, Jolicoeur, Juma, Memmer Menager, Menninger-Corder, Pierce, Ricklefs, Tso, Wohl, Worsley

Guests: Ball, Desota, Grospitch

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of February 4, 2019 approved.**
- III. President's Opening Remarks**
Barker is still doing union lunches Friday before break.

Moddelmog brought it to his attention that the Henderson elevator broke on Friday and some faculty cannot get to where they need to be. The freight elevator could be used but requires steps.

WGSA is restarting their smoking resolution efforts with an ad hoc committee of all members of campus to become a smoke free campus. First effort tis to move the Henderson spot. The resolution will be emailed out. Thor suggested that there may be safety issues to moving them to darker areas of campus.

Executive committee to have a short meeting after this one.

KBOR is revisiting an idea to move degree requirements from 60 to 45 hours upper division hours. It is not well supported by most academic members. They are using mostly anecdotal information. We would like to see data supporting their claims about transfers to universities from other institutions.

Next senate meeting is March 18th, right after spring break. Waiting to see whether university committees meet – if not we will likely cancel. Sheldon noted that the week of the 18th is the only week for advising so she would likely opt out.

- IV. Report from the Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents**
Weather prevented many from attending (the university had been closed early) and the minutes are on not on the website. Sabbatical decisions were released, however including: Melanie Burdick, Vanessa Steinroetter, Marguerite Perret, Kayla Waters, Gerald Bayens, Louella Moore, Pamela Schmidt, Andrea Boyack, Emily Grant, and Jeffrey Jackson.

The next meeting will be April 3.

- V. VPAA Update—Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek**
We have started the first meeting regarding budgets.

- VI. Faculty Senate Committee Reports:**
Krug from the electoral committee stated that there are no elections this year as there are at large people who started last year and they are two year members. They will go back through records to see how long the term is to make sure this is correct. Brie Jefferies, who used to make up the faculty census is not here anymore. Someone else is doing this now and will be sending it to the committee for calculations. Barker stated this needs to be completed shortly after spring break.

Thor convened faculty affairs once this year and plans to meet again to revise the language for non-reappointment for tenured faculty. They have taken votes on handbook related items. They are moving on to the children on campus policy and could not find something official. Need that ASAP so that they can make adjustments.

Byrne asked the status of freedom of expression materials – Juli was not yet in attendance to answer. The committee reported out and no one knows what happened to it as of yet. Wasserstein said there was something Friday about it returning to faculty senate for review.

Morse reported that Academic affairs met in January to discuss the BS in tech administration, but there was nothing else coming in. Plans to meet in April to hear from Bearman regarding the STAR program.

Barker asked why the Midterm grade changed from being on my.washburn to an email progress report. Tate and Bearman decided to use this as the midterm grade check instead of the my.washburn to prevent being onerous. Barker suggested that progress reports are voluntary, while midterm reports are not and was concerned that it had not been addressed by the faculty. Jones likes having everything in one place rather than having multiple sources of grade checking. Cook (S) asked if there were due dates for these and if there is a way to make the schedule more public. Tate said there is a due date, and a way to distribute these days can be entertained.

VII. University Committee Reports

**Faculty Handbook Committee Minutes of December 11, 2018 were received
Academic Diversity & Inclusion Committee Minutes of December 11, 2018 were received**

Library Committee Minutes of February 12, 2019 were received

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Information Items

XI. Discussion Items

Details for the HLC visit were presented by Tate. Wanted to make sure everyone knows about the next Q and A session which is tomorrow, in Convocation Hall at 3:30. Quest is the week after spring break. On the first day, the materials will cover history of Washburn. The second day there is a switch to harder questions. She is still waiting on a few people to sign up for the At Large group. There is not a timeline for HLC; they have not asked for anything other than one official piece of information. The timeline will be sent out as soon as possible. Not sure if they will want to talk to Senate. They will want to confirm, however, a shared governance process, that curricular decisions are made starting with the faculty, and the process is transparent. Encourages people to come to one of the open sessions.

Campus climate issues were brought up by Grant (Erin) who passed out a packet of anonymized tweets, facebook posts, and student text messages. There have been issues regarding racism, xenophobia, ableism, homophobia, and transphobia on campus, as well as issues regarding sexual harassment and assault being taken seriously. Has happened since she started and this is an example.

Jones has not talked to one student of color on campus who feels safe or seen on campus. He read a quote from Tovar (student) who is "tired and feels like they [admin and faculty] are not here to support us.... Does not feel safe... feels unwanted. I would like to see an official board" to address these issues. Classes he met with today were upset by it. Smith asked about the location of the snapchat, which was unknown but not on campus. Jones referenced the lower retention rates of POC and that perhaps this can provide some insight to that. He continued with a quote from Matthews (student) from BSU, suggesting that this "sets back as growing community, happens over and over with no consequences." A HALO student stated that they "love WU, but issues of culture belittled and not supported by administration, which hinders education, people have transferred because of this." An anonymous student who fears retaliation, stated that they feel "a lack of support which discourages attendance... environment of racism, not the video but the environment, student has a reputation of being a racist."

Barker stated that due to this not being on campus, the student cannot be expelled or face a legal repercussion. Cook asked about the values that we are trying to portray. Sheldon reported that they dismissed a student for black face on K state campus. Grospitch corrected this: student did not get expelled, but left due to peer pressure; there is a free speech conundrum, creating a negative environment for our students. While there is a harm, it is not a direct threat of physical harm or assault. Wasserstein stated that while not a person of color, she has a feeling that what we are hearing is probably just the tip of the iceberg. Barker referenced the campus environment post 9/11 in which the issue was addressed in all classes to avoid retaliation against those on campus. Krug asked if there was a judicial review board to talk about these things with a public response. Thor suggested a plan to deal with this rather than silence. Morse reported this has been a consistent student complaint that they want to be but are not heard. Something needs put together, a faculty and student body, with shared governance, to address these things. There needs to be a public space where something can happen. Jones asked if students would agree to a code of conduct as a public university – can we expect them to agree to a higher standard? Grospitch answered that this is not successful at a public institution. He would like some grace from faculty to address the issues that come up on campus, as they are working to address the climate issues on campus. A shared governance has some possibility and he would like to engage with faculty.

Barker asked whether a task force should be created consisting of senators who would reach out to students regarding what may be done to address these issues in a crisis moving forward. There was agreement by many in attendance, and Wasserstein moved for creation of this task force. Prash seconded the motion. Barker appointed Grant (Erin), Jones, Prash, and Wasserstein to meet with concerned students, create a proposal for a response team consisting of faculty/staff/students, and come back with a proposal for first reading at the next senate meeting. Cook (S) stated that this was a good idea, that after the KState incident, some great things happened. Jones stated that Walter has proposed a panel regarding climate issues via BSU, they are tired of being the only ones on campus who are saying anything. Who are the white people who are allies?

Byrne asked about a past survey on campus climate. Morse stated that she led the survey and that a primary finding was that students on campus felt they had to hide something about who they are to fit in on campus. Wasserstein said that the response thus far from the university included the student in the video being a part time student is harmful in that it minimized their relationship to WU and part time students in general which is bothersome. Jones reported a knowledge that student has this pattern of behavior. Morse question whether a pattern of behavior show something, or whether it was being drunk once or multiple times is when the issue comes up. Wasserstein would like to get more clarification regarding these issues. Mansfield mentioned it was not on their radar and this is not in line with their ethics. Grant (Emily) asked if there a mechanism by which faculty members might find out about

this; would like to see these issues out to all members. Could have had this discussion with students in class today.

Wasserstein wants to prevent bullying as a way to proceed. Jones explained that the WU Twitter responded – but not to faculty, consistency across outlets. Barker said that Early should be sure to make the announcements regarding official university statements. Erby announced a WUmester even with University Council and ACLU April 4 at 2 about hate speech on campus and social media, as well as an upcoming free speech panel. Jones said that students would be interested in knowing we are taking steps. Grant (Emily) in addition to not feeling safe, and there is no one speaking about it except for them. We need them to know we hear them.

XII. Announcements –

Prasch is showing Z, Ebert's favorite movie of 1969, on the 50th Anniversary of its release.

Cook stated that this has been an awkward year with weather. We need a ready-made policy, as it seems sometimes full day or night closings are made too soon. JuliAnn wondered if we can open back up at 5pm? There were so many times we had to make decisions and we need to keep in mind the people at Tech and the main campus. There will be protocol made before the next time it happens.

Beattie announced open education week at the library. Stop by for related events 1130 – 130 every day this week.

XIII. Adjournment 4:09