

Washburn University
Meeting of the Faculty Senate
March 7th, 2022 at 3pm
Zoom Meeting Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Byrne, Daniels, Ewert, Farkas, Florea, Friesen, Ginzburg, Griggs, Huff K, Juma, Kay, Klaes, Lockwood, Moore, Morse, Noonan, Ricklefs, Rivera, Sainato, Schmidt C, Schmidt S, Smith D, Smith M, Thor, Toerber-Clark J, Wagner, Wang, Wasserstein, Woody, Wynn, Zwikstra

Absent: Kimberly, Kohls, Lolley

Guest(s): DeSota J, Luoma S, Wisneski M, Grospitch E, Ball J, Erby K, Lanning S, Burdick M, Liedtke R, Jones C, Barker R, McManis T, Williams Z, Sellak M, Sibold R, Pierson M, Bluml J

- I. Call to Order at 3:01 pm
- II. Approve minutes- Moves by Zwikstra, 2nd by Ewert. Motion passed
 - February 21, 2022 (pages 2-11).
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - Thanks to Tonya and Tracy for work to keep up with all of the discussion during the last two meetings.
 - April will be busy, so we will add a May 2nd meeting to switch officers/senators
 - Thinking about switching to face-to-face meetings in April, would like input from the group.
 - Congratulations to Dr. Mazachek on her appointment to Midwestern State University. We are grateful for her leadership here. Shared governance is strong here because of her leadership and collaboration between many groups.
 - Faculty endures, and will be here going forward. We have had many VPAA's and Interim VPAA's. Each had strengths and knew the importance of shared governance. I know WU will continue to honor this tradition and our moto *Non Nobis Solum*. We can add time to talk about this at the end if we want to.
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update- K Morse and T Ricklefs
 - Non since last meeting
- V. VPAA Update - Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek (not here; Dr. Ball – extends her congrats to Dr. Mazacheck and noted that this is a loss for us. We will carry on.)
- VI. Consent Agenda – Moved to approve by Ewert and Kay seconds. Motion passes
 - Faculty Senate Committee Reports-
 - FAC February 14, 2022 (pg 11)

- University Committee Reports- none
- VII. Old Business - none
- VIII. New Business- none
- IX. Information Items-
- X. Discussion Items-
 - Consistency in the Defense of Academic Freedom. (Paul Byrne)
 - Wanted to have a discussion item based on comments a couple of weeks ago looking as potential issues with Academic Freedom. We must be consistent with this. We must defend it from external and internal threats. (We cannot be hypocritical.) Council of Faculty Senate Presidents passed a statement I was less than thrilled about; at Washburn University we passed a Freedom of Expression Statement that I feel better about. KM – Timely to remind ourselves of those commitments.
 - Safety and Equity Concerns for ending Washburn’s Mask Mandate (Corey Zwikstra)
 - Brought up on behalf of others in CAS. Chris Jones – concerned that we will have KN95 masks for students who might still want to wear them. Have had several students say they are absent because they are concerned about returning without masks. Grospitch -These are available at SHS and Facilities. Morse – How has everyone experienced this in the first couple of days? I told my students that I would continue to masks and hope that they would respect anybody’s decision to continue to mask or not. Don’t know what we can do about the anxieties. Thor – Good chance to check in with our students before Spring Break. Many are excited about not having to wear masks. I am excited to see this next phase. I’m glad to hear it’s all going to be supported through KN-95 and Student Services. S Schmidt – Weird to have so many “new” students (since I haven’t seen their full faces before.) Ricklefs – Made an announcement in class that students can email to let me know if they want me to keep wearing tmask to class. I will wear if they ask me to. C Jones – Anonymous survey where ½ were excited to remove vs ½ to that didn’t want to have them off. Only 1-2 wanted him to wear the mask the whole time, but most wanted him to wear if he gets close to them. There is quite a bit of disagreement about students. Ricklefs – chat: Concern from students about lab classes where students are so close to each other. Klales – asking about what students need to do in KBI (temp check, masks, etc.) Wasserstein – won’t know which students are immunocompromised and student shouldn’t have to say, so we need to be aware of this. Morse – NPR ran a story that immunocompromised people found last couple of years liberating because they could be out in public since everyone was masked.

- What do we think about being face-to-face for the last two meetings? Mark Smith – Cannot attend in person (due to kid pickup duty). Morse – I understand, because it allows more flexibility and to have more visitors. What are the tech capabilities of the Forum Room, might not be best for hybrid meetings. Kansas room in Union is more capable of hybrid meetings. There are some things to get used to. Ricklefs – hybrid option would be nice, as this is pretty short notice and could cause some scheduling issues. Think about at least hybrid. Toerber-Clark: I support advanced planning, as I have several back-to-back meetings on Monday, and Zoom allows me to get there. Wagner – It would take me time to get adjusted to get all the in-person paperwork/etc for hybrid. Byrne – Let's not make everything more complex for people; just stick it out for the rest of the semester. Morse – Maybe just go with face-to-face for the last meeting (May 2nd) S Schmidt – really concerned about hybrid (given what we learned about hybrid classes) and it doesn't give everyone the same kind of interaction. Chat comments - IW: Incoming Senators wouldn't have much input on that. KM – Send me your thoughts and we will figure out the best path to take. I'm not committed one way or the other. Part of me would like to see everyone's face in person before I finish.
- Do we want to talk about today's announcement (Dr. Mazachek leaving)? Zwikstra – slightly worrisome that she is leaving, so we would have new VPAA/President. Concerned that a business person would become the head of the university (given current trends). I'm basing this on nothing. Morse – That's not a nothing, it's a trend (business leaders). I think she wanted to end her career here. M Smith – Keith Mazachek is in our department, concern about how that will affect our department, given small program review. Ricklefs – ties into what Paul was saying earlier about Academic Freedom; we lose accreditation if we aren't teaching about discrimination, diversity, etc. J Mazachek consistently navigated that well, and it takes a true talent to do that in this day and age. Morse – Many of us have had a chance to work with her and watched her work through tough situations with grace. It is a loss. Zwikstra: Never hold it against someone who leaves, but when they leave we wonder what the ramifications are, is there something else that will manifest in some other fashion. Morse – This was truly the opportunity. Grospitch – This was an opportunity for Juli. She wanted to be a President and it presented itself. There was no push/encouragement to do so. Morse – It is a good moment in time at MSU in Wichita Falls, TX for here to go and be able to make some changes there. Thor – so happy for her, long seen her as a substantive leader at Washburn. Morse – Our job as faculty becomes that much more important now, as we are moving forward. Need to be more committed now than ever before. There will be lots of meetings, emails, etc as we represent each other. Zwikstra – If she's leaving then that means we can expect that current management will be here for a while. Morse -Thank you all. We will feel our way through this.

- M Smith – I've had two students email me, and are concerned about continuing to drive due to increases in gas prices. This may affect some students that commute long distances. Liedtke -Have them go see Financial Aid, as they may be able to make adjustments if their budgets have changed dramatically. Erby: mentioning Ichabods Moving Forward grant (<https://wualumni.org/ichabodsmovingforward>).
- Morse: We live in interesting times. Keep talking and supporting each other.

XI. Announcements

- Ukraine forum is tonight in Henderson at 7. Don't know if it will be recorded.
- Take at least one day off during Spring Break.

XII. Adjournment at 3:44 pm