

Washburn University
Meeting of the Committee of the Whole - Faculty Senate
September 26, 2022 at 3pm
Meeting in Forum Room Hosted by FS Executive Committee

Present: Barraclough, Cook-Cunningham, Dahl, DeSota, Ewert, Florea, Friesen, Grant, Holt, Huff, Kay, Kendall-Morwick, Kimberly, Lolley, McGuire, Modelmog, Noonan, Rivera, Rossi, Sainato, Schmidt, Scofield, Sourgens, Toerber-Clark, Wagner, Zwikstra

Absent: Ginzburg, Juma, Lockwood, Porta, Smith, Wasserstein

Guests: Lanning S, Grospitch E, Holthaus C, Stephenson L, Leffingwell Q, Hanes S, Broxterman H, Siebold R, Luoma S, Ball J, Erby K, Smith I, Sun N, Adebayo A, Clouch T, Garcia R, Meek M

- I. Call to Order at 3:02 pm by Schmidt
- II. Approve minutes- none
- III. President's Opening Remarks
 - No business today since this is a Committee of the Whole. However, minutes will be taken.
 - Introductions were made for all first-time attendees.
 - Questions from our last meeting and other conversations were collected and summarized by the Executive Committee, then given to Marshall Meek. Some questions will not be able to answered at this point because Marshall Meek is not yet Interim President. Other issues in question were between President Farley and WU-BOR and therefore he cannot answer questions about that process.
- IV. WUBOR/KBOR Update- none
 - KBOR
 - WUBOR
- V. VPAA Update - none
- VI. Consent Agenda –
 - Faculty Senate Committee Reports- none
 - University Committee Reports- none
- VII. Old Business- none
- VIII. New Business- none
- IX. Information Items- none
- X. Discussion Items- Introduction by Schmidt
 - Faculty Discussion with Washburn University Foundation President and soon to be Washburn University Interim President Marshall Meek
 - Apologize for the one-way nature of this discussion, but we have a short time and so will try to make it work for today.
 - I appreciate shared governance, and am looking forward to continue working with this group.

- Personal Background – Born in Manhattan, KS, grew up there, and went to K-State. I graduated with a Bachelor's in Communications with an emphasis on Public Relations. Stuck around for an extra year and worked for United Way. (Actually started working for them while finishing my degree.) Moved to Kansas City after getting married so that my wife could work on her next degree. Worked at American Diabetes Foundation, then Cerner (6 yrs in charitable wing). Moved to Topeka and started working for the Foundation at St. Francis (4 yrs). Met new people and started taking Mission trips to Haiti, getting involved in other groups around Topeka where I met Juli Mazachek. Started working at Washburn University for the Foundation in 2015 to finish the 150 Forward Campaign. During this time started doing foster care (while waiting for an adoption from Haiti to come through). In 2017, I completed my MBA at Washburn and became president of Washburn University Foundation.
- Interim President role – I agreed to take this on because of the work the Faculty does. Every conversation with alumni includes a conversation about what a difference the Faculty made in their lives. I thought it would be great to help lead that during the transition time.
- What will I do and what *can* I do as Interim – The Regents are looking for stability, so I'm not looking at a major reorganization or anything like that. There are some issues that we need to keep moving forward on and make progress. (Enrollment, space challenges/management). Trying to listen and then organize into 3 categories: 1) Listen and Report to the next President, 2) Listen and Recommend to the next President, and 3) Listen and Act on now. What needs to be done now vs what needs to be left for the new president is a big question. It will be important to have many conversations with campus to do this. This is hopefully the beginning of a productive relationship.
- Dr. Farley's presence – I had a similar situation when Dr. Mazachek left the Foundation and became VPAA. There was a huge difference between before she came and when she left the Foundation. She did a great job. I did not struggle filling her shoes because she was a great partner. I think my team, the board, and trustees think that was successful and I don't think this will be any different. In terms of the new leader, will need to find someone who is confident in their own vision and I think we will be able to do this. People applying for positions like this expect dynamics like this.
- What will happen at Foundation while I'm Interim President- We have a strong leadership team. Gina Stewart knows the organization inside and out – she is a Washburn graduate and has been here ever since. I will maintain oversight on key decisions and working with donors. Since one of the responsibilities of President is to work with key donors, this will work well.
- Dr. Farley is in a great place and is ready to take a great approach on this. I have never reported to Dr. Farley before. We are from two different organizations, and yes, sometimes we disagree. When the issue at hand dealt with campus, he got his way and when the issue was with the

Foundation, I got my way. He has been crystal clear that when his term as president is over, I will be doing the decision making (and Board has been clear about this as well.) I don't think there are any concerns about his presence on campus and I think it will be a benefit.

- Effects of Dr. Farley's retirement/transition on Fundraising – I think it will be a good year, we feel good about things. The stock market does affect people's willingness to give. Our Donors tend to take a longer view than just one particular transition. They see the work you (the faculty) are doing in the classroom and it reminds them of what they experienced. I will not speak for every donor, but I think there is a deep appreciation for what the Farleys have done, and an understanding that everyone needs to retire at some point.
- Dr. Farley's role in fundraising – He will report to the University president. For twenty-five years, this has been more than a job to the Farleys. They know the goal is to build trust over time and then connect people to opportunities on campus. It's sometimes hard for people to imagine asking for money, but if we are doing it right, we don't even have to ask: they want to help. Our job is to connect them to opportunities to make a difference. Dr. Farley has built these relationships and it makes sense for him to continue those conversations. The fundraising has already begun and he adds value to that. I don't think this will take away from the new president being able to establish new relationships. How will Foundation make sure the new president makes these relationships? We have studied this for the past several years (knowing that Dr. Farley would retire one day) and we will have a 100 day plan that will be ready to go. It is very granular – for example call these 5 specific people on day one. We are counting on these good relationships, and they will be critical to upcoming campaigns.
- Brief topics – KBOR / Gen Ed framework: I have talked with Dr. Stephenson about this already and I look forward to working with her on those efforts
- Emporia State University – I understand this is very unsettling, but we do not have any plans to do something similar at Washburn. We have taken a conservative approach financially and are in a good place. We are trying to address these issues (*maintaining good finances*) so that we don't have to consider something like this (*laying off large numbers of people including tenured faculty*)*. Enrollment is at the top of the list here. This is something I've already started studying, but it will undoubtedly be a front-burner issue.
- How can Faculty Senate/Faculty best help Washburn at this time? This is a time of transition. Our leader of twenty-five years is in his last 5 days and a search is underway. Take a deep breath and remember we have been here 158 years and transitions will occur. The magic happens in the classroom with interactions and that will not change during our transition. We have an opportunity to put our best foot forward and attract a new leader who will hopefully stick around for another twenty-five years. We

are planning on listening sessions early on with the Faculty and Staff. That is all I have for now and I hope you will join me in Washburn A&B to celebrate Dr. Farley's retirement.

- Schmidt – Thank you for coming, we don't have time for questions but I will reiterate an open invitation for you as the Interim President to come to any meetings.

XI. Announcements - none

XII. Adjournment – Grant moves, Mosier seconds to adjourn at 3:32. Motion passes.

*Italicized words in the comments about Emporia State were not said by M Meek, but were inserted by the secretary for clarification of the situation for posterity. Because this event had just occurred in the last two weeks, it was very clear at the time of the remarks that M Meek was referring to the financial stress at Emporia that led to the termination of many positions on campus utilizing a COVID-era emergency process rather than normal termination processes (at least for tenured faculty positions).