

**Washburn University**  
**General Faculty Minutes**  
**April 26, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Mazachek called the meeting to order at 3:33.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the April 26, 2023, General Faculty Meeting were approved unanimously.

**III. REMARKS**

**From President Mazachek**

- Had released an email regarding the gift to update Henderson. Can now move forward and do an RFQ for architects. Will go to June WUBOR; planning starts fall 2023.
  - Foster and Callahan, WU business school and mass media alumni from Advisors Excel, provided the gift, which is the largest gift for a single project at WU ever.
- Town hall meetings are going well. Please send feedback if you have it.
- Provost position is official. Had been in the works for fifteen years; sped up to ensure we attract the right people for WU.
  - The new office has led to changes in organizational structures and titles.
- Next week there is a big announcement, which will include a press conference.
  - Announcing plans to create growth at Washburn.
- It was a good year for Legislature. In the final stages of voting, which can change last minute.
  - Pay raises: if they take place, will be like those at the state level.
  - Receiving a 1.7 million community comprehensive grant; maybe an extra million for student success efforts.
- Please attend commencement, students would love to see you.
  - WU Tech on the 11<sup>th</sup>
  - WU main campus on the 13<sup>th</sup>

**From Interim Provost Stephenson**

- HLC results
  - Special thanks to Dr. Ball for the work.
  - All eighteen criteria met.
  - Despite disruptions, WU has maintained the student-centered teaching focus, embraced the mission, and increased support for students and faculty.
- Erby is the new interim dean for CAS.

- There is a reorganization in the Provost Office. Will bring on two assistant Provosts, which are academic positions. Inviting applications now.
- Dodge is working with a team to address LMS issues. The team sent out a survey, which needs to be submitted by the end of the week.
- Jamie Washington will have a follow up meeting with the administration this week to continue to make progress on WU's commitment to diversity.
- The debate team took second at a national tournament.
- Aperion was a success, thanks to Sullivan and other members of the committee.
- WU Law School graduates all passed the bar on the first attempt.
- At WU Tech:
  - 100 percent pass rate on the practical nursing exam for the December cohort.
  - Letter of intent signing day included 300 students signing letters and 700 who were eligible.
  - WU Tech was nominated best post-secondary program of the year by contractors and construction organizations for 2023.
- Will have the first graduation at Topeka Correctional Facility May 9<sup>th</sup> which are ALS degrees.
- Employee recognition event next week

## **V. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Requiring General Faculty approval**

- 23-9 Adoption of the Kansas Board of Regents' General Education Framework
  - Started in 2020 as discussion for KBOR; changes were approved at KBOR in May 2022. Discussion with our leadership started last year. In fall 2022, Ball conducted town hall meetings; Stephenson assisted in discussion. Conclusion is people are not excited, but we can make it work for students. The proposal was approved at the last senate meeting. Cook moved to approved; McClendon seconded.
  - In fall 2022, academic units reviewed and provided input re challenges and benefits of the plan; there were faculty wide meetings in November and December. Of importance were institutional designated hours, which vary by university. We need to ensure we meet our priorities. DEI and scientific literacy were most important; English and communication were discussed as well. Will work to determine what these are as well as to evaluation what constitutes general education. Suggested that the changes be complete for the AY23/24 catalog.
  - Ball made clear that while an option many are not comfortable with, if it is not passed, we will be the only public university in Kansas that does not have it. Which

has implications for enrollment. Licensing and accreditation requirements will need to be adjusted; things continue to evolve but we need the basic framework adopted first.

- Nizovtsev agrees with Jennifer that it is necessary, but not comfortable with the institutional categories chosen. It did not receive enough discussion; felt like cutting corners compared to past decisions. Need to ensure the focus is on critical thinking as our students score lowest on this in their general education. Moved to change the institutional requirements to a TBD until final approval. Prasch seconded the motion.
- Byrne spoke in favor of the amendment, as the framework appears to distribute things differently than preferred. Hickman also supported due to interviews with area CEOs and hiring managers suggesting critical thinking is a necessary skill.
- Arterburn explained there is not a year, we only have until January when the schedules are due. Bearman clarified that we have until December to decide everything so we can recruit and be ready for fall of 2024.
- Schbley does not want DEI to be excluded.
- Taylor voiced concerns regarding passing this proposal and needing to adjust again in six to eight months.
- Thor suggested it is not the categories that will prevent higher levels of critical thinking, but the teaching that is taking place. Kendall Morwick (Kara) is unsure how scientific literacy and DEI could be courses that do not include critical thinking. Reminded that inclusion is one of WU's values. Burdick finds that there have been plenty of opportunities to provide feedback. Cook agreed; create a template now and rethink later if things are not working. These categories are what WU suggests are important.
- Ball clarified that the SLOs will not go away. Categories can be adopted and adjusted later. We need to decide and commit; we will not be able to be successful if we wait another eight months.
- O'Neill explained that there is nothing that can be generalizable across courses in terms of the SLO data. Additionally, the samples are small and measures change. Would not use these data for generalizable purposes.
- Byrne asked for clarification on the scientific literacy category, whether it will include social or natural sciences.
- Adebayo added that we need to evaluate how we teach our own classes to determine how we are missing the critical thinking.
- Moore asked about why we would pass this without objectives. Martin asked if it was that we needed two categories. We do need two, unsure if that's all we are

permitted, but we don't need a ton of categories (Ball). Cook suggested that the SLOs be worked out in the fall.

- Smith asked for clarification that scientific literacy does not need to just be in natural sciences.
- Morse called the question on the amendment. Wasserstein seconded. The amendment did not pass.
- Hine asked about what the models looked like if we did not comply. Bearman's best guess is a fifteen percent decrease in students. Mazachek suggested we are boxed in and need to accept if we don't want other institutions to work against us.
- Ibanez asked what types of students will be missed, and whether there is concern about CEP credits. Ball explained that HS students will be told their gen eds will not transfer here. Myers asked if there was a way to do better marketing and not comply.
- Bearman is already working to counter the belief we are a private school. Smith suggested that we could stick to liberal arts roots.
- Cook asked whether the legislative money would be affected by the adoption or non-adoption.
- Modellmog made clear that HS parents are excited to have children graduate with a bunch of gen eds.
- Jones (M) called to question; Schbley seconded. The proposal passed.
- 23-14 Chemistry Secondary Education Bachelors of Ed, 23-15 Deletion - Chemistry BA Sec Ed, Grade 6-12, and 23-16 Deletion - Chemistry BS Sec Ed, Grade 6-12 were combined with Prasch suggesting and Schmidt seconding. The items passed.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Historical film night will be Europa Europa (Prasch)
- April 15<sup>th</sup> National Honor Society Convention: McNamee and Porta attended with students who took third and first place for student presentations (Cook)
- Kendall-Morwick (Kara): CTEL celebration of teaching on Thursday
- Thanks, from Bearman for NSO work.
- Music department competed at a conference and the percussion ensemble placed (Huff, Hansen).

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.