

Washburn University General Faculty  
Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2024

I. Call to order

President Mazachek called the meeting to order at 3:32.

II. The minutes of the November 15, 2023, General Faculty Meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Remarks

**Mazachek**

- Enrollment report. Strong year, credits are up 7.5 percent; faculty ratio is at 7.1. Enrollment management is doing a great job. This shows that we are telling the story of Washburn. Expected to be a trend.
- Framework. Moving to focus on the important work of integrating departmental goals. In the First part of April, will be looking across campus for updates. Watch for Fritch and deans for guidance.
- Budget. Changing to coincide with the framework. Will be submitted in dynamic form now so people can be prioritized properly. Resembles the capital request process.
  - Revenue overview. A modest tuition increase next year. The sales tax is flat. We fared well in legislature this year for funding.
  - Targets for funds include student success, need based aid, and cyber security.
  - March 21 meeting with WUBOR budget committee for compensation planning. The goal is a three to four percent range for an increase; this seems to be reasonable progress, but we are seeing what others are doing first.
- Legislature. We are getting noticed. A DEI conversation started yesterday; it is likely the governor will veto anti DEI bills. We are still doing things the right way and there is no concern that we will be stifled. We don't worry about what we call things, we just do what is right.

**Fritch**

Thank you for the welcome. Grateful for Ball and Stephenson for the transition assistance.

Plans to be present and available for all faculty.

Attended *Brothers of the Dust*. Was great; met Jo Marks, one of the actors, at the ADIC meeting after.

Pitcon happened, an analytical chemist event. One of our students had one of the top three papers – Adem is their mentor.

#### IV. New Business

##### **Requiring General Faculty Approval**

24-18 Modifications to the catalog reflecting new catalog requirements (2024 and forward)

Wagner (T.) moved; Kay seconded.

Ball presenting.

- Areas one through three had been areas one through four.
- Issue with double dipping in three spots. There used to be prohibition to use discipline specific courses for general education. Those who transfer in must be permitted to have discipline specific general education courses count. The language has been adjusted to permit homegrown students this benefit, so they are treated the same.
- Nan proposed an amendment regarding the six hours of institution coursework (page eleven, number seven). Suggests that we add that this must be from two disciplines.
  - The issue is students may have these filled when they transfer in (Lolley)
  - Morse suggested this could be for non-transfer students only. However, this may present even more incentive to transfer in.
  - Kendall-Morwick (K.) noted that the six hours are not focused on distribution or discipline, but the content.
  - Memmer asked if there was a student-centered rationale for the amendment. Agrees that this should not matter if the subject matter is being met.
  - Part of the purpose of general education is to have a broad foundational background for students. would like to provide for more diversity of thought.
  - Smith (I.) noted that we didn't have a choice and were coerced to take on this package. We can take control over our curriculum and make decisions that work best for the goals of the university.
  - The amendment passed.

- We are bound to transfers and not our own students (Prasch). Suggested that for non-transfer students, they cannot make a major credit count for areas four through seven. Wagner (T) seconded.
  - O’Neill suggested that we better define what a transfer student is. Want to avoid people taking courses outside of the school; want people to take courses here, where they can be more prepared.
  - Kendall-Morwick (K) wants to see people take 4 – 7 in their discipline; English has classes that will not count as a major course that can be taken in those areas. This can help us attract major students. Suggested removal of seven from the amendment.
    - Smith (I.) agreed with seven being removed.
  - Modellmog noted that it is a rare situation where people wouldn’t have classes in other majors. Steinroetter suggested that students aren’t going to work hard to ensure which courses are best; they will end up relying on their advisors which will take care of many issues raised.
  - Concern that parents would see some of the parameters imposed as barriers (Dodge). Lolley agreed that most students are looking for the cheapest, quickest way through.
  - We are already reducing general education; this is reduced if the double dipping happens (Prasch). However, without it, some will have problems with 120 hours (Cook).
  - Lanning clarified that these concerns are irrelevant unless a student comes in with a completed general education package. There is not a need for extra rules if they did this elsewhere (Arterburn).
- Cook called the question; Schnoebelen seconded.
  - Amendment fails.
- Schnoebelen noted a line on page 11 between the two numbered sections regarding need for scores C and higher; suggested an amendment from one through three above to one and two above.
  - Other institutions are doing this, and it is food for thought (Lolley). Cook reached out to the regents; only Wichita requires a C or higher for all university courses.

- If they get less than a C and bring in the entire package, it can come in as a D and count for transfers (Lolley). Ball noted this does not preclude the program from requiring a C or higher for courses.
- A 60 percent means they got more than half of the materials (Gill). Math is a barrier for many students, and this may be helpful to avoid the roadblock (Schnoebelen). McNamee suggested that now that 112 is an option, there is a much better pass rate.
- Arterburn asked about the lack of consistency this indicates.
- Amendment failed.
- The last sentence on page 11 does not limit the number of courses that would double dip to general education. Recommended an amendment to limit double dipping to one major discipline course (Nan).
  - There are already issues that arise with people meeting 120 hours without going over. Want to have well rounded students and meet students' needs. Advisors can suggest the best courses for students. (Lolley).
  - Smith (I.) suggested that the locus of concern should not be on the student, but the credit in terms of defining what a transfer is.
  - Each program has different situations. Steinroetter noted that most of the concerns are in CAS – not all schools will be affected. Smith (I.) suggested that some concerns can be alleviated as chairs do have some power over changes in terms of where courses count.
  - Programs outside of CAS will be affected by the package in terms of meeting the 120 hours requirement for the bachelors (O'Neill). Camarda added that for the associate in engineering and physics, the general education package requires people to take additional courses – would like to see this only affect the bachelor's degrees.
- Sharp called to question. Amendment failed.
- Item 24-18 passed

#### V. Announcements

Apeiron is April 19<sup>th</sup> this year (Sullivan)

Ricklefs will present on April 2 at 1 pm an active shooter training – about 2.5 hours

March 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 115 is the brown bag lunch (Adebayo)

Prasch is hosting a movie, Mystery Science Theater style, at 7 pm probably in Henderson on March 26

Fill out the great colleges survey – it closes today (Grospitch)

VI. Adjournment 4:51