

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 3:00-4:30 PM
East Academic Building 252/263

I. Meeting called to order by Faculty Senate President Gary Renz.

II. **Announcements:**

1. Eric Goedereis explained how the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is able to help them in supporting faculty scholarships, faculty mentoring, and professional development. He informed the Assembly of the upcoming faculty resource fair and Research Across Disciplines conference.
2. Liza Dister of the Faculty Development Center said there will be a Faculty Networking and Resource Fair on Thursday, September 14 at 3 pm in the East Academic Building.
3. Julie Palmer and Scott Jensen discussed the role of the faculty athletic representatives. They encouraged faculty members to be flexible and work with student athletes' travel schedules.
4. Terri Reilly announced that a faculty social will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017, beginning at 4 pm in the Faculty Development Center.
5. G. Renz said the Senate approved three topics for the 2017 Fall Faculty Institute on Friday, October 13, 2017: "Webster in 2025: Goals and Strategies," "Interdisciplinary Learning at Webster, A Ten Year Vision," and "Education Technology 2025: Reimagine College Teaching at Webster."
6. Provost Schuster reported that the Webster's Groves campus has the largest entering full-time undergraduate freshman class ever this year. The graduate student enrollment continues to be "challenging." But overall, Webster is closer to the budgeted enrollments this year than in past years because of a more realistic budget.
7. Robert Parrent, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, said that Webster Groves' entering undergraduate freshman class was a record 528 students (520 full time, 4 taking 12 hours, and 4 part-time). There are 2,566 undergraduate students at the Webster Groves campus, which is about 50 students lower than the prior year (2,616 students). The new undergraduate student average ACT score is 24 with an average GPA of 3.4. Housing is packed with some local students on a waiting list. The undergraduate student body is 58% female and 42% male. He expects for freshman enrollment to go up by at least 120 students for the 2018-2019 academic year. Parrent said the average discount rate this year for entering full-time freshman was higher than last year, but with more students the total revenue is higher.
8. Ana Karaman, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, said under Webster's current budget the university is projected to have a \$6.3 million deficit for AY 2017-18. It is a conservative budget with a tuition contingent reserve of \$4.6 million. To help reach the expense cuts set forth in the budget, Webster has not been filling vacant positions unless those positions are deemed necessary.

CFO Karaman was asked if she anticipates mid-year budget cuts. CFO Karaman said she did not know at this point, but the actual enrollments for Fall 2 are a critical factor. If enrollments are lower than budgeted, then mid-year cuts may be necessary.

9. Michael Cottam, Associate Vice President of Military Campuses and Online Education, stated the graduate program enrollments are under budget by around 1000 credit hours, but the undergraduate online classes are over budget by around 200 credit hours.

WebNet+ continues to grow, with new classes and programs being added this year. The MPA program and Legal Studies programs are being taught using WebNet+. Webster hired Inside Track to help recruit and coach online students. The company also contacts former students who did not graduate and have succeeded in re-enrolling 23% of them.

10. Donovan Outten, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Extended U.S. Campuses, stated that the campuses were at 97% of the budget for the summer term, 99% of budget for Fall 1 and are exceeding the budget for Fall 2.
11. Provost Schuster reported that the Sverdrup renovation needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees, but he thinks it will be approved. Webster is not postponing moving forward, it is a long process with many steps
12. Provost Schuster said the administration will have a better picture of the 2017-18 financial situation in early 2018 and that the Fall 2 enrollments are critical. He also said the faculty should feel proud of themselves and thanked the School of Education for securing a \$2.7 million grant.

III. Question/Answer Session:

1. Is there a plan for replacing faculty retirees?

Provost Schuster said schools need to come up with workable solutions if they feel they need new faculty to replace retiring faculty members. If programs can exist without replacements, then there will be no replacements.

2. Can you say how the savings resulting from refinancing the 2011 Series bonds this year will affect Webster's bond rating?

CFO Karaman said Webster saved \$8 million over the life of the bonds. Moody's recently reaffirmed our A2 rating. Though the balance sheet is strong, running a deficit gives us an A2 rating instead of an A.

3. What is the international student enrollment?

Provost Schuster said he doesn't know.

4. How will the Webster Groves campus compete against other schools?

Provost Schuster said people wrongly think Webster is a for-profit institution. We need to distinguish Webster as a non-profit institution.

Meeting adjourned: 3:27 pm