

**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020, Alumni House 2:39 PM**

**I. Attendance**

B. Lynch, K. Armbruster, J. Bohus, P. Davis, G. Glasgow, J. Lassetter, D. MacCartney, J. Palmer, KK Pease, T. Reilly, L. Risik, D. Smith, D. Stiles.

**II. Approval of Minutes – All**

*a. Upon motion by K. Armbruster, seconded by D. Smith, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes, of the January 30, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.*

*b. Upon motion by D. Smith, seconded by P. Davis, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the February 11, 2020 Faculty Assembly meeting.*

**III. President's Report –B. Lynch**

a. B. Lynch reported that he has had some health issues the last few weeks, but he would like to thank Carol Guehring and K. K. Pease for stepping up and running meetings and taking care of Senate business in his absence.

b. B. Lynch reported on the status of the on-going internal searches for the Dean of Students and the Chief Financial Officer and that decisions will be forthcoming.

c. B. Lynch will have a meeting with President Schuster tomorrow and he has many topics to discuss.

d. Pursuant to questions from the Senate, B. Lynch will attempt to secure Fall 2020 and Spring 2020 enrollment and retention numbers as well as budget reports. He will also attempt to retain copy of slides concerning the audited financials for 2019 and/or get administration to come to a future Senate meeting.

**IV. New Business**

a. Joint Proposal to merge the Departments of History Politics and International Relations with the Department of Religious Studies. (Attachment A)

*The Senate unanimously approved a motion by P. Davis, seconded by J. Bohus, to approve the Proposal for the Merger of the Departments of History, Politics, and International Relations and the Department of Religious Studies as presented to the Faculty Senate with the addition of the following amendment by the Senate:*

8. The Department will be named **History, Politics, International Relations, and Religious Studies.**

b. Senator J. Palmer announced that she will be on sabbatical for the entire academic year 2020-2021 and will not be able to fulfill her Senate duties. She would like to propose Joe Roberts take her place for the remainder of her term.

The Senate wishes Senator J. Palmer well in her endeavors, but expresses she will be missed on the Senate.

***The Senate unanimously approved a motion by K. Armbruster, seconded by T. Reilly, that Joe Roberts will serve the remainder of J. Palmer's term on the senate during the 2020-2021 academic year.***

c. Election issues:

1. C. Guehring suggested that the open, special term, at-large Senate seat be offered to those who ran for an at-large seat but did not win one of the three regular seats.

***The Senate unanimously agreed to offer the open special at-large Senate seat to the fourth runner up in the 2020 Senate at-large election. If that person does not wish to fill that seat, it will be offered to the next runner-up and so on.***

2. KK Pease believes that it is very important for faculty to participate in Academic Program Review and therefore the Academic Program Review Committee needs to be standardized. . The staggering of the term limits was never decided upon and, it is difficult for the Senate to recruit because no one knows when their term ends. Moreover, the meeting days and times keep changing. The Senate also needs to propose Handbook language regarding set meeting times and stating that all committee work must be completed by May 31 of each academic year. JP Palmer agreed to consult with the Program Review Committee and report back to the senate.

d. KK Pease told the Assembly at the February 11, 2020 Assembly meeting that she would bring the issue of the Senate making the final decision on changing graduating credit hours from 128 down to 120 hours to the Senate. She explained that this issue had been discussed for the last four years and it was time for a decision to be made.

B. Lynch explained that if there is no conflict among parties and Deans are in approval, the Senate can make decisions on these kinds of issues. The Handbook is confusing and vague concerning this and we must fix this part of the Handbook this year.

## V. Old Business

a. Meeting with Rob Reeg – B. Lynch explained that the meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 with Board President Rob Reeg was cancelled because President Schuster was called out of town and that B. Lynch was also

unable to attend. B. Lynch will request another meeting when he meets with President Schuster tomorrow.

KK Pease mentioned that at the last Senate meeting, they discussed some issues to bring up with President Reeg. B. Lynch said that we can provide them with bullet points of topics and how they relate to shared governance. We can discuss this further at the next Senate meeting.

b. Spring Institute Update – K. Armbruster (*Attachment B*)

She explained that she gave a Powerpoint presentation and update at the Assembly meeting on February 11, 2020. The title of the Institute is **What's Your Webster?** She went through the five stages of re-envisioning as she sees them. There is frustration in how long the re-envisioning process seems to be taking. B. Lynch explained that if a game plan setting a timeline could be decided upon, there may not be so much frustration and it would be likely he could obtain funding resources.

c. Committee Appointments and Vacancies - B. Lynch explained that at this point, he would like to simply place all vacancies on the election ballot. If after the elections there are still vacancies, we will recruit and appoint then.

**The Senate unanimously approved a motion by K. Armbruster, seconded by D. Smith, to adjourn at 3:50 PM.**

## *Attachment A*

Proposal for the Merger of the Departments of History, Politics, and International Relations and the Department of Religious Studies.

The fulltime faculty and staff of the Departments of History, Politics, International Relations and Religious Studies (named below) unanimously propose to merge the two departments into one academic unit, beginning in the 2020-21 Academic Year. The major reasons for this proposal are as follows:

1. Developing synergy among the various majors offered by the two departments. We are looking to cross-list courses while at the same time keeping the discrete majors represented in the two current departments. We are also in discussion about a shared senior overview.
2. Shared orientation of the faculty to humanistic study and internationalism/global citizenship.
3. Complementary areas of specialization. The HPIR department is particularly strong in Western history and politics, whereas the RELG faculty brings a broad base of expertise, including expertise in Asian history and culture.
4. An increasing urgency in guaranteeing that Webster University graduates are equipped with the knowledge to understand, analyze and interact with a complex world. It is imperative that every student know in some detail the contexts of global dynamics and the bases of world conflicts.
5. Mutual course scheduling to prevent overlap and increase diversity of offerings for all students.
6. Cost-savings through shared administration.
7. Propinquity.
8. The Department will be named **History, Politics, International Relations, and Religious Studies**.

HPIR Faculty:

Warren Rosenblum (Chair) Allan McNeill, David Pennington, Kristen Anderson, Kelly-Kate Pease, John Chappell, Gwyneth Williams, Lindsey Kingston, Pinar Alakoc, Emmanuel Balogun.

Religious Studies Faculty:

Keith Welsh (Chair), Chris Parr, Joseph Stimpfl.

Staff:

Robbie O'Toole

If approved, we would implement this effective Fall semester 2020.

Slide 1

**SPRING FACULTY INSTITUTE:  
WHAT'S YOUR WEBSTER?**

Friday March 20  
3-6 pm EAB 252/262

## WHY RE-ENVISION?

- "As the roads and conditions keep changing, colleges and universities may be better served by keeping *an eye on the horizon* (emphasis added) rather than trying to follow turn-by-turn signs. Think compass, not map." – "Stop Planning!", by Peter Eckel and Cathy Trower, *Inside Higher Ed*, Feb. 14, 2019
- Building on this metaphor, the goal of re-envisioning is to ask where we should be headed so we develop a clear, shared understanding of **what that target on the horizon is**, a target fully informed by our communal knowledge of Webster, our individual fields and disciplines, and our external environment.

## STAGES OF RE-ENVISIONING

**Stage One:** Where Have We Been? Who Are We Now?

**Stage Two:** Learn about/Discuss External Conditions

**Stage Three:** Learn about/Discuss Webster in the Present

**Stage Four:** Imagine Future Scenarios (Idea Playground)

**Stage Five:** Find Common Ground among Imagined Futures and Make Action Plans

## REMAINING CHALLENGES

- How to involve faculty not at Spring Institute in the conversation.
- How to include all interested faculty, administration, staff, and students in the ongoing process.
- How to balance openness to ideas/concerns with the goal of creating a foundation that will support positive, innovative thinking and concrete proposals for change.



## QUESTIONS FOR SPRING INSTITUTE

- What brought you to Webster?
- What do you most value now that you're here? What keeps you here?
- What's the best of Webster? What aspects of Webster do you think it's important for us to hold onto as we move into the future (e.g., culture and values rather than specific programs or structures)?

GOAL: Listen to everyone; look for patterns and common ground.

