

Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2020, Via Zoom, 2:30 PM

I. Attendance

K. Armbruster, V. Brown-Kennerly, P. Davis, E. Fan, T. Foley, E. Goedereis, S. Jensen, J. Lassetter, B. Lynch, S. Mahfood, J. Palmer, M. Preuss, T. Reilly, E. Rhiney, L. Risik, D. Stiles.

II. *Upon motion by E. Goedereis, seconded by M. Preuss, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the August 20, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.*

III. New Business:

President's Update: President Lynch reported that there have only been two positive COVID19 cases on campus since classes began.

President Lynch is on the Honorary Degree subcommittee and they are in the process of looking for candidates for the Commencement speaker for May 2021. They would like to have someone who has experience in social justice issues. He asks the Senators to forward him the names of anyone they think may be an excellent speaker with a social justice background.

President Lynch asks the Senate if anyone is having any problems or concerns since school has begun. A Senator expressed issues with O365 software. Another Senator stated they had a student who was unable to acquire technology. Another Senator expressed their concern over a student quarantined in Glen Park housing and it is not wired for internet or Wi-Fi.

A Senator stated that they knew of students who may not be reporting their positive COVID19 to Webster University and they would like to know if faculty are in any way obligated to report cases when they hear of them. President Lynch stated that his understanding is that faculty should let Deans know if they hear of positive cases but that there is no legal obligation upon the faculty to report them to the university. Faculty need to make sure they are conveying to students what they should be doing in order to keep the community safe. A Senator stated that the links on Webster's COVID19 page only address student procedures, but they do not address what faculty should do in the event they learn of student cases. President Lynch said that he would address this issue with the administration.

A Senator would like to know if Webster is utilizing the same coding procedures for on-ground Spring 2021 classes as used for Fall 2020. President Lynch said that issue has not been discussed yet, but he believes that the coding system will probably remain the same as it is part of the long-term strategy as far as modalities for instruction.

A Senator inquired as to whether those with accommodations would be able to keep those for the Spring semester. Another Senator stated that the accommodations letter says it expires at the end of November 2020. President Lynch stated if people have a problem with their accommodations after November to let him know and he will look into it.

IV. Old Business

A. Fall Institute Update – J. Palmer and M. Preuss

M. Preuss reported that the committee has chosen two speakers, Tabari Coleman and Marlo Hode, to present at the 2020 Fall Faculty Institute on October 2 concerning institutional racism. The Committee would like to add an additional day for the Fall Institute on Friday, October 9. The speakers would make one presentation on October 2 from 2pm to 6pm and do the same presentation on October 9 from 9am to 1pm. They wish to do this because the presenters feel their discussions would be more meaningful if the attending groups were smaller, around 70 people or so for each day.

President Lynch reiterated that the Senate stands behind the issues to be discussed and that the difficult discussions need to be had. He stated that the Senate will provide the \$6,000 fee for the speakers.

The Senate proceeded to have discussions relating to the many concerns of who has been invited to the Institute and the issue of having to limit the number of people. Ideas of how to accommodate the large number of people expected were discussed as well as ways to make the groups manageable so everyone's stories can be heard.

B. Committee Seats - All

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by R. Rhiney, seconded by J. Palmer, to appoint Dustin Smith to the elected Walker School of Business & Technology seat on the Global Citizenship Program Committee for a term ending May 2023.

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by D. Stiles, seconded by M Preuss, to have President Lynch recommend to President Schuster that Professor Ryan Liberati be considered for appointment to the available At-Large seat on the Academic Program Review Committee.

C. University Policy Handbook – Pres. Lynch

President Lynch stated he would like to have a complete revised draft of the University Policy Handbook by December 2020. He spoke of many things that need to be revised and deleted.

Discussion took place concerning what things may need to be addressed by the Faculty Assembly and faculty voting issues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05PM.