

Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2020, Via Zoom, 2:34 PM

I. Attendance

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

- II. a. *Upon motion by T. Reilly, seconded by S. Jensen, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the September 22, 2020 Faculty Assembly meeting.*
- b. *Upon motion by E. Rhiney, seconded by E. Goedereis, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the September 24, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.*

III. New Business:

a. President's Update:

President Lynch attended the Board meeting wherein the same information was shared as was shared at the Faculty Assembly meeting – that enrollment numbers among undergraduate full time flat students was in good shape, there was some loss in transfer students, enrollment at Uzbekistan is rising and the metro and military sites are struggling. He stated there will soon be discussions concerning how to proceed with the metro and military sites. He will ask VP Hellerud to report on numbers after Fall II begins.

President Lynch said there is a “15 to Finish” initiative headed by Academic Affairs wherein all advisors are to make sure that students are taking 15 hours per semester in order to graduate in four years and that they are receiving correct information concerning their course paths by making sure that degree plans are accurate.

Discussions with Human Resources are being scheduled concerning the Corrective Action Policy (CAP). WSA representatives will be involved in these discussions as well since CAP pertains to them too. President Lynch stated that he will also be trying to obtain clarity on the Grievance Policy in the University Handbook as well as the University Grievance Policy.

President Lynch stated the roll out of the new Webster University website is being delayed and that it will be rolled out in phases beginning Athens as it is the site with the fewest web pages. Webster Groves/St. Louis will be the last to be phased in.

President Lynch reported that open enrollment for employee benefits will be coming out at the end of October or beginning of November and that there will be changes due to increases in health insurance.

At the President's Council meeting, President Schuster spent a significant amount of time praising the October 2, 2020 Institute. He thinks the difficult discussions concerning institutional racism are much needed. Chancellor Stroble would like President Lynch and Vincent Flewellen to work together and report back to the President's Council with outcomes from all three sessions of the Institute.

President Lynch informed the Senate that a fall meeting with the Department Chairs is in the process of being scheduled and an Agenda will be set.

Last, the University Planning Committee will soon be having a strategy and budgeting meeting concerning the next fiscal year.

b. Brainstorming/cost-saving Ideas:

President Lynch stated he has had conversations with former Senate President, Gary Renz, concerning the Finance and Marketing Advisory Committees. G. Renz said that both committees could be abolished, but President Lynch believes that the ideas of the Marketing Advisory Committee (MAC) could be rolled into the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) by reconstructing the language of the FAC.

The ideas of increasing equitable workload among full time professors and increasing class sizes were offered. Increasing non-degree seeking certificates was another cost-saving idea.

c. Assembly Meeting – October 27, 2020

President Lynch asks if anyone has any agenda items to be discussed at the next Assembly meeting. Senator Jensen will be reminding everyone that their departments should be looking at their GCP classes for assessment purposes.

IV. Old Business:

- a. Fall Institute: Senator Preuss reported that the October 2, 2020 session of the Fall Institute went smoothly. Chancellor Stroble, President Schuster, Vincent Flewellen and President Lynch spoke first. There was a breakout session on the definitions of racism and one on generating ideas regarding institutional racism. Some black faculty and staff felt they were forced into sharing their stories which proved traumatic for them. At the following sessions of October 9 and October 16, sharing will be minimized and only if someone volunteers to do so. The October 9 session has more representation from extended campuses and more staff representation. There is still room for those wishing to attend at the October 16 session from 2-6PM.

Vice President Palmer expressed gratitude to C. Guehring and Senator Goedereis for their efforts in coordinating and accommodating requests to attend the sessions.

Senator Goedereis said a feedback survey will be sent out on Friday, October 9 to those who have attended the institute.

b. Open Committee Seats:

The Senate unanimously approved a motion by B. Lynch, seconded by T. Reilly, to endorse the extension of Professor JB Kwon as the Chair of the Multicultural Studies Committee through the end of December 2020.

c. University Policy Handbook:

1. The Senate agreed to multiple Handbook revisions presented by President Lynch, including the following:

The Senate unanimously approved a motion by S. Jensen, seconded by M. Preuss, to remove the Institutional Planning Committee from the University Policy Handbook as a Senate Committee as it no longer exists.

The Senate unanimously approved a motion by M. Preuss, seconded by J. Lassetter, to remove the Joint Eden Webster Library Authority as a Senate Committee from the University Policy Handbook as it no longer exists.

The Senate unanimously approved a motion by E. Goedereis, seconded by M. Preuss, to remove the Marketing Advisory Committee (MAC) as a Senate committee from the University Policy Handbook as the duties could be covered within the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC).

2. President Lynch proposed removing the Honors Board from the University Policy Handbook and add language to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. The Senate discussed the matter at length, and it was decided that President Lynch would ask the Honors Board and Undergraduate Curriculum committees their thoughts on this proposal.

3. President Lynch proposed removing the Speakers Committee from the University Policy Handbook for various reasons and simply reallocating their fund to Academic Affairs as this committee does not represent University governance. The Senate discussed this proposal and asked that President Lynch talk with the Speakers Committee to obtain their thoughts as well as reports on who has received their funds over recent years.

President Lynch has called an unscheduled Senate meeting for Thursday, October 23, 2020 at 2:30PM.

The Senate unanimously approved a motion by L. Risik, seconded by S. Mahfood, to adjourn this meeting at 4:06PM.