

Faculty Senate Meeting

August 20, 2015

Gwyneth Williams, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Larry Baden, Glen Bauer, Cheryl Breig-Allen, Don Conway-Long, Anne Geraghty-Rathert, Ryan Groeneman, Tori Meyer, J.P. Palmer, Terri Reilly, Joseph Sencibaugh, Martha Smith, Keith Welsh, Phyllis Wilkinson

I. Announcements

Gwyneth reminded the Senate of the final parent's reception tomorrow afternoon from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the East Academic Building Commons and encouraged everyone who could, to attend. This provides a great opportunity to receive feedback from parents regarding orientation.

II. Reports

Administrative Council Retreat: Glen Bauer reported on the following topics:

- a. John Green (YouTube) presentation on teaching/learning with Technology in the classroom
- b. Administration activities for Adjunct Engagement & Support
 - i. Website prototype
 - ii. Department Chairs participation
 - iii. Adjunct focus groups with an outside consultant
- c. Enhancing and Diversifying Revenues in a Time of Change
- d. Strategic Planning

III. Appointments

- a. Faculty Senate – Fall 1, Arts & Sciences seat, Replacement needed for Hemla Singaravelu
- b. Curriculum Committee – the senate approved Robin Higgins to fill the Arts & Sciences seat (3-year term) Still need a Fall 2015 replacement, as Robin will be on leave that semester
- c. Honors Board – Replacement needed for Heather Mitchell for Fall 2015
- d. Multi-Cultural Committee – the senate approved Sheila Hwang to replace Kristen Anderson for Fall 2015.
- e. Athletics Representative Position – There are questions as to who appoints this person, as well as the role of the individual who is selected. Gwyneth will make further inquiries on both matters.

III. Institutional Review Board Federal Certification

Mary Preuss and Eric Goedereis will attend the August 27th Senate meeting to discuss the possibility of IRB applying for federal certification. Federal certification of the IRB would allow faculty doing human subjects research to receive federal grants. However, to receive federal certification, the IRB will need to change its structure and will most likely become a university committee under the purview of the Provost.

IV. How Committee to Review Faculty should review applicants for status/promotion who are individuals being considered for administrative positions

When some new administrators are hired, they request faculty status, and often tenure, FDL, and/or faculty rank. The CRF has requested that the Faculty Senate provide guidelines on the standards to be used in reviewing such applications from outside candidates for administrative positions. Gwyneth asked Julian Schuster his view on the matter. His position is as follows: when a candidate currently holds tenure and a particular rank at his/her current institution and is asking for the same status/rank at Webster U, the relevant department and CRF should view the application with deference. However, when the candidate is asking for a status/rank that s/he does not currently hold, the department and CRF should give the application a thorough and searching review.

The Senate may need to craft University Handbook language to address this issue.

V. Committee Work

In the past, committee chairs submitted an annual report to the Faculty Senate containing information on the committee's work. The Senate would like to see this practice revived.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed Committee Annual Report form, with modifications, to detail a committee's work for the year. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the new University Handbook Language, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved. The Handbook Language will be presented at the September Faculty Assembly meeting.

The Handbook Language will now be sent to Provost Schuster for approval.

VII. Faculty Priorities Planning

The Senate determined that having senators attend departmental meetings and engage in focused conversations is a better way to obtain qualitative data from faculty regarding biggest challenges facing the University and determine the direction to move forward in a positive manner.

Gwyneth and John Aleshunas will draft an email to department chairs to schedule time on their department meeting agenda. They will present the draft to the Senate next week.

VIII. Faculty Assembly September 8th Meeting Agenda Topics Discussed

The tentative agenda for the 8 September Faculty Assembly Meeting is:

- a.** Faculty focus groups
- b.** Fall Institute
- c.** Committee handbook changes
- d.** Senate functions and roles
- e.** Presentation by the Provost about enrollment/raises

A suggestion was presented that we have additional Faculty Assembly meetings (non-voting meetings) to discuss issues that are important to and affecting faculty. This idea will be discussed in future senate meetings for potential consideration.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.