

MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 13, 2012

The Senate met on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the Alumni House

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Glen Bauer, Mary Bevel, Carla Colletti, Paula Hanssen, Scott Jensen, Don Conway-Long, Victoria McMullen, J.P. Palmer-Schuyler, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Roy Tamashiro, Gwyneth Williams

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 30th Faculty Senate meeting minutes. With the exception of one abstention, all were in favor; motion carried.

Appointed Committees

GCPC –

Stephanie Mahfood to replace Carol Hoyt as the School of Education representative for Academic Year 2012-2013

A motion was made and seconded to accept Stephanie as a replacement for Carol. All were in favor; motion carried.

Senate –

Xiaoyuan (Sue) Suo to replace John Aleshunas as the George H. Walker School of Business and Technology representative for Spring 2013

A motion was made and seconded to accept Sue as a replacement for John. All were in favor; motion carried.

Salary and Fringe Benefits –

Doug O'Bannon for Academic Year 2012-2013 to replace Dean Eckhoff

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Doug. All were in favor; motion carried.

Webster WWW Organizing Committee –

John Aleshunas has been on this committee for 10 years and has enjoyed it. Since he will be out during the Spring 2013 semester on FDL, it is a good time for him to step aside. There is not a huge involvement for this committee as they meet four times a year. This would be a good committee for a newer faculty member who wants to get involved in the Webster Community. A recommendation was suggested to replace John. It was suggested that if that person declines, that a notice be sent out to the Assembly asking for nominations.

Committee to Oversee Faculty Senate Presidential Election –

Ralph is running for Faculty Senate President and cannot oversee that election. A three person committee has been appointed to oversee the election. That committee is Glen Bauer, Don Conway-Long, and Marty Smith.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Faculty Senate Presidential Election Committee. All were in favor; motion carried.

Fall Institute Update

Marty Smith gave an update on the Fall Institute. The committee met last week to discuss the institute and the invited speaker. The speaker has had a family situation and has not gotten back to Marty on whether or not she will be able to speak at the institute. Marty will email her and see what her response is. Provost Schuster had mentioned that he would pay for a portion of the speaker fee and there was discussion on contacting him to get an idea of how much he is willing to pay for a speaker.

A Senator mentioned that they had reviewed the video of the possible guest speaker and shared thoughts. After some discussion, it was thought that it would be best to make sure we are very specific in what we would like the speaker to talk about and to use her only for the keynote address on Friday and not for workshops on Friday/Saturday.

Discussion took place regarding other options if Melissa Peet cannot attend as the keynote speaker.

Delayed Leave Policy

For those that are new to the Senate this year, history was given with regard to this policy. The University Handbook currently indicates that you can delay a leave, but if you do delay your leave, your clock will restart. If your clock restarts, it greatly diminishes any incentive to become a department chair, etc. The Senate tried to craft language that would allow those that are being a good citizen for the workplace to not have their clock restarted. If leave is for a personal issue, then your clock would restart.

Some still thought that the last paragraph of the crafted language was unclear.

The question was asked if one is FDL and takes up to a two-year delay, then one would have another leave in three years? It was answered that yes, that is correct. Some could see the administration pushing back on that. Most other universities do the delay. Once you receive FDL, like tenure, you start a clock. Your clock is only based on your last leave and independent of your reviews.

To receive the deferral, who would faculty need to apply to? The application would go to the faculty member's department chair, then to the dean, then to academic affairs.

In preparing the new Handbook Language, it was suggested that the process of application for deferral be based upon the process of applying for FDL. The question was asked if you can split a leave by taking 8 weeks this semester and 8 weeks another semester? It is not known if it is in the Handbook that you can split a leave, but it reads "a semester" so it depends on how you want to read "a semester." It would be up to your dean to decide that.

In moving forward with the Handbook Language, Glen Bauer will insert text into the current language from the Handbook and bring the corrected copy back to the October 4th Senate meeting. We will then progress from there.

Miscellaneous

Some members of the various constituent groups are wondering why the Senate is not informing faculty in the Assembly of the outcome of issues that have been voted on in the Assembly. It was stated that a status report would be helpful. Could that status report be given either in the minutes and/or at the next Assembly meeting. It was also suggested that a status report be requested from Dr. Schuster to see where items stand that were forwarded to him. Ralph stated that he will request a status report from Dr. Schuster and post that report in the minutes as well as give an update at the next Faculty Assembly meeting.

Mercer

A question was asked regarding when part 2 and part 3 of the Mercer adjustment will take place? It was thought that there was mention of part 3 being delayed due to budget during convocation. Ralph will invite Provost Schuster to the November Faculty Assembly to give an update on budget and Mercer.

Voter Eligibility

It was stated that before the Faculty Senate Presidential Election, it needs to be decided who will receive ballots as there have been conflicting reports on who is eligible to vote. Currently, all full-time faculty and adjunct faculty that make up the Faculty Assembly, and the five deans receive ballots. This list is in the University Handbook as those eligible to vote. The Senate voted on those who are eligible to vote and requested a Handbook change, but it has not yet been approved so we will need to follow the current University Handbook policy.

A motion was made that for the purposes of this election that we send ballots to the people who have faculty status but are in the gray area (those that the faculty assembly voted to exclude as having administrative appointments, but has not been approved by the administration for the University Handbook.) The senate notes that the faculty assembly voted to change this and would like the administrative council to take action on it. Motion was seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.