

# **Faculty Assembly Meeting**

September 8, 2015

EAB 253/262

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Gwyneth Williams, Faculty Senate President, called the meeting to order.

## **I. Introductions**

- A) Gwyneth welcomed everyone to the new Academic Year.
- B) The Faculty Senate members were introduced.
- C) New full-time faculty were introduced.

## **II. Announcements**

- A) Fall Faculty Institute is October 2 & 3. Room reservations should be submitted as soon as possible. Faculty are encouraged to submit a presentation proposal.
- B) Groundbreaking ceremony for new the new Multidisciplinary Science Building is tomorrow (9/10) at 11:30.
- C) Homecoming Weekend is September 25 – 27.
- D) There will be a Faculty Social on September 10th from 4:00 to 5:30 PM in the FDC
- E) Curriculum Committee – Aaron AuBuchon gave the due date (Oct. 3rd) for proposals. See the Curriculum Committee webpage for further information.

## **III. Roles of Senate**

Gwyneth gave the Assembly a brief overview of the roles of the Senate as listed below:

- 1) Representation of faculty interests and desires
- 2) Policymaking by aggregating faculty interests into a workable form. This responsibility is constrained to those initiatives that are within the Senate's purview
- 3) Oversight of committee work (elections, populating committees, etc.)
- 4) Constituent service and advocacy

## **IV. Policymaking and Oversight: Committee Work**

### **A) New University Handbook Language – (Attachment A)**

Gwyneth presented the revised Handbook language regarding conduct of committee activities. This addition clarifies and codifies existing expectations of committee chairs and committee members.

### **B) Committee Reporting Form – (Attachment B)**

Committees must submit an annual report to the Senate detailing their significant activities for the academic year. The Senate has developed a simple form for committee chairs to use. It is available on the Senate website.

## V. Faculty Priorities Initiatives - (Attachment C)

In order for the Senate to best represent faculty on important issues and discover faculty interests and views, the Senate will contact department chairs and ask to send two Senators to upcoming departmental meetings. The Senators will engage the department on the questions presented on the questionnaire. Compilation of results will be given to faculty and the administration upon the completion of this process.

For faculty who wish to maintain anonymity, a copy of the questionnaire will be given out at departmental meetings and can be submitted to the Senate via campus mail.

## VI. Report from Provost Julian Schuster

A) Enrollment – Preliminary news is that budget has been met with some nuances. Undergraduate enrollment is doing well with graduate enrollment falling short. International enrollment is up; military and extended metro campus enrollment is down.

B) Adjunct initiatives – President Stroble and Provost Schuster have had several meetings with adjunct faculty. Several observations emerged from those meetings. The following issues are being addressed:

- 1) Adjunct faculty need to receive their contracts prior to beginning the teaching of a course;
- 2) Adjuncts will only pay for parking in those semesters in which they teach;
- 3) Administration is working on an informational website for adjunct faculty
- 4) Spaces will be provided in the East Academic Building and the Sverdrup Building for adjunct faculty to store their private belongings while teaching.
- 5) A consulting firm has been hired to meet with focus groups of adjuncts.

C) Floor opened for questions–

Q: Will any new London program be the same as the previous one?

A: London is the biggest Study Abroad location for U.S. students, and the administration has been examining partnerships with several institutions. It would be desirable to find one with a residential campus.

Q: Why do we need two locations in England?

A: Oxford-Brooks is a residential campus in a good location and its curriculum a good fit for Webster. But the University is also committed to having a location in London because of its importance as an international city.

Q: Could Thailand be asked to return to having eight-week undergraduate courses because the sixteen week courses have killed mobility for Thailand students.

A: Provost Schuster would have to look further into that matter.

Q: The adjunct union vote failed, but the administration needs to understand that this issue is not going to go away and needs to be further studied.

A: The administration is just beginning to work to fix problems encountered by adjunct faculty.

Gwyneth mentioned that there are still quite a few seats for adjunct faculty to become members of the Faculty Assembly.

**VII. Sexual Misconduct New Website (Bill Barrett and Eric Rhiney) –**

President Stroble requested faculty participation on a task force for the University to counter sexual misconduct. Their task was to design a resource website and determine how people would access the site for information on sexual misconduct. The link to the website is: <http://www.webster.edu/sexual-misconduct/>. The website will be updated and revised as the task force moves forward. The Faculty Assembly was asked to inform students of the website, and to provide feedback.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.