

Faculty Senate Meeting
June 1, 2015

Gwyneth Williams, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

Members Present: John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Don Conway-Long, Anne Geraghty-Rathert, Ryan Groeneman, Tori Meyer, J.P. Palmer, Hemla Singaravelu, Martha Smith, Phyllis Wilkinson

I. Welcome New Senators

Gwyneth welcomed the new Senators and asked them to introduce themselves.

The next Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2015 from 1 – 3 p.m.

II. Reports

A. Webster University London

Gwyneth presented to the senate a statement from President Stroble and Provost Schuster on behalf of the University explaining the recent media coverage of our London campus.

B. Webster University Thailand

Gwyneth presented a very brief statement from Keith Welsh, ombudsman for the Thailand campus, discussing the changes taking place at that campus.

III. Committee Appointments

A. Multi-Cultural Studies Committee –

1. The senate approved Eric Rhiney to replace Heather Mitchell for fall 2015
2. The senate approved Celine Hong to replace Kristen Anderson for spring 2015

B. Women and Gender Studies –

1. The senate approved Glen Bauer to replace Beckah Reed for fall 2015

C. International Studies Committee –

1. The senate approved Dustin Smith to replace Ece Tuncel for fall 2015

D. Adjuncts for Faculty Assembly –

1. The senate approved Thomas Barkman and Jason Dill as adjunct faculty assembly members for the next two academic years.

All of the above appointments were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. Committee Chair Stipends

In the past, some committees (e.g., Women's Studies, Multicultural Studies, International Studies) administered academic programs (developed curriculum, scheduled courses, etc.). These committee chairs received a stipend or course release for this curriculum management role. When these programs moved into departments, the departments/deans appointed directors to oversee the curricula, and it fell under the purview of the deans to

determine whether or not to give a stipend or course release to a director. The Senate committees connected to these programs now do co-curricular support. As these programs are absorbed into departments, the committee chairs no longer receive stipends/course releases.

V. International Studies Committee University Handbook Change Proposal

Paula Hanssen and Silvia Navia briefed the senate regarding changes they made to the University Handbook language regarding the International Studies Committee. Once their draft of the handbook language is complete, they will bring the document back to the Senate for approval of these changes. Once the senate approves this document, Gwyneth and Provost Schuster will sign off on the formal request and it will be included in the handbook.

VI. 2015 Fall Institute

The 2015 Fall Institute is on October 2 & 3 at Pere Marquette in Grafton, Illinois. Near the end of the summer, John Aleshunas will send out a Request for Proposals and ask the institute committee to review the proposals that are submitted. John will contact the institute committee in the next few weeks and assign the institute tasks to committee members. Senators were asked to encourage faculty in their departments to send in a presentation proposal for the institute.

VII. Role of Senate

Gwyneth presented some thoughts on the role and responsibility of the Faculty Senate as a context for senate activities in the coming academic year. This presentation included a brief description of the functions of legislative bodies (representation and policymaking) and the University Handbook Language describing the functions and responsibilities of the Faculty Senate.

VIII. Senate Oversight of Committees

The Senate is responsible for oversight of faculty committees. This oversight includes populating committees and restructuring those committees when necessary. In recent years, the practice of submitting a committee year-end report was not enforced. This hinders the senate's oversight role.

The Senate wants to reinstitute committee year-end reports in order to stay informed on each committee's activities. John Aleshunas and Phyllis Wilkinson will draft a form for the committee chairs to use for their report at the end of each year. These annual reports may possibly be posted on the Faculty Senate webpage.

A suggestion was made to schedule at least one meeting of the committee chairs per semester. Committee chairs could use this time to share ideas and enhance communication between committees.

Committee chairs will be reminded that they are required to be re-elected each academic year and the Senate should be notified of who was elected as chair of each committee.

IX. Priorities for Senate

The Senate discussed the original goals of last year's Adjunct Faculty Task Force. Many of these goals fall under the purview of the Office of Academic Affairs, the academic Deans, or academic Department Chairs. Any involvement by the senate in these areas would be redundant and non-productive. The Senate President and Vice President will address these issues with the Provost and Deans at the next Provost's Council meeting.

The Senate discussed several topics for senate activity in the new academic year. These topics included: getting feedback from the recent Dean's evaluation, assessing faculty morale using department interview sessions, and developing existing and new faculty communications channels. There was unanimous agreement to work on these issues.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.