

ACADEMIC SENATE MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2017

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

4th Floor Conference Room, LRC

CHAIR: Joshua Cameron

VICE CHAIR:

SENATORS: Keith Boyer, Beth Boynton, Casey Chaney, Denton Eldredge, Ed Goering, Eric Gupta, Shalechia Hunt, Malika Kachani, Craig Kuehn, Pen-Jen Lin, Valerie Quan, Beatrice Saviola, Munish Sharma, Jacqueline Truong, Irina Vukmanovic Nosrat

ABSENT: Pat Callard, Donna Emanuele, Kabir Lufy, Steven Standley, Nithya Venugopal

SECRETARY: Alyssa Rodriguez

Topic	Proposed Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order	Meeting was called to order at 12pm by the Chair, Joshua Camerom	
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting 6-12-17		Dr. Chaney motioned to approve the minutes as written, Dr. Quan seconded; all were in favor.
3. Announcements	<i>Welcome new senators! Senate will have a new member from the College of Graduate Nursing and it will be a two year term.</i>	
4. Old Business	Reminder Elections – Please let your faculty know that elections haven't been sent out for the Grievance Committee and the Research Committee. The Grievance Committee from last year is willing to continue serving in that capacity while we figure it out.	
5i. University Committees	The University Committees, except for the Grievance and Research, were voted on and elected. We worked with the different colleges to get all the committees filled. When you're out with your colleagues, please remind them to have their meetings to elect a Chair, Vice Chair, etc.	
5ii. Elect Senate Vice Chair at September	Please send nominations to Dr. Cameron and Alyssa Rodriguez. Would like to have the nominations in by the first week of September in preparation for the senate meeting. Please keep in mind, that it could be a rather hefty commitment for six years, two years as Vice Chair, two years as Chair, and two years as past Chair.	
5iii. Anonymous Feedback	The Senate has a feedback mechanism on their website, to send to each committee as well as anonymous feedback. The Senates Chair and Secretary are the only ones that have access to the anonymous feedback. As the Academic Senate Chair, Dr. Cameron feels that it is his responsibility to share that this was discussed with the Senate, with the rest of our faculty at the assembly, and hopefully you'll agree that some of these items need to be shared with our faculty at large. - <i>What happened to the faculty handbook? It seems the senate put it back in the hands of the administration for control! And it is taking a very long time. It also appears that the past chair and vice-chair are more interested in the power of being chair and vice-chair than actually addressing faculty issues. We hope this will</i>	

	<p>change and the senate will be less afraid. – This comment means that there is a lack of communication. There is a lot going on with the University Faculty Handbook. There has been a lot of progress over the last year. Yes, it is slow, but it is slow for a reason. I hope that were conveying that back to our faculty through faculty meetings and other channels of communicating with people. Last year in the Senate meetings, there was an update from the handbook. There is work being done and the faculty are in complete control.</p> <p>- Deans at WesternU should not be in that leadership position for a long time. A maximum tenure of 8 years should be allowed, with an evaluation and vote of confidence every 4 years. Can the Senate please suggest this to the higher administration?</p> <p>Also, retaliation exist and faculty are afraid to talk about this. Can the Senators who represent us please communicate this important information to the Provost and the President? Faculty are bullied and are afraid to report, and we cannot keep closing our eyes...</p> <p>Several years ago, I submitted a suggestion that the Academic senate request that college Deans, Associate Deans, and department heads be assessed yearly by the faculty in their colleges and the evaluations be sent directly to the Upper Administration of the University for review. I don't believe that the senate body was ever made aware of this recommendation. I believe that it should have been brought to the attention of all the senate representatives for discussion. I am resubmitting this request.</p> <p>I also request that the senate consider the feasibility of, every five years, requiring faculty members to cast votes of confidence or no confidence in the Dean of their college and that the results be forwarded to the Upper Administration of the University. –There is evidence of a want for some way of evaluating people above us. Both of them had mentioned having a vote of confidence or no confidence.</p> <p><i>In the college of Pharmacy, we do evaluations for upper administration. In other colleges it is common to do a vote of confidence every so often especially for the Deans and the Provosts office. In the last five years, there were 53 votes of no confidence across the united states for university administrators. It's double the amount of in the past 20 years. Several years ago, it wasn't a vote of no confidence, but a statement of concern.</i></p> <p>Dr. Cameron will bring up the anonymous feedback at the Academic Assembly in November.</p>	<p>Dr. Cameron would like to put forward a motion to have task force to look at evaluations across campus, both faculty and administration evaluations. Dr. Kuehn seconded, all were in favor.</p>
<p>6i. Faculty Handbook Task Force</p>	<p>The task force is up to the appendices. Dr. Chaney is sad to say that she has not received any emails from the senators about the handbook. The task force has been receiving information from the University Faculty Affairs Committee, Human Resources, as well as the other members on the task force. Looking to have it finished within the next two meetings.</p>	
<p>6ii. AAUP Report</p>	<p>Drs. Shalechia Hunt and Nithya Venugopal attended the AAUP Summer Institute. Dr. Hunt attended the Leadership track. The purpose of the leadership track was to discuss how to create leaders out of Faculty within your own institution. How to determine leadership models, what we expect those leaders to look like, and then how to use that model to shape</p>	

	<p>a leadership team to represent all faculty. It touched on a lot of the Dean issues and evaluating them. It's happening country wide as people are trying to figure out better ways to evaluate their deans and if you can't evaluate them, how can you shape them to how to be of more assistance? There was quite a bit that didn't apply to us because the university doesn't have a chapter. The University can have a chapter, it is just a matter of people stepping up to participate and paying dues.</p>	
6iii. Committees of the Academic Senate	<p>Please make sure to respond to Alyssa's invitations in regards to the committees meeting. At your first committee, please elect a chair and vice chair. To anyone who was the previous chair on the committee, please get with the new chair and make sure you pass on your wealth of knowledge.</p>	
6iv. Board of Trustees Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In a closed session, the Board of Trustees gave the President his one year evaluation. - The Board of Trustees relayed that they are in the process of expanding, new members have been added. They are looking at the creation of a governing board which would operate the way the Board of Trustees currently operates and then a fiduciary which will be more looking into how to spend money, how to allocate money, how to raise money and funds. - There will be a retreat in September for a strategic planning, looking at things such as possible new campuses or programs. The first day of the retreat is strictly for the Board and then the second day, it will be for other major constituents of the University, the Deans and Vice President. - Possible incentives for clinic and basic research. - There was a great report on the Robert Wood Johnson program that happened over the summer. The Board of Trustees really appreciates and acknowledges and really respects the work that was done. The report was given by Drs. Friedrichsen and Rega, they shared some amazing things that happened over the six weeks with the undergraduates. Please let your faculty know that the Board of Trustees heard about it, was super excited and want it to continue. - The Chair of the Academic Senate has been made a member of the Presidential Cabinet, the first time that this has ever happened. Dr. Cameron will keep the Senate up to date. <p>OPS Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They are looking to put all the rooms in one scheduling place/ system. A lot of colleges are still block booking which is creating problems for other colleges that need a room. 	
7. Next Meeting	<p>September 11, 2017 Academic Assembly meeting: November 14, 2017</p>	
8. Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1pm.</p>	