



Faculty Senate Archives

Faculty Senate

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Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting of October 27, 2008

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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
AGENDA

MEETING NOTICE	Monday, October 27, 2008
	CH 107 3:30 p.m.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- I. Call of the Meeting to Order

- II. Informal Statements and Proposals
 - A. Foundations of Excellence -- Keith Pickus, Associate Provost
- Approval of the Minutes -- Monday, September 22, 2008 -
- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/m9-22-08.htm>
- III. Monday, October 13, 2008 -
- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/m10-13-08.htm>
- IV. President's Report:
- V. Committee Reports:
 - A. Rules Committee -- Deborah Soles, chair
- VI. Old Business: none
- VII. New Business: (*proposed additions in blue -- deletions in red*)
 - A. Proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Election Rules -
- <http://webs.wichita.edu/senate/Electrulespro.htm>
 - B. "Discussion of C- for courses which require a C"
- VIII. As May Arise

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office	Campus Phone	Campus Box
President -- Larry Spurgeon larry.spurgeon@wichita.edu	6260	Box 77
President-Elect -- Deborah Soles deborah.soles@wichita.edu	3125	Box 74
Vice President -- Steven Skinner steven.skinner@wichita.edu	3415	Box 44
Secretary -- Brien Bolin brien.bolin@wichita.edu	3087	Box 154
Past President -- Silvia Carruthers silvia.herzog@wichita.edu	6268	Box 53
Elected by the Senate		
Cathy Moore-Jansen cathy.moore-jansen@wichita.edu	5080	Box 68
Fritz Hemans frederick.hemans@wichita.edu	3555	Box 67
Appointed by the Faculty Senate President		
Julie Scherz julie.scherz@wichita.edu	5344	Box 75
Office of Faculty Senate	3504	Box 111
Bobbi Dreiling, Administrative Assistant bobbi.dreiling@wichita.edu		



FACULTY SENATE ELECTION RULES

GENERAL RULES:

1. For purposes of representation on the Faculty Senate, the faculty is divided into nine divisions: the W. Frank Barton School of Business; the Colleges of Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, and Health Professions; the divisions of Humanities, Math/Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences in the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and the Universities Libraries.

2. **The Faculty Senate shall be composed of elected members of the teaching/research faculty, department chairs, and university libraries from the nine divisions.** Each Senate division is allotted one Senator for every twelve faculty members, rounding up to the nearest integer. ~~Faculty members are defined as those individuals meeting each of the following~~ **The teaching/research faculty is defined as all full-time (1.0 EFT) university personnel who are tenured, temporary, probationary or instructors with faculty status at least 50 percent of whose University duties include teaching, research, and/or library service. Eligible members of the faculty also serve as the electorate. Administrators are ineligible for the Faculty Senate electorate. Administrators, include those persons holding the title of President; Provost, Associate Provost, Vice President; Associate Vice President; Assistant Vice President; Dean; Associate Dean; Assistant Dean; Directors of all non-academic programs including but not limited to the Director of the Computer Center, Director of the Office of Institutional Research, Director of Physical Plant, the Registrar, and Director of Cooperative Education.**

~~a. faculty status of tenured, temporary, probationary or instructor with faculty status~~

~~b. holding half-time e.f.t. or more appointments~~

~~c. having primary duties that are 50 percent or more teaching, research, and/or library service.~~

This definition also determines eligibility for election to the Faculty Senate (*2a --rev. 07*)

3. The faculty of each Senate division shall determine how their seats on the Faculty Senate are to be allocated.
4. Prior to the elections, the number of senators allotted to each Senate division will be determined by the Rules Committee. If a Senate division gains or loses one or more seats, the Rules Committee will notify the current senators from that division, who will be responsible for organizing a meeting of the appropriate faculty for the purpose of determining the new allocation of seats.
5. The intent of the Senate Constitution is that approximately one-half of the senators will be elected each year. To maintain that pattern, the Rules Committee may choose to postpone for one year a change in the number of seats allotted to a division.
6. Nominations and elections will be conducted in the following sequence:
 - a. Senate seats elected at-large by the entire faculty
 - b. Senate seats elected at-large within a college/school/University Libraries or division
 - c. Senate seats elected by a division

NOMINATION PROCESS

1. For each part of the election sequence, nomination **forms ballots** will be distributed by the Vice President of the Senate to eligible faculty voters. **Distributed along with nomination ballots will be a statement of the requirements for nomination and election for that position, these nomination forms will contain** the deadline for returning nominations, and a list of faculty senators who are **thus** ineligible for the position **because of their continuing service to the Faculty Senate**. In addition, **the nomination forms will contain links to the Election Rules and attendance records of the sitting senators. a copy of these rules and the attendance record of the sitting senators will be distributed with the nomination ballots for the at-large Senate seats.**
2. Nominations received after the deadline stated on the nomination **form ballot** will not be considered.
3. The Vice President will determine the eligibility of nominees **and endeavor to determine nominees willingness to serve before placing them on an election ballot.**

4. Six nominations are required to place a nominee on the Faculty Senate campus-wide at-large ballot.

5. For other **nominations ballots**, including college/school/**University Libraries** at-large positions, the Vice President will place on the election ballot those individuals who received the greatest number of nominations. The number of individuals placed on the ballot should be no more than twice the number of open positions, except that in the case of ties in the number of nominations received those names may be added.

~~6. The Vice President will endeavor to determine nominees' willingness to serve before placing them on an election ballot.~~

ELECTION PROCESS

1. Once the nominees have been selected, election ballots will be distributed to eligible faculty. Nominees will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order, and the ballot will show the deadline for return.

2. Ballots received after the deadline stated on the election ballot will not be counted.

3. The Vice President will count the votes and determine the winners. A plurality is sufficient for election.

4. In case of tie votes, a run-off election will be held if requested by one or more of the nominees who are tied. If agreeable to all tied nominees, other methods of breaking the tie may be used; random choice (a coin flip, for example), nominee(s) withdrawal, or any other process agreeable to the nominees and the Rules Committee.

5. The names of those elected to the Faculty Senate will be submitted to *Inside WSU* and the *Sunflower*

**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
Minutes - Monday October 27, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Baldrige, Bennett, Bolin, Carruthers, Craft, Dale, Decker, deSilva, Hager, Henry, Horn, Klunder, Koehn, Lewis-Moss, Lezotte, K. Miller, C. Moore-Jansen, Myers, Myose, Rokosz, Russell, Schneegurt, Skinner, Smith-Campbell, Soles, Spurgeon, Wolf, Yeager, Yildirim

MEMBERS ABSENT: Celestin, Duncan, Hershfield, Jarnagin, Monroe, P. Moore-Jansen, Ravi, Taher

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Brooks, Gordon, Hemans, Pickard, Rillema, Ross, Scherz

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT: Provost Miller

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

1. Accepted the proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Election Rules

I. Call of the Meeting to Order 3:32pm by President Spurgeon

II. Informal Statements and Proposals

A. Foundations of Excellence -- Report by Keith Pickus, Associate Provost

1. WSU is looking at issues of enrollment, recruitment, meeting our goal of 2% growth per year. A task force was appointed to look at strategic planning for enrollment management, which includes retention and graduation rates. John Gardner has developed strategies on retention of 1st year students. WSU is one of 19 universities participating in a program called the Foundations of Excellence.
2. Foundations of Excellence is a guided self-study, not prescriptive. It looks at how we interact with our new students. WSU has about 2800 new students each year, and half of them are transfer students. This program will allow us to evaluate our interaction with new and transfer students.
3. There are nine dimensions or themes that we will assess in the transition from High School to College. These are stated as inspirational. The way the process is organized is around steering committees for each dimension, with 2 co-chairs for each. There will be at least four faculty members on each committee, as well as unclassified professionals and students. We need to get the range of input, and a survey was submitted to faculty with an excellent response rate.
4. Dimension committees are meeting now. The goal is by May 1st to have a working plan to improve the way we interact with our first year students.
5. Senate discussion:
 - a. A question was asked about whether this will look at students who come to WSU to take one course or one year but move on to other places. Provost

Miller stated that those students are seen as retentions if they go on and graduate somewhere else. But students who do leave WSU but do not graduate elsewhere are not counted in our retention numbers. Provost Miller did not see WSU as a service university in the same way that community colleges might provide.

- b. There will be a survey for students beginning November 5th. Pickus encouraged us to encourage students to be involved. There will be a \$10 book store gift certificate for participation.
- c. The student data will be looked at as well as NESSY data.
- d. Pickus discussed a conceptual student success course or orientation that may be put in place in the future

III. Approval of the Minutes -- Monday, September 22, 2008 -- Approved
Monday, October 13, 2008 -- Approved

IV. President's Report:

1. President Spurgeon said the Executive Committee had discussed whether the recent approval of the changes to the Tenure & Promotion policy should be submitted to a vote at a General Faculty Meeting. He displayed Article 3 – Section 1 of the faculty senate Constitution which covers general faculty meetings. Section 5 states that action by the faculty senate is final but there is a procedure for faculty to request the Executive Committee to put something on the agenda for a general faculty meeting. After a brief discussion it was agreed that a notice should be posted in WSU Today about the faculty senate vote, with a reference to the procedure in Section 5 of the constitution. A recommendation was also made to state a date for when the proposal will be submitted to the Provost's office for approval.
2. President Spurgeon summarized a discussion the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents had with the Kansas Board of Regents at the October regents' meeting. The senate presidents proposed a tuition waiver system, one which would not involve any cost to the university. He displayed the regents' policy on tuition assistance, which requires actual dollars to be expended for tuition assistance for faculty dependents. There is also a statute which requires the same thing, and currently tuition waivers must be granted by the legislature on a case-by-case basis. It would require a statutory change to allow tuition waivers, and one possibility is for the legislature to grant that authority to the regents. He said the regents seemed receptive to this proposal, but there was some concern about how this would be received by the legislature.
3. The Faculty Senate Holiday party will be held on December 8th in Ablah library at the normal time for senate meetings. It will be in the lower level in the special collections area.

V Committee Reports:

A. Rules Committee -- Deborah Soles, chair

Letters have gone out for folks to serve on the grievance committee.

VI. Old Business: none

VII. New Business:

A. Proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate Election Rules --

The Executive Committee proposed some revisions to the senate election rules. These changes are intended simply to track the language in the Faculty Senate Constitution with respect to eligibility of faculty to serve in the senate, and to make some technical changes to the nominating process. It was noted that there are some typos in the proposal, which will be corrected. The senate approved the changes unanimously

B. "Discussion of C- for courses which require a C"

The context of this discussion is that the Provost's office indicated there needs to be clarification about whether a "C-" grade will be treated as a C for courses and programs which require a C or better. The same issue applies for a B-. Academic Affairs would like to take the position that the default rule would be to treat a C- as a C, though a department/college can provide otherwise in the catalog. Initially, the Executive Committee believed that this might require senate action through a policy change, but it now appears that for several reasons all that is needed is to inform departments and colleges that a C- will be interpreted as a C unless they provide information otherwise in the catalog. First, under the current grading system a student who does C- work receives a C. Second, the plus/minus proposal approved last year indicates that a C- is in the range that denotes satisfactory performance. Senator Soles explained that she had looked in the catalog and the general education requirements do not require a C for individual courses. She could find very few instances of such requirements in the catalog and concluded that this is an issue for the colleges.

There was discussion about whether a student who received too many C- grades would still be able to graduate by meeting the GPA requirements. It was pointed out that that is currently the case. Several senators noted that their departments currently have different minimum grade requirements than other programs, even in that college. Provost Miller said we need to be able to have a default to a letter grade.

Student Government President Zach Gearhart was asked about the students' position on this issue. He said the students are not supportive of plus/minus grading, but now that it has been approved, the students would appreciate any clarification on what the transfer or equivalencies will be, and support the position that a C- is a C.

The senate agrees that this is a department/college issue and the main thing is to make sure that those areas are aware of the issue, so they can determine whether to go with the default interpretation or modify their policies to provide otherwise.

AS MAY ARISE: NONE

Meeting Adjourned at 4:40pm
Respectfully Submitted
Brien Bolin

