Faculty Senate Archives

Faculty Senate Academic year 2020-2021

# Attachment 4 to Faculty Senate Meeting February 8, 2021

# Vote of No-Confidence in the Kansas Board of Regents

**Additional information:** Digitized by University Libraries Technical Services and archived in SOAR: Shocker Open Access Repository at: http://soar.wichita.edu/handle/10057/19653

# Vote of No-Confidence in the Kansas Board of Regents

The Kansas Board of Regents "Temporary Policy Re Covid Related Reduction in Force" is an ill-judged measure that violates established policies, ignores formal procedures and disregards practices of shared governance.

First and foremost, the Covid Related Reduction in Force destroys the system of tenure, a system designed to protect academic freedom for research and Teaching. 98% of four-year/doctoral granting universities have a system of tenure.

Second, the policy circumvents the established policies of financial exigency. Financial exigency policies were created by both KBOR and Wichita State University to address financial threats to the university in a formal and equitable manner. WSU financial exigency policies provide faculty a voice in responding to financial concerns, evaluate proper responses and safeguard formalized hearing and appeal processes.

Third, the policy ignores the Board's own policies which state that "individuals and groups who are directly affected by a proposal, or have a vested interest in a proposal, shall be given an opportunity to review and provide advice about the proposal prior to its final adoption" and "for proposals that clearly have system-wide impact, council leaders shall ensure system participation in the development process" (Chapter I, 3. Basic Principles and Operating Procedures, KBOR Policy Manual). The measure was passed without the consideration of any of these Board norms.

Fourth, the policy ignores both the letter and the spirit of shared governance. Under shared governance, faculty have the primary responsibility for decisions regarding educational policy, the curriculum, and faculty status. Further, faculty, staff, and administrators have been working on responding to the financial stresses caused by Covid-19 and the longer-term defunding of higher education. This Board action provides no role for these constituencies to protect the University.

Accordingly, the Wichita State University Faculty Senate issues a vote of no-confidence in the Kansas Board of Regents.