

Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, July 9, 2020, Via WebEx, 2:30 PM

I. Attendance

K. Armbruster, J. Bohus, V. Brown-Kennerly, P. Davis, E. Fan, T. Foley, E. Goedereis, S. Jensen, J. Lassetter, B. Lynch, S. Mahfood, J. Palmer, M. Preuss, T. Reilly, E. Rhiney, L. Risik, D. Stiles.

II. *Upon motion by S. Jensen, seconded by P. Davis, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the June 18, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting.*

III. President's Report – B. Lynch

- A. Senators introduced themselves to the group, including new Senators.
- B. Keith Welsh introduced himself as an observing guest to the Senate meeting.
- C. President Lynch reported on planning for the Fall semester. There has been a comprehensive review of all spaces on the home campus. Eric Palmore has created a tool that identifies each space and its characteristics, capacities pre and post COVID, which classes were held there previously, how many students could be held in the classrooms, etc. Pres. Lynch said that Deans have been charged to have plans in place by mid-July. The university's priority is everyone's safety.
- D. ICE has mandated that all international students be on campus for classes or they will have to go home. Many Faculty have signed an open letter stating their opposition to this mandate.

IV. Old Business

- A. Choosing a Senate Vice President for 2020-2021 - *B. Lynch*

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by B. Lynch, seconded by T. Reilly, to appoint Julie 'JP' Palmer as the Senate Vice President for Academic Year 2020-2021.

- B. Spring Institute – *K. Armbruster*

The 2020 Spring Institute will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2020 by way of a virtual platform. Once we get the invitation responses, we can then assign people to small groups. We would like diversity across disciplines in each group.

- C. Fall Institute - *Bill Lynch*

Pres. Lynch would like the topic of the Fall Institute to be BIPOC issues as well as the direct concerns of black colleagues. He would like the topic brought up to the faculty at the Spring Institute. A committee to work on the Fall Institute needs to be assembled. Senator T. Reilly said that the Multicultural Studies Committee would be helping to facilitate the Fall Institute as well.

V. New Business

A. Attestation Form (Attachment A) – *Bill Lynch*

President Lynch said that an Attestation Form was delivered to full time faculty for their signatures in light of the Covid crisis. He believes that this Form is very confusing in what it is asking the faculty to do and is unclear about what the University is actually doing. He does not understand what the Administration is trying to accomplish with this Form. The Form seems threatening and legalistic in nature.

Discussion among the Senate takes place and it is decided that the action needs to be taken on behalf of the Faculty.

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by T. Reilly, seconded by L. Risik, to charge President Bill Lynch to approach the administration regarding the Attestation Form and request the entire document be reframed so that it is not legalistically threatening to their employees.

President Lynch states that he will act on this charge immediately following this meeting.

President Lynch requested Senators to email him any specific questions for President Schuster and Vice President Hellerud prior to the July 23, 2020 Senate meeting so they have the chance to prepare their answers.

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by S. Jensen, seconded by E. Fan, to adjourn this meeting at 4:13PM.

Attestation

I, the undersigned employee, have received and have carefully read and am informed about the content, requirements, and expectations of the Transition and Adaptability Policy (“Policy”). I agree to abide by the Policy terms as a condition of my employment and my continuing employment with Webster University and as a condition of being permitted ongoing access to Webster University’s premises. Such Policy terms are incorporated herein by reference and include without limitation the following:

- I shall remain away from Webster University premises if I am sick.
- I shall complete the online self-assessment each day before coming to campus, or on-site upon arrival with Public Safety or as established by my campus, and shall follow the directions I receive from such self-assessment if I am denied access to campus.
- I shall practice social distancing and other protective healthy measures, including wearing face masks or coverings, as required by any applicable Health Department Order and/or by CDC guidelines.
- I shall use frequent hygiene procedures while on campus.
- I shall respect, and shall not attempt to circumvent, physical campus directives such as physical barriers, limited access, etc.

I understand that it is not possible for Webster University to eliminate completely the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. I assume the risk of such exposure on Webster University’s premises. This statement is not intended to cover claims under any Workers’ Compensation law nor any claims for which such a release is not permitted by applicable law, such as claims for gross negligence, intentional misconduct or for circumstances in which a prospective waiver would violate public policy.

I understand that if I have questions, at any time, regarding the Transition and Adaptability policy, I will consult with my immediate supervisor or Human Resources. I understand that failure to abide by the Policy terms may require corrective action in accordance with the Corrective Action policy (faculty, staff) available for review under the Human Resources policies at www.webster.edu/human-resources/policies/ or the Student Code of Conduct and Procedures (students) available at www.webster.edu/student-handbook/conduct.html

Employee Signature: _____

Employee Printed Name: _____

Employee ID: _____

Date: _____