

Faculty Senate Minutes
Thursday, August 20, 2020, Via Zoom, 2:30 PM

I. Attendance

K. Armbruster, J. Bohus, 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 L. Risik, the Senate unanimously approved the minutes of the August 13, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting pending revisions to Section IV.A.*

III. New Business

- A. President's Update: President Lynch reported that he attended the recent Board meeting with one of the subcommittees of the Task Force wherein they updated the Board of all of the activities to date surrounding Covid 19 response. The Board was highly impressed with the faculty's ability to be flexible and also with the plans set in place. The Board is concerned about going fully remote and the impact that will have on the budget. Rick Meyer addressed that with the information of having an \$11 million deficit as well as being \$2 million ahead in operating costs. Some of this was offset by fundraising efforts and the CARES Act of \$1.7 million which went directly to students and another \$1.7 million which went to the University.

A Board member would like to know the cost factor in preparing the university to be Covid ready. The administration told them that it cost what it costs. They didn't have a choice and needed to prepare correctly. President Lynch said he would have Rick Meyer address this question with the Senate when they attend a Senate meeting this Fall.

President Lynch commented that the Convocation address which occurred just prior to this Senate meeting was an overview of things they have accomplished leading up to this Fall as well as a positive encouragement address.

IV. Fall Institute Update – J. Palmer and M. Preuss

J. Palmer stated that the Fall Institute planning committee are is hoping to have a plan for the institute to the Senate by Friday, August 21, 2020. They are planning it for 2-6PM on October 2, 2020.

M. Preuss stated that she would be the Faculty Senate representative on the committee and that the theme of the Institute is "What does an anti-racist University look like?" She went on to state that they wish this institute to be a 'working' institute wherein they will discuss two or three issues, due to time constraints, for which they hope to create policies and present to the administration at the end of the Institute.

Senator Armbruster stated that the Fall Institute committee is welcome to utilize the Canvas Team she created for the Spring Institute to communicate and do their work.

V. Committee Seats

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by L. Risik, seconded by J. Lassetter to the following appointments:

To appoint Terri Reilly as replacement for Doug Finlayson, on leave for Fall 2020, on the Global Citizenship Program Committee in the LGCFA seat, through Fall 2020.

To appoint Marisa Adesman as replacement for At-Large member Carla Colletti, on leave for Fall 2020, on the Global Citizenship Program Committee through Fall 2020.

To appoint Shannon Kispert to an At-Large elected seat on the Multicultural Studies Committee for a term ending May 2023.

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by P. Davis, seconded by S. Jensen, to appoint Nisha Ray Chaudhuri to an appointed At-Large seat on the Multicultural Studies Committee for a term ending May 2022.

VI. Accessibility Committee

President Lynch explained that last year, the Senate voted to remove this committee as a Senate committee and make it a University Committee. However, there are currently two open faculty seats on this committee. He stated that the committee would like to purchase \$40,000 worth of software for Canvas that would read documents aloud. The committee meets one time per month on Wednesdays at 8:30AM. September 9 is the first meeting of this school year. Senator Mahfood volunteered to join the committee.

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved a motion by E. Goedereis, seconded by T. Foley, to appoint Stephanie Mahfood to an open faculty seat on the Accessibility Committee.

VII. Spring Institute follow-up – K. Armbruster

Senator Armbruster reported that she would like to invite all faculty and adjuncts at ALL Webster University have access to the Canvas Team she created so that discussions could be ongoing. She would also like to have ongoing Zoom meetings for those interested in more discussion. She would also like to distribute a Qualtrics survey for those who attended the Institute to respond that may not have had an opportunity to speak.

The Senate had a lengthy discussion concerning the need for continued discussions and possible next steps resulting from the work of the Spring Institute.

President Lynch stated that he would like to hold off on what to do with information obtained from the Spring Institute until after the Fall Institute on October 2, 2020. He would like to take the information from both institutes to work on for the upcoming Spring 2021 Institute.

Senator Armbruster agreed to write something to distribute to the Assembly in case people are wondering about the outcome and she will also explain the purpose of the upcoming Fall Institute.

VIII. Faculty Senate Calendar

A Senator would like to schedule more Senate meetings than what is already scheduled.

The Senate agreed they would keep their Thursday afternoon schedules open in case extra meetings are needed.

The Faculty Senate unanimously agreed upon motion by S. Mahfood, seconded by E. Fan, to adjourn at 3:55PM.