

## MINUTES/FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 15, 2011

The Senate met on Thursday, September 15, 2011 in the Loretto Hall Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Ralph Olliges, Faculty Senate President, Presiding

**Members Present:** John Aleshunas, Jef Awada, Glen Bauer, Maxine Bauermeister, Mary Bevel, Carla Colletti, Dan Hellinger, Scott Jensen, John Orr, Stephanie Schroeder, Marty Smith, Eileen Solomon, Roy Tamashiro, Keith Welsh, Gwyneth Williams

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 1<sup>st</sup> Faculty Senate meeting were approved with amendments. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with amendments. All were in favor; motion carried.

The minutes from the September 13<sup>th</sup> Faculty Assembly meeting were approved with amendments. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with amendments. With the exception of three abstentions, all were in favor; motion carried.

### Committee Appointments

Tori Meyer has asked that she be replaced for the Fall term on the Curriculum Committee. A motion was made and seconded for Aaron AuBuchon to take Tori's place on the Curriculum Committee for the Fall term. All were in favor; motion carried.

There was a brief discussion about adjunct positions on the Faculty Assembly and a motion was made and seconded to table discussion on adjunct appointment on the Faculty Assembly for another meeting. All were in favor; motion carried.

**Conversation with Dr. Beth Stroble (President), Dr. Oren Yagil (Special Assistant to the President), and Dr. Julian Schuster (Provost and Senior Vice-President - via teleconference)** Ralph welcomed Dr. Stroble, Dr. Yagil, and Dr. Schuster. Dr. Stroble thanked everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Dr. Yagil gave a brief biography and Dr. Stroble mentioned that his background helps facilitate getting projects organized and launched.

Dr. Stroble stated that it is good to have a conversation about various topics with faculty engagement and that it makes sense to meet with the Faculty Senate.

**Program Review** – Dr. Schuster has mentioned the book, "**Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance, Revised and Updated (Josse Bass Higher and Adult Education)**" by Robert C. Dickeson for assistance in completing program review. There is curiosity and anxiety about the program review process and it was asked if faculty will be involved in the criteria process and will the book mentioned above help in that process? Dr. Schuster replied that the program review process cannot be successful without full faculty support; all operations of Webster require faculty involvement and faculty participation will not only be welcomed but solicited and required to complete the program review process. It was also stated that Webster is an institution that is thriving and conducting program review is a way to learn what we are doing as an institution and how to better what we are currently doing to better serve the students.

Any further discussion regarding program review was tabled until a later meeting so that Dr. Schuster could be present to discuss this with the Faculty Senate.

**International Initiatives** – Dr. Stroble – any institution that is about serving, needs to do that locally and globally and Webster has been very good about meeting and serving needs locally.

**Internationalization Laboratory** – Dr. Stroble was approached about joining a group of institutions and this year was the right year to participate and work on putting together a local team. Webster can also learn from other institutions that may do aspects of internationalization better so that we can adapt and move forward. This project very much reflects the community's interests and needs. It also gives Webster a chance to determine where we need to be globally that we are not currently. The International Laboratory only accepts 7 – 8 schools a year and we are fortunate to be selected. The process will take approximately 18 months to complete so this is not something that will be achieved in a month's time.

It was reported that partnership campuses should be used more and more as we cannot set up stand alone campuses everywhere. Partnerships are continually being explored; Julian was in Russia having conversations with three institutions about a partnership. Dr. Stroble mentioned that Indonesia has been on Webster's radar for a while and visits were made back in 2005-2006 to see if we could offer programs there. Dr. Stroble has received an invitation to attend a summit in Washington, DC in December regarding partnerships and is optimistic about a partnership with Indonesia. While in DC, she will visit with consulate offices as well. They have visited with the Saudi consulate offices in the past and our enrollment for Saudi students went from 5 to 77. She hopes to open the door to internationalizing our student population even more and she looks forward to a strategic plan around internationalization.

**P-16 Partnerships** – Dr. Stroble explained that P-16 means that you have to care about students being successful from pre-K through graduation. There seems to be more understanding now that universities have roles to play in education. This means that students that come to Webster will be more prepared to attend college and that the college access pathway will need to be as inclusive as it possibly can be. Students coming to Webster can expect a high quality education. How many kids actually go to college? She has been working with two organizations that are really putting focus on this topic – Scholarship Foundation and Deaconess Foundation.

Comment was made that the biology area would love to participate in something like this, but it comes back to not having enough space. Dr. Stroble reminded the group that master planning is beginning and space issues are being evaluated. Besides the space issue, it was mentioned that some faculty see students struggling to get support services when they first start classes and this needs to be looked into.

It was mentioned that since the spring of 2005, the Department of Math and Computer Science has been hosting a high school competition giving students the opportunity to participate in a programming challenge. Over 100 kids have taken part in the competition and some of those students have been recruited. For most of the kids, it was the first time that they had been on a college campus and some stated that it was the first time that they ever had to work as part of a team and come up with a solution to a problem. The G.H. Walker School of Business recently received a \$10,000 check from CIO Group in St. Louis to help improve and expand the competition.

Dr. Stroble stated that she thinks that Webster Groves wants to have a deep connection with Webster. School of Education reported that they have a presence in the Webster Groves district, pre-K–16, for practicum and student teaching and this allows a lot of opportunity to connect with Webster Groves.

It was also mentioned that the Superintendent from Webster Groves school district would be interested in having someone from the University to partner in a grant to the Kellogg Foundation; they are looking at how to build greater equity in the community. Income disparity, race, gender, etc. are not seen as a single issue.

UMSL provides a program that Webster might want to consider. UMSL allows high school students that are enrolled in advanced placement courses to sign up, through advanced placement at UMSL, and if they pass a course with a certain grade, they receive college credit for that course. SLU offers this opportunity as well.

**Programs/Courses Offered on Military Bases** – Which programs can be offered to meet the needs of the military students? Is there an interest other than international relations? It was stated that when

courses/programs are offered on base, the military choose the degrees they want to see offered. If you move courses/programs off base, you have more options to offer. Most individuals in the military are seeking full-time not part-time degree programs.

Would it be pertinent to offer tech degree programs and health services programs on military bases? Dr. Schuster responded that this is one of the purposes of the program review.

An Undergraduate major in Religion in the Contemporary World is to be offered online by the end of next spring.

**Webster University Art Council** – Dr. Stroble explained that Webster student delegates (undergraduates) meet and poll the student body to see what topics should be brought to the Webster Administration. From that poll, 5-7 topics are selected and it is determined why those topics are an issue and the student delegates then come up with solutions and present those to Dr. Stroble. Last year, two topics were brought forward 1) how students could develop a stronger relationship with Webster Groves and 2) how to bring beauty and coherence to the St. Louis campus. To that end, more attention is being paid to campus landscaping and a Webster University Art Council has been formed which will be led by Dr. Yagil. The Art Council is made up of faculty/staff/students and citizens of Webster Groves. Dr. Stroble asked Dr. Yagil to send out a notice of who is serving on the Art Council. The Council will develop a plan to add more art to the St. Louis campus. As the new quad is developed, the Council will determine how to add art to the quad; may have some donors for art for the campus.

It was stated that public art would be a great way to develop the Eden property; also add more picnic tables, etc. Dr. Schuster mentioned that our campus looks quite a bit different than it did 12-14 months ago and not just with added landscaping. How are we one at Webster University? In looking better, being better, and serving the community. Dr. Stroble stated that we are getting there, but it will take some time.

**Miscellaneous** – When Art Silverblatt was a Senator, he was interested in seeing that the employees that work at Webster through contract (janitorial service employees) were treated as a part of the Webster community and not just as outsourced employees. He had recommended possibly giving those employees a privilege such as an art pass, etc. Dr. Stroble responded that Betsy Schmutz was looking into this and she will have to get back in touch with her to see where Betsy is with this project.

It was brought up that there are concerns among faculty about academic issues between departments and satellite campuses and that communication between department heads/deans and academic people is not very good.

Concerning faculty governance, there is a rather dated section in the University Handbook. Difficulties between faculty and administration have been brought to the Faculty Senate's attention from Vienna and Thailand.

Ralph thanked Dr. Stroble, Dr. Yagil and Dr. Schuster for their input.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.