

## **Senate Meeting Minutes** **January 18, 2023**

Present: Alexander, Beemer, Bergland, Chloupek, Gallaher, Voss, Abington, Bandi, Jornaz, Myllykangas (also sub for Skinner), Olson, Scofield, Meyer, Islam, Miller, Adebile, Fellah, Smith, Rourke, Black  
Absent: Cline, Ford, Adam

### **Call to Order**

Alexander called the meeting to order at 3:31.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved unanimously.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the Nov. 16 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Reports**

#### NW President's Report (Green)

Green was attending Gov. Parson's State of the State speech.

#### Provost Report (Hooyman)

On the legislative front, not much is going on yet. There will be uptick in Feb/March about bills as they make their way through committees. The budget is still looking positive, with a tentative/proposed increase of 7% on state appropriations still on the table (Note: as state appropriations only constitute a third of Northwest's budget, that increase in total budget would be much smaller; likewise, a proposed 8% increase in state employee salaries would not apply to Northwest employees, since money from the state constitutes less than half our budget).

Building updates: McKemy construction is going well, hopefully with a fall re-opening. Thompson-Ringold will be empty and hopefully will be coming down over the summer. North Complex is being vacated and will also be torn down. Philips Hall, already empty, will be torn down. Title IX will move into third floor of the Administration building. Nursing will be moving into Martindale.

Opening Day: Hooyman gave thanks to everyone for contributing to the professional development day. We had excellent attendance (203; 95% of faculty), great presentations and have received great feedback about the day. A similar day will likely be planned for next year.

P&T: The notebooks are in, have gone through departmental review and are now in the Provost's office. She will be moving forward with those applications.

Final Exam discussion: We would still need to meet the 750 minute minimum in terms of contact time, and if this were to move beyond the discussion state, we would need to consider students having multiple finals on the same day. At present, Hooyman said she just wanted to have discussion to see if it would make sense. (over 50% of our classes already do not have a regular final, and many other classes have projects or other activities instead of a regular, cumulative final). There has been some research in higher ed and increased discussions about whether a final exam week is needed/best use of time.

Assorted: Hooyman praised the computer science faculty for accommodating the increase in enrollment in their department, noted that the MLK luncheon went well and that the compensation plan was still being worked on. There is an RFP out for online learning and meal plans, and the compensation plan still being worked on.

#### Human Resources (Barcus)

Barcus was not able to attend. Alexander read a report sent to her from Barcus: Northwest and Husch Blackwell Immigration Attorneys have collaborated to provide individual meetings with foreign national employees who have active cases. This provides an opportunity for an in person conversation with employees and the immigration attorneys to review what step their case is in and next steps. Employees with active cases received an email from Michelle Drake to schedule a meeting time if interested. An active case is best described as an employee who is working to obtain immigration sponsorship for US work authorization whether it be H1B status, permanent residency, etc. These employees have ongoing processes that need to be done to get them to permanent US residency. These processes have detailed steps that have to be completed and the immigration attorneys help them through that process.

#### Public Safety (Cullen)

Acting Chief Cullin was not able to attend.

#### Guest speaker: Darla Runyon from Learning and Teaching Center

Runyon outlined Northwest Online history, its 24 years of online learning, starting in 1999 and more recently its 2016 OP agreement with Academic Partners. The current 2,457 enrollment is a record, and Northwest currently is fourth among four-year universities in Missouri in terms of online enrollment. The seven-year contract with AP is expiring and is currently up for bid.

#### Senate President's Report (Alexander)

Acquisitions librarian Abha Niraula, who will be attending some of the Senate meetings in the future, was introduced

#### Committee Reports

- Academic Petitions (Miller): Met twice, including a very lengthy one. The committee has gone one through 34 petitions and five in the second meeting.
- Academic Appeals (Bandi): Haven't met.
- Curriculum and Degree Requirements (Meyer): The committee met last Tuesday and passed 38 proposals. Another 10 are in the queue. Meyer is working on consolidating and updating the manual for submitting proposals.
- Designated Curricular Matters (Richardson): No report
- Assessment (Voss) : No report.
- Faculty Welfare, Budget, and Finance (Smith): Will be meeting tomorrow to go over grievance policy
- Teaching and Learning (Myllykangas): 102:15. Waiting on Husch/Blackwell for approval regarding online policies.
- Legislative Committee (Brett Chloupek) : No report.
- COTE, Graduate Council, Research, IRB, Animal Welfare, University Seminar: No reports

#### Old business

Finals week discussion

Several senators shared responses from their faculty constituents. Senators shared that some of their faculty were in favor and liking a final, cumulative experience, some against. General thought: the finals format works in some instances, not well for other classes, and that there was no strong

movement/feeling to justify a change. Voss shared that research is also mixed, that it makes sense to do away with if the class is project-based, but not as much if it is exam-based. For exam-based classes, a comprehensive experience does increase retention (at the price of increased stress, of course). The view of many is that we should leave finals week in place, but allow for greater flexibility.

#### Proposal

The Proposal from last meeting that was tabled remains on the table.

#### New business

##### Proposals

Voss made a motion to bundle proposals A-X, with Meyer seconding. The bundling motion passed unanimously. Following a discussion of fixing a clerical error in Proposal E, the motion to approve the bundle passed unanimously.

#### Announcements:

Beemer in her role as Faculty Athletic Representative encouraged faculty with baseball and softball students to remind their students to inform them of any schedule changes/makeup game dates for rainouts.

#### **Adjournment**

Alexander adjourned the meeting at 5:03