

Minutes of the
48th Faculty Senate Meeting
on
Wednesday, September 1, 2021
as prepared by
Alexander W. Taylor
Faculty Senate Secretary

The Meeting was called to order at 1532 by the Faculty President.

A roll call of Senators was performed. All Senators were present with the exception of Ajay Bandi who sent alternate Rochelle Hiatt and Robert Arndt was represented by alternate Richard Toomey. The Provost was unable to attend.

A motion for the approval of this session's agenda was passed unanimously.

A motion for the approval of the previous minutes was passed unanimously.

Senate President Report:

The Senate President began delivering his report at 1536. Highlights Follow:

- COLA Increase for NW Employees
- New Lead Arborist (Shane Baumgart) confirmed by the BOR (Board of Regents)
- Noting that the recent BOR had as a point of discussion recent complaints about advisement issues
- State Budget allocations seem to be improving but not firm... Noted that the real issue (threat) is recruitment and retention – R&R has been moved under the Provost's Office
- BOR meeting 8/25/21 talked about deferred maintenance issues at Northwest totaling \$170M. Most buildings on campus fall into Orange or Red classification. Includes \$67M for campus-wide HVAC and \$48.5M for other mechanical issues.
- Quick synopsis on the Occupy Valk Diversity and Inclusion Talks – a flyer (flyer 2) was provided to all Senators as an attachment to the Senate Meeting invitation
- A change to the procedure for verification and evaluation of adjunct faculty has occurred. Units will handle hiring actions and evaluations, but push recommendations for action up to a new Staff position in HR Adjunct Coordinator (Provost's Council meeting, reported by Jay Johnson 7/14/21)
- A note that the Registrar's Office is currently understaffed (staff hired but not yet trained)
- Staff Council leadership is Natasha Young (Troy Brady will continue interim until Natalia returns from maternity leave)
 - Staff Bake Sale: October 19, 11:00-2:00 2nd floor of Union
 - Proceeds go toward staff scholarships (also note Northwest Staff Fund)

- Canvas site is being renewed to serve the needs of faculty better
- Senate committee leadership and membership are firmed up (anyone wanting to sign up should communicate with President Peter Adam and Secretary Alexander Taylor)
- Minutes/attendance/participation records of committees will be reported/posted on Canvas. Senate requested that minutes be made available sooner than previous senate; Secretary Alexander Taylor stated he will try to post 4-5 days following a meeting under normal circumstances
- Continuation of ad hoc Legislative Committee led by Brett Chloupek and Bob Bergland for 2021/22 academic year
- Additional Directives:
 - Document clarifying membership and mechanisms determining membership in Academic Integrity Panel (for Faculty Senate By-Laws)
 - Document stipulating provisions for when a research proposal must be passed through Animal Welfare Committee and conversion of proposals to standardized, on-line format (possibly may need to take Civitas Training for experimentation Ethics)
 - Document to standardize IRB proposals (for posting on Faculty Senate Canvas page) and bring them to an on-line format. Civitas training will be required (Ethics of human experimentation)
 - Members of Budget and Finance will have an orientation led by Stacy Carrick to educate them about Northwest's financial organization in order that they may better serve in their duties on the committee

Committee Reports:

Academic Petitions, delivered by Peter Adam (outgoing chair)

- 4 meetings held over summer: 5/28/21 (16 petitions); 7/2/21 (10 petitions); 8/13/21 (14 petitions); 8/23/21 (11 petitions)

Academic Appeals, delivered by Peter Adam (outgoing chair)

- 1 meeting held over the summer 5/21/21
- Two meetings held on 9/1/21

Curriculum and Designated Matters (Delivered by unconfirmed incoming Chair, Trevor Meyer)

- The committee met on 8/31/21 to discuss protocol moving forward.

Designated Curriculum Matters

- Nothing to report

Assessment

- Noting to report

Faculty Welfare

- First committee meeting on 2/9/21

Budget and Finance

- Has already met with Stacy Carrick regarding scheduling of orientation for committee for later in September

Teaching and Learning

- First committee meeting on-2/9/21

COTE, Graduate Council, Research, IRB, Animal Welfare, University Seminar

- Applicants for funds involving Human (and potentially Animal) research will require Civitas Research Ethics Training (Senate was provided with reading to this effect)

Old Business

- None Discussed

New Business

- Official Transfer of Senate Leadership from David Shadinger to Peter Adam. A gift was provided to Dr. Shadinger to thank him for his service.
- Guest Speakers LT Amanda Cullin and Dr. Gerald Wilmes (advisor) gave the Senate an update on CV-19
 - After Statistics delivery, it was summarized that most indicators appear to be moving in a positive direction, Active cases are level to trending down, Positivity rate is down. Nodaway County is in the single digits (%) for positivity. There are currently 53 known active cases in Nodaway County, including 17 at Northwest (faculty, staff, and students) and 3 hospitalizations. To date, 1715 students and 339 Northwest employees have reported being vaccinated. Nodaway County reports an 8.2% positivity rate (12.4% for the state).
 - Booster shots for all types of vaccines should be available in the next 2-4 weeks and are recommended if 6-8 months elapsed since full vaccination
 - Emergent gamma and lambda versions of coronavirus that appear to bypass RNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) not yet a problem – best to just get vaccinated against current strains and follow new recommendations if they do come
 - Vaccination incentives have worked to keep vaccinations steady (but starting to decline)
 - There was a recommendation that any long-term absences of student in classes should be flagged/reported
 - 360 is still having some issues – look for emails reporting Covid cases and quarantines with end dates
 - When asked about lecture delivery by instructors, Dr. Wilmes recommended that instructors wear masks, regardless of the environment. (Opinion, not guidance)
- Faculty Senate Format
 - A discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of In-person/Zoom/Hybrid Faculty Senate Meetings. Hybrid was largely recommended against due to the difficulty in managing discussion. Although In-person was recognized as being preferable, current CV-19 mitigation policies suggest that Zoom might be prudent.

- A motion was levied to move future Faculty Senate meetings to a Zoom (only) format for Fall 2021. The motion was seconded and moved to a vote
 - Yeah: 10
 - Nay: 3
 - Abstain: 6
- The motion to have future Faculty Senate meetings in Zoom format was carried.
- Post-vote, a discussion ensued about how to manage healthy discussions in the Zoom format. It was generally agreed that since Faculty Senate meetings are official University business, attendance requires camera to be active (not displaying a splash screen). A motion to require an active camera during Faculty Senate meetings was proposed and seconded
 - Yeah: 13
 - Nay: 0
 - Abstain: 6
- Chair of the Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committee
 - Under Senate bylaws, the Chair of CDR is required to be an acting senator that has previously served on the CDR committee. Unfortunately, no senator was available/eligible to serve. A survey of previous Faculty Senate Presidents thought that experience outweighed senatorial status. Dr. Adam surveyed former CDR members, and one individual –Trevor Meyer volunteered to step up. Our illustrious Senate Parliamentarian suggested that a work around was to create a modification of the by-laws to allow a non-senator to serve, and sit on the Executive Council, but in a non-voting status (similar to the Senate Secretary). A short discussion ensued about potential follow-on effects of this modification. A motion to approve the modification to allow non-senators in this role (Chair of CDR) to sit on the Executive Council in a non-voting status was forwarded and seconded:
 - Yea: 19 (Unanimous)
 - Nay: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- Senate representative on Library Advisory Board needed. A call for nominations went out, and two senators self-nominated. Both names will be turned over to the Library to either select one, or both.
 - Patrick Immel
 - Renee Oyotode-Adebile
- Senate representation on Inclusive Excellence Action Team. A call for nominations went out and one senator self-nominated
 - Michael Miller
- Overview of Missouri Hope (Flyer attached to Faculty Senate Meeting Announcement)
 - Many volunteers needed.
- Senate Funds
 - Provost: \$1900 for travel and expenses (Missouri Association of Faculty Senates)
 - Northwest Faculty Senate Fund: \$470
 - Donations can be directed to this fund.

- MAFS and AAUP Membership. David Shadinger briefed the Senate on these two organizations. He suggests that we have an AAUP chapter (not as a Union, *per se* – but in an advisory role)
 - American Association of University Professors
 - Campus Chapter of AAUP requires 10 active members (4 identified)
 - Missouri Association of Faculty Senates
 - If you or your units are members or would be interested in becoming members, please contact David Shadinger
- New Proposals – a list of curriculum proposals were included; however, there was uncertainty as to whether the previous Senate might have already voted on one or more of these. Voting on proposals were delayed until the Senate President had a chance to coordinate with the previous Senate Secretary as to the proposal's disposition.

Items from the Floor

- Kenton Wilcox requested that all senators advertise the Distinguished Lecturer Series
 - <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/lectures/index.htm>

Faculty Senate was adjourned at 1711.