

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
GENERAL FACULTY
January 29, 2009

I. Call to Order

Dr. Farley called the meeting to order in Washburn A/B Room of the Memorial Union.

II. Opening Remarks

A. From the President

Dr. Farley commented upon the impact the national economic situation is having locally and within the State of Kansas. Revisions to the current Washburn budget have been made based upon the Governor's recommendations. Legislative disagreements are delaying information needed for any additional changes to the current budget and it may be two weeks or more before information is available. He stated that he believes we are in good shape because of adjustments made earlier. The next budget year is very uncertain and we will likely not know until April after the meeting of the Consensus Budgetary Group. Therefore, the University will wait until late spring to develop the budget. It may require work during the summer to prepare a budget for FY10.

Dr. Farley announced that a group reviewing WTE compensation met prior to Winter Break to consider compensation for faculty members involved with the Scholarly/Research WTE. Some issues remain and a meeting is scheduled to address them. He is hopeful of a compromise plan which will address many of the concerns. In discussions during breakfast meetings he held with a number of departments during the Fall Semester, faculty members reported enthusiasm and popularity of the WTE among students.

Dr. Farley reported that he is aware of a great deal of discussion regarding ISS. A RFP (Request for Proposal) is being prepared to find a consultant who can advise the University how to improve the services of ISS. The RFP draft will be taken to a Steering committee; the RFP will be publicly announced; the proposals will be taken back to the Steering Committee for their recommendation as to whom to hire; the contract will be taken to the Board of Regents in March, if possible. If not, it may be April or May before it can be taken to the Board of Regents.

With regard to Admissions, Dr. Farley reported that the recommendations of a consultant who was hired in 2007 were reviewed by various groups and various recommendations have been adopted. New computer software is installed and assisting in recruitment and admission efforts; marketing has been refocused on marketing in the larger population centers in the Kansas; funding has been increased by the Board of Regents. He reported that application numbers are up and efforts of all are needed to turn these applicants into enrollees.

A redesigned University website will be released within the next month. It will be much easier to navigate and provide an updated look with a focus on making it attractive to prospective students and easy for them to apply for admission. It will require some work from departments to update and to maintain information but it is designed to be easy to work with. Dr. Farley requested faculty members share observations and suggestions as they view and use the website.

The Early Retirement Incentive Program was approved by the Board of Regents in an effort to address the need to reduce the budget. It is designed to give the University flexibility in making budget decisions. The details of the program will be available in informational forums which are scheduled in the coming week. The Human Resources Department will notify all those who are eligible to participate in the program. Personal informational sessions may also be scheduled with Human Resources. The deadline for application is March 23, 2009. \$250,000 of gross savings must be realized for the Board of Regents to authorize the implementation of the program.

The Board of Regents has asked that the University Strategic Plan be updated. The Board will be more involved in its development than in previous years. It will be a campus-wide effort and will enable the University to respond to improved economic conditions in the future. The development of the plan will require a great deal of input, discussion and information.

B. From the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Bowen stated that this has been a time of uncertainty. Despite proactive planning, there are many things that we cannot and do not know. Uncertainty about enrollment numbers for next year, cuts the governor will require, changes in the economy which impact the investments of the Washburn Endowment Association and other items impact our budget. The current situation presents new challenges and difficult decisions. She stated her strong belief in the wisdom and creativity of the faculty and administration to find ways to continue to move forward and to meet our goals. The areas of primary concern which were developed in the faculty dinners and announced at the fall faculty meeting are being worked on despite limited budgets.

Dr. Bowen expressed appreciation for the efforts of faculty members to meet with prospective students and assist in the work of the Admissions office. She underscored the importance of interaction with faculty members as significant in the decision of a student to attend Washburn.

She called on Dr. Rob Weigand to report on the work of the General Education Committee. He thanked the 112 members of the faculty who responded to the survey on learning outcomes. On Friday, February 6, 2009 (2:00-3:30 in the Kansas Room, Memorial Union), a workshop on General Education will be held. Detailed analysis of the survey results will be available and the faculty will work through a more specific analysis to develop ideas on how to address the findings. An e-mail will be sent with details. He encouraged all to attend.

Dr. Bowen called upon Judy Druse to report on Mabee Library in the absence of Dr. Alan Bearman. She introduced Tammy Baker, Technology Librarian, and Keith Rocci, Information Literacy Librarian. Many changes are being considered to transform the Library and suggestions, criticism and ideas are encouraged and welcome. RAP (Research Assistance Programs) will be offered in the next two weeks to assist students in using research tools more effectively. On Tuesday, February 3, 2009, the Library and KTWU will co-sponsor a viewing and discussion of "The Spy Factory", a NOVA program in Mabee Library. In addition, "Mondays at the Mabee" discussions have proven very popular and will be continued. The sessions are from 11:30-1:00 and topics are listed on the Library website. The iRead program with Greg Mortenson was very successful and suggestions for a book for the next iRead project can be sent to Ann Callies.

Dr. Kim Morse reported on the efforts of the University Diversity Committee. She thanked Dr. Bowen for the support of the VPAA office. Three diversity seminars were held during the Fall semester. They were well attended by students, faculty, staff and community members. The dates and topics for the Spring semester are:

February 20 Religious Diversity
March 5 Diversity in the Workplace
April (date to be determined) Diversity Working Session

A climate survey is in preparation and will be administered in the future to analyze climate and to help direct what efforts need to be made in the future.

Dr. Morse reminded the faculty that Apeiron is scheduled April 17th. Registration deadline is March 12 and applications are available online.

Dr. Bowen reported on student retention. She reported that next year, grades for Freshmen must be submitted by all faculty. The process will be set up on Banner, letters will be sent to students with grades of “D” or “F” and they will be requested to go to the CUSP office. The enrollment of the students for the next semester will be blocked until they have been cleared by the CUSP office.

Dr. Donna LaLonde shared that a new test, the COMPASS exam, will be used for students who do not take the ACT test to help us better place students and should help in retention.

Dr. Bowen introduced Dr. Jeff Mott as the new Director of the Leadership Institute. He expressed his appreciation of the foundation laid by Dr. Gary Forbach, former director. The last three months have been a “visioning process” and the recommendations will be sent to various constituencies.

Dr. Bowen announced that Dr. Roxanne Kelly will start on February 1, 2009 as the Dean of Kaw Area Technical School.

Dr. David Sollars introduced Dr. Andrew Martin who has joined the faculty of the School of Business.

Dr. Bowen announced that Dr. Cindy Hornberger has resigned as Dean of the School of Nursing and thanked her for her years of service and contributions to the School and the University. Dr. Hornberger will return to the faculty.

Dr. Tim Peterson announced a new management system for online courses. WebCT will be replaced by the new system in the fall. Work will need to occur to convert courses to the new system. Training sessions will be scheduled mid- to late February.

Dr. Nancy Tate reported that efforts are underway to streamline WTE forms and processes. A flyer is being prepared to provide students with ready and clear information about the WTE in an effort to communicate better with students.

III. Approval of the Minutes August 21, 2008 General Faculty Meeting

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2008 General Faculty meeting. Motion carried.

IV. Unfinished Business

None.

V. New Business

A. Faculty Handbook Revision in regard to Joint Appointments

It was moved and seconded to approve Item V. A. It was clarified that this was being proposed to restore original language which was inadvertently dropped from a revision to the Faculty Handbook. Motion carried.

B. Revision to the Composition of the Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)

It was moved and seconded to approve Item V. B. After discussion, the question was called. It was approved to call the question. The motion to revise the Composition of the Academic Affairs carried.

C. Criteria for Upper-Division General Education

It was moved and seconded to approve Item V. C. A friendly amendment to substitute the words “of interest to a wide variety of students” for “of wide interest in the liberal arts and sciences” was not accepted by the mover of the motion. It was moved and seconded to substitute the words “of interest to a wide spectrum of students” for “of wide interest in the liberal arts and sciences.” The question was called on discussion of the amendment. It was approved to call the question. The motion to amend the original motion failed. It was moved and seconded to table the item. Motion failed. The question was called on discussion of item V. C. It was approved to call the question. The motion to approve item V.C carried.

D. Revision to Faculty Handbook regarding procedures for the conduct of General Faculty meetings

It was moved and seconded to approve Item V.D. It was moved and seconded to amend the motion to change “50 members of the General Faculty” to “50% + 1 of the General Faculty”. A friendly amendment to change “50% + 1” to “33%” was not accepted by the mover of the motion to amend. The question was called on discussion of the amendment. It was approved to call the question. The motion to amend failed. It was moved and seconded to change “50 members of the General Faculty” to “33%” of the General Faculty. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend the motion to replace “The Vice President of Academic Affairs” with “The President” and to replace “the President of the Faculty Senate” with “the Vice President of Academic Affairs”. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to add the word “Spring” in front of the word “Commencement” in line 2 of the motion. Motion carried.

Item V.D was approved as amended.

VI. Announcements

Everyone was encouraged to participate in Kansas Day activities.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Carol L. Vogel

Secretary