

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY  
GENERAL FACULTY MINUTES  
February 11, 2010  
Draft

**I. Call to Order**

President Farley called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in Henderson Learning Resources Center Room 100.

**II. Opening Remarks**

**A. From the President** Dr. Farley welcomed the faculty. He reported a slight increase in enrollment in the Fall 2009 semester. No new revenue was generated because of the distribution of credit hours. An additional increase in enrollment was also seen in the Spring 2010 semester. The University will explore the reasons which contributed to the increase.

President Farley provided an update on the budget situation. He reported the Governor had given a very favorable message for higher education in the State of the State address. No additional state money can be expected. A reduction in sales tax has been experienced and the money the University received from the Federal stimulus program cannot be relied upon for future years, so plans must be made to address these realities. The Budget Reduction Task Force continues to meet to discuss options. A Retirement Incentive Program was approved by the Board of Regents. A letter will be sent to the eligible employees and decisions will need to be made by March 30, 2010.

**B. From the Vice President for Academic Affairs** Dr. Bowen thanked those who had been working hard during the Fall semester on the numerous initiatives outlined at the previous meeting. The University's Strategic Plan will be completed in the next month. The document currently available for comment online contains activities associated with the goals. Faculty dinners will be held between February 12-26 and open forums are scheduled for Feb. 24 (1:30-3:00) and Feb. 26 (2:30-4:00) in Henderson 207. Based upon input received at these events and from online comments, the plan will be modified, changes made and the plan will be sent to the Board of Regents.

Dr. Bowen thanked the AdHoc Committee on General Education for its work. The document reflects faculty input from surveys, Wiki conversations and faculty workshops. The report is currently with the Academic Affairs Committee. It will go to the Faculty Senate and hopefully to the General Faculty by the end of the academic year.

Dr. Bowen called upon Dr. Tate to comment on the online declaration of major option which is in beta-test stage and hopefully will be ready for implementation for the advanced registration period in April. She asked for input and thanked Bill Bunten, Melodie Christal, Donna LaLonde, Nancy Tate and the IR staff for their help.

Dr. Bowen announced the Diversity Climate Survey is available from Feb. 12-26. The survey is brief and important for both faculty and students to take the survey. A link is available on MyWashburn and Dr. Morse will email information concerning the survey. The seminar series "Why Diversity Matters" will host a session "Diversity: The Strategic Imperative" on Feb. 12 at 1:30 in the Vogel Room. On March 24, "Other Stories" will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Mabee Library. On April 2, the results of the climate survey will be discussed at a faculty development session.

### **III. Approval of the Minutes of the August 20, 2009 meeting**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2009 meeting. An editorial change was made, correcting Tracy Routsong's title to "Associate Chair, Communications". Motion carried.

### **IV. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **V. New Business**

Dr. Bowen clarified that only those faculty members with the rank of Instructor or higher are eligible to vote. A secret ballot cannot be taken, as the meeting of the General Faculty is subject to the provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

#### **\*A. Music: Proposed Vocal and Instrumental Program Changes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Dr. Ann Marie Snook addressed the proposal, explaining that the change would better prepare graduates for the teaching situations they will encounter. Motion carried.

#### **\*B. Communication: Proposed Changes in Research Courses**

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Dr. Tracy Routsong explained the proposal made courses sequential and modified the senior seminar credit hours. Motion carried.

#### **\*C. Education: Proposed Building Leadership Program Changes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Motion carried.

#### **\*D. Education: Proposed Credit Hour Distribution Change in ED 340**

Dr. Gloria Dye explained that the change in credit hour distribution was done to make it evident to accreditation bodies that students have field experiences as part of the course. Motion carried.

#### **\*E. Proposed Amendment to Associate of Science Degree with a Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant**

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. Dr. Pat Munzer explained the degree was developed with the support and collaboration of the area hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Two areas of previous concern have been addressed (adequate equipment for biology and holdings in the library). She confirmed this major would only be implemented if external funding sources could be used to do so. Motion carried.

#### **\*F. Recommendation from Transfer Committee**

##### **a) Proposed Elimination of University graduation Requirement of PE 198**

It was moved and seconded to accept the recommendation of the AdHoc Transfer Committee. A member of the committee explained that it was the perception of the committee that this requirement was not friendly to transfer students, particularly because previous military service and activity courses from another institution were not acceptable substitutes.

Dr. Wohl, chair of the Dept. of Kinesiology provided statistics which indicated minimal effect of the requirement on transfer students and explained the process by which transfer students can satisfy the requirement. Dr. Park Lockwood provided research findings supporting the effectiveness of the course. Dr. Ockree stated that the research had not been provided to the Faculty Senate and stated that the department had been intransigent in making exceptions to the requirement. Some of the other comments focused on the following:

- questions regarding long-term research results
- observation that the University supported Wellness Program underscores the value the University places on wellness.
- observation that this action should be delayed until General Education Committee recommendations were determined
- question of what evidence for change existed.
- a suggestion that a one-hour wellness/lecture course be developed to offer students who transfer in an activity course

The question was called. Motion seconded. Motion failed. A final vote on the motion was 97-53 in opposition to the recommendation of the Transfer Committee. Motion to eliminate PE198 as a requirement failed.

b) Recommendations regarding EN 200/300 (Information only – No action required)

Dr. Faulkner informed the General Faculty he would be sending a recommendation to the General Education Committee to accept any second semester English Composition courses transferred by students to Washburn as satisfying humanities general education.

\*G. Proposed Change of WTE from Graduation Requirement to Optional

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal.

Dr. Kathy Menzie, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, explained the process by which the committee had developed its recommendation. Extensive discussion ensued and among the points made were:

- statistics showing 3 year assessment data of 267 of 287 positive responses
- departments can still require the WTE of majors
- varying anecdotal evidence showing that some prospective students were negative towards the WTE requirement while others were favorably impressed
- Higher Education Commission's accreditation report complimented the University on the WTE requirement
- quantitative and global assessment data from last year's Apeiron showed positive impact of the WTE
- concern that funding would be reduced if WTE is no longer required
- WSGA vote to support the proposal to eliminate requirement
- observation that a significant problem was in marketing of WTE positively
- observation that the implementation of WTE was poorly done without sufficient preparation
- question whether change to optional status is well-planned with support and infrastructure in place
- observation that the entire University experience is transformational and does not rest upon one course

It was moved and seconded to call the question. Motion carried.

Motion on the proposal to eliminate the WTE as a requirement for graduation carried.

\*H. Proposed Amendment to the Faculty Senate Constitution Clarifying Faculty Representation

It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal. It was moved and seconded to divide the motion. Motion carried. Discussion centered upon the rationale to exclude part-time faculty from eligibility to serve on the Faculty Senate and the status of faculty members on joint-appointment contracts.

It was moved and seconded to table the proposal. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to postpone the item to the next meeting of the General Faculty. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting and to take up the remaining agenda items at the next meeting of the General Faculty. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Vogel  
Secretary to the General Faculty