

**Washburn University**  
**General Faculty Minutes**  
**November 17, 2014**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Farley called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM in Room 100 of the Henderson Learning Resources Center.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the [minutes](#) of the August 28, 2014 General Faculty meeting. These minutes were approved unanimously.

**III. OPENING REMARKS**

**A. From the President**

1. President Farley addressed upcoming fiscal matters:

- The state faces funding issues and forthcoming budget cuts are likely.
- Cuts to WU funding aren't expected to be large, but there may be some lowering of our state funding.
- Encouraged faculty attendance at upcoming Town Hall Meetings on Budget (11/18 & 11/19)
- Enrollment efforts are a solution to potential decreasing revenues from other sources.

2. President Farley addressed enrollment:

- Enrollment will be an important issue this year. Enrollment numbers this year were disappointing but many lessons and observations were gained that will help this year.
- Praised "re-recruitment" efforts: 800 unenrolled students were called and 423 of those proceeded to enroll. Personal contacts make an impression on those students.
- Emphasized the need to address academic holds and ensure that these aren't a barrier to enrollment.
- International student enrollment (particularly from China and Saudi Arabia) has increased.
- Concurrent enrollment program is being leveraged as a valuable recruitment tool.

3. President Farley encouraged faculty to participate in Fall commencement ceremonies.

**B. From the Vice President for Academic Affairs**

1. Dr. Pembroke shared about the recent site visit of WU personnel to Allen CC. A reciprocal visit by personnel from Allen CC will occur soon. A future trip to Highland CC is in preparation. These visits assist efforts to recruit transfer students.

2. Dr. Pembroke discussed High Impact Community Engagement Practices (HICEP), an effort to promote community engagement as a critical element of student learning.
3. Dr. Pembroke encouraged attendance at the upcoming Faculty Dinner.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Prior to the start of new business, a call for a quorum was made. The general faculty secretary and faculty senate president performed a headcount and determined that 111 faculty (34.9%) were present, constituting a quorum.

##### **A. ACTION ITEM 15-1: Integrated Studies Course in Kansas Studies (IS 340)**

A motion was made and seconded to consider Action Item 15-1. This item would create the course IS 340, an interdisciplinary course in Kansas Studies.

A question was posed as to whether EN101 and EN300 should be included as a prerequisite for the course, since the course is 300-level and is mostly writing based. Debate ensued, with opponents of the suggestion citing other writing-based, 300-level, General-Education courses that lack such a prerequisite. A friendly amendment was made and accepted to add “junior standing” as a prerequisite. This [amended Action Item 15-1](#) was approved unanimously. EN101 and EN300 were not added as prerequisites.

##### **B. ACTION ITEM 14-4 : Extension of the Probationary Period for Tenure and Promotion**

A motion was made and seconded to consider Action Item 14-4. This policy outlines common reasons that an extension of the probationary period might be granted, with stipulations that these and other reasons may be considered at the discretions of academic unit heads.

Minor grammatical corrections were proposed as a friendly amendment. Debate occurred over various provisions in the policy, with some advocating increased stringency and others less. A suggestion to remove the phrase “pertaining to specific military duty” was discussed but not moved or seconded. Ultimately, a motion was made to cease debate and call the question.

This [motion](#) was passed with friendly amendments and the item was approved in an unmodified form by a strong majority vote.

##### **C. ACTION ITEM 14-5 : VPAA Action After Negative Promotion or Tenure Recommendation**

A motion was made and seconded to consider Action Item 14-5. This policy would require the VPAA to meet with a candidate after a negative recommendation to summarize the rationale for the decision. A motion was made, seconded and passed that altered the effective date of the item to “effective immediately for all faculty.”

The [amended item](#) was approved by a near-unanimous vote.

**D. ACTION ITEM 14-6 : Departmental Promotion & Tenure Committee Makeup**

A motion was made and seconded to consider Action Item 14-6. This policy describes the makeup of a department/area committee to review promotion and/or tenure petitions.

Minor grammatical corrections were proposed and accepted as a friendly amendment. A motion was made, seconded and passed that altered the effective date of the item to “effective immediately for all faculty.” An additional motion was made, seconded, and passed to add the phrase “by the normal processes used to designate these committees” to the end of the final sentence.

The [amended item](#) was passed by a unanimous vote.

**E. ACTION ITEM 14-7 : Definitions of Academic Appointments (Excluding School of Law)**

A motion was made and seconded to consider Action Item 14-7. This addition to the Faculty Handbook would clearly delineate the various types of academic appointments for faculty at the university.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to include the rank of “Senior Research Lecturer” in addition to Research Lecturer in Category C. An additional motion was made, seconded and passed that altered the effective date of the item to “effective immediately for all faculty.”

The [amended item](#) was approved by a unanimous vote.

**F. ACTION ITEM 14-24 : Definitions of Academic Appointments for the School of Law**

Dr. Pembroke introduced Action Item 14-24, but no motion was made to consider it.

At this time, a quorum was called because several members had left the meeting. A headcount determined that there was no longer a quorum present and further business was suspended.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:17 PM.