

Washburn University
General Faculty Minutes
April 30, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Farley called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM in Room 100 of the Henderson Learning Resources Center. Approximately 220 faculty were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2014 General Faculty meeting, (necessary because there was not a quorum to approve these minutes at the April 9 meeting). The minutes were approved unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting. Those minutes were approved unanimously.

III. OPENING REMARKS

A. From the President

President Farley chose to deliver no opening remarks so that the body could immediately begin to address business items.

B. From the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Pembroke chose to deliver no opening remarks so that the body could immediately begin to address business items.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. 15-04 Faculty Senate: Academic Affairs Representation Change

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. It was emphasized that changing meeting dates wouldn't solve the representation issue as it is unfeasible to ask a single representative to serve on two senate subcommittees. The item was approved unanimously.

B. 15-05 Faculty Senate: Faculty Affairs Representation Change

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

C. 15-10 New Program – Jazz Studies

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

D. 15-11 Program Deletion – Instrumental Jazz Studies

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

E. 15-14 New Program – Computer Information Sciences: BA Digital Forensics

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

- F. **15-16 New Program – Anthropology: BS Forensic Anthropology**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. A question was raised about whether funding for the new faculty position associated with this program is guaranteed and what backup plans there are in case state funding didn't develop. Dr. Farley responded by emphasizing that there is strong support in WUBOR, the KBI and the legislature for this program and that it is anticipated that funding will be approved either this year or next year. He agreed that if the situation changes and funding doesn't develop then the university will need to establish a backup plan.
The item was approved by a unanimous vote.
- G. **15-17 New Program – Education: MEd Educational Studies**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.
- H. **15-18 New Program – Education: English as a Second Language Instruction**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

Consent Agenda:

- 15-12 Program Change: BA in Elementary Education**
15-13 Program Change: BA in Computer Information Sciences
15-15 Change in CAS Promotion & Tenure Language

Motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda. Items were approved unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made to consider items 15-20 and 15-21 first to ensure passage of these programs at this meeting. This motion was approved unanimously.

- C. **15-20 Information Literacy Minor**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.
- D. **15-21 MHS New Program**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. A motion for a friendly amendment was made to incorporate the following changes into the item: Changing the language in the Rationale section to clarify that the Nursing program is "phasing out components of the MSN program" and changing the effective date to Fall 2015. This friendly amendment was passed unanimously. The [amended item](#) was then passed unanimously.
- A. **15-22 Modifications to Undergraduate Probation/Reinstatement Policies**
A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. Discussion ensued, the highlights of which are:
- Dr. Pembroke emphasized that units retain the autonomy to set GPA standards that are above the minimums outlined in the policy.

- Faculty discussed the importance of committing sufficient resources to intervene with students who were placed on academic warning, and were reassured that funds have already been reallocated for this purpose.
- Some faculty were concerned about lowering the GPA threshold for probation and the affect that this will have on academic quality and reputation and on students incurring additional debt.
- It was emphasized that data indicates that early intervention is critical to ensure academic success and that this proposal is designed to address that need.
- It was also emphasized that this policy is subject to a five-year review cycle, under the purview of Academic Affairs Committee. This is to analyze whether the proposal is indeed contributing to increased student success.

The item was approved by over 90% of the faculty (visual approximation of hands raised).

B. 15-23 Faculty Handbook Changes: Faculty Roles & Responsibilities

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. The item was approved unanimously with no discussion or debate.

C. 15-19 Changes to the Governance Process

A motion was made and seconded to approve this item. It was emphasized that any program changes must still move through the entire governance process, so the establishment of any new courses that might conflict with offerings from other units would be addressed when said courses are introduced as program requirements. The item was approved unanimously.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 4:11 PM.