

Washington University in St. Louis
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2017

1. Call to Order – Mark S. Wrighton, Chancellor

Chancellor called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

2. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of May 8, 2017

The minutes were approved.

3. Chancellor's Report, Mark S. Wrighton

It was announced to the Board of Trustees that no later than June 30, 2019 that the Chancellor is soon going to be in a different role. An article in the STL Post-Dispatch and STL Business Journal went out as well. In the statement to the Board the Chancellor said he will be Chancellor, until he is not; involved for 18 months or more. The Chancellor is looking forward to additional things.

On the fundraising campaign, we are also going through a transition. The formal ending to an era for which we planned, starting in 2009. A great deal has been done towards those plans and what is the next era. As for the leadership team academically, only one of our current Deans was present when planning was started. It is good to think about what lies ahead. The Chancellor told the Chair of the Board in his fifth year to find a successor. We hope to end the campaign with a total of \$3 billion, as of now more \$2.765 billion. If we have another record year we will do it. Last year we raised \$368 million; if we get that we will be above our target.

There are two main goals: in terms of scholarship support we will go well above private goal of \$500 million and this will remain a key priority. For our second goal, we hope to add 150 new endowed positions, as of now we have 131 -132 and need about 20 new commitments. This is important to attracting and retaining key leaders.

We are also focusing on the completion of construction: the library redevelopment should be complete on December 15; Bryan Hall about the same time. A larger project has begun east of Brookings, with all of this begun except for a planned new McKelvey Hall. When the plantings are added this will be complete, end of April 2019.

Finally, on the Chancellor's Search, Board of Trustees Chair Craig Schnuck will serve as Chair of the Search Committee, and it will contain 15 members. A search consultant will be hired. The entire university community will be engaged, and within this month the search committee will be named.

4. Faculty Senate Council Chair's report, Douglas Dowd, Chair of the Faculty Senate Council

The Chair was elected at the June 30th meeting. In August we formed an agenda for the year. We met once in September; this report will look back at the Spring.

In terms of some of the matters the FSC has considered, we have looked at gender pay equity, which we look at once every three year years. We are also awaiting a Medical School study of gender equity.

Another topic we are exploring is sustained policies on research integrity. This is a review that grew out of a faculty grievance. We created a University Academic Integrity Committee, with a report due in September. We are moving towards consistency; there is a widespread recognition that we need consistency.

We will also be exploring Human Resources, in hopes that we can suggest ways for this to work more productively, find ways for improvement, identify key issues and challenges.

There has been discussion of the impact of the NAACP travel advisory on the campus. There is great concern, and the Chancellor and Provost shared their perspectives on how it will impact the University, working to help minimize the impact.

Another issue the FSC has discussed is the parking changes on the Danforth campus; this has created a layer of challenge. This will remain a discussion item.

The council has identified interest in exploring challenges to the university as a holistic unit. The coming era of discovery will stretch beyond the edges of, and into the spaces in between, 20th century academic departments. How are we responding to these challenges, and how can the faculty be engaged in helping to shape that response?

One final point: there will be Faculty that serve on the Chancellor's search committee.

Q: What is the NAACP travel advisory and how does it impact us?

A: Chancellor Wrighton responded by indicating that the NAACP has issued a travel advisory which stems from items passed in the Missouri Legislature, relating to allegations of discrimination in workplace. But it was not only that law but how police have been stopping people, and other things happening in region. This has proven to be an issue, problematic for WashU and the state. Parents contacted the Chancellor and asked: is it still safe to come to St. Louis? This is a concern and how will it affect recruitment?

Q: What is our plan to deal with this issue?

A: One of our employees took a position in favor of legislation, but as an individual. The provost reports that admissions are up 2-3%. The Chancellor reports that he met with parents during the Orientation program and they remain upbeat and enthusiastic.

Provost Thorp added that so far we are getting enough applications. We cannot be sure without running the counterfactual – the strong programs see zero effect. The Chancellor added that we appointed a commission on diversity and inclusion, a large group from Danforth and WUSM, faculty and students and staff. The report will be addressed to the Chancellor and Provost, with lots of recommendations. However, we are already doing some things. This may require deploying some human resources. We will hear a report at the University Council on October 30. This has stimulated discussion in the Schools and broader community; we need buy-in from the Schools. A series of good suggestions came in the report, we heard from University management. We have trained 10,000 people in diversity and inclusion; virtually everyone in CFU has been trained.

5. Other Business

Bill Clark commented that he appreciates greatly the Chancellor's service. And comments that after the Ferguson issues broke out, he replied within two minutes. He also worked with him to help announce the new Provost. Working with the Chancellor as Former Chair of the Senate was a great experience, thanks to Chancellor Wrighton.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary