

Washington University in St. Louis
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2018

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

Chancellor called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

2. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of October 10, 2017

The minutes were approved.

3. Chancellor's Report, Mark S. Wrighton

We are wrapping up academic year. We will be awarding 2,500 degrees. The weather prediction again looks great.

A lot has happened since the last Senate meeting. The eastern expansion appears to be on schedule; we also appear to be spending about the amount that was planned. At this time we will complete four buildings and an underground parking garage and add some significant landscaping. Later we will add McKelvey Hall; this will not be done this summer, but the construction will start this summer, and completed in late 2020. This building was added into the expansion process later. This commencement will pose some parking challenges. Everything should work out, assuming the weather is reasonable.

A week ago we rededicated Olin Library. Over 600 people were there. It is a beautiful redevelopment and includes some exhibits of important alumni work, as well as the Jack and Debbie Thomas Gallery. We are currently redeveloping Bryan Hall for Chemistry.

We are currently engaged in a project to build a new bridge across Forest Park Parkway to be completed in October. The main reason to do this is for safety purposes.

In terms of BJC we are in the first of a few phases that includes \$1 billion in investments. BJC will move to Phase 2, and add another \$1 billion when the system has more resources.

We will likely go beyond \$3 billion in our fundraising campaign. We are on a record pace this year; we have raised well over \$3 billion right now with a little over two months to go. We have great areas of success already: in the area of financial aid we have raised more than \$550 million, even though our goal was \$330 million. We have secured commitments for 150 professorships, including one coaching position in athletics.

I have announced that I am wrapping up my Chancellorship. Craig Schnuck is chairing the process. The plan is to complete the process, most likely at the October meeting of Board.

In terms of admissions we are up to 14% Pell grants, up one percent overall. Our yield is up 1-2 points to 36-38%.

Questions?

Q: On the bridge across parkway, why are we replacing it again?

A: That is a good question. It is a thoroughfare, but it is too unsafe. We want to expand the width to accommodate bikes and pedestrians.

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

Thanks to Chancellor Wrighton and Provost Thorp. Who are very accessible and I have enjoyed these conversations. Thanks also to Jill Edwards for all of her service.

Last October we shared our focus on improved faculty governance opportunities.

We have had reports and focus on the Library, Human Resources, and the Equity report. We created a Subcommittee on Human Resources, led by Dave Balota. The charge of this committee was approved in our February Faculty Senate Council meeting. The focus of this subcommittee's work has been on hiring, research, participation, transparency, the faculty role, grading of positions, communication and consultation. We have asked for a report by June of this year.

In terms of faculty governance, we met with the representatives of the non-tenured faculty. We discussed some opportunities for faculty governance. We recommended they consider themselves a constituency and get on agenda. We feel it was a very positive conversation.

In the coming era we have extraordinary facilities, so we may need to focus more on people and programs. We have had a rich discussion and dialogue on this. We have discussed with the Chancellor adding faculty to Board of Trustees, and there is consideration of adding one or two to the Research Committee.

We also have consulted with the Administration on academic integrity, the new consensual relations policy, learning management, and weapons policies.

QUESTIONS

Q: On the Human Resources subcommittee, will this be a University wide discussion?

A: Provost Thorp said he is meeting with them a lot about faculty governance. Chancellor Wrighton added that this has been an interesting year in terms of policies. The Board will be receptive related to faculty, adding two faculty on the Research committee; it is a relatively new committee. He recommends we add one from the professional programs, one from the other programs. Provost Thorp added that the Chancellor makes appointments, but it is a good idea to consult.

5. Necrology Report, Timothy McBride

Dr. McBride read the necrology list and a moment of silence was held.

6. Election of New Secretary

Tim McBride nominated and seconded. Nominations closed.

7. Other Business

None.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary