

Washington University in St. Louis
Minutes of Faculty Senate Council Meeting
January 15, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes – Leila Sadat, Chair

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. Chancellor's Report—Andrew Martin, Chancellor

The Chancellor reported that it has been a terrific semester so far in general. Chancellor Martin reported on the successful outcome of the Provost search, hiring Beverly Wendland from Johns Hopkins, who will stay there through commencement, starting on July 1, 2020. **The Chancellor thanked the search committee and Marion Crain for her work as Interim Provost.**

The search for an Arts and Sciences Dean is underway; though the time frame is confidential. In all likelihood a new Dean may be named later in the semester.

On campus crime incidents, there was another incident on December 7. The Board of Trustees is very engaged on this issue, as is a special Safety Committee formed by the Chancellor. There are stepped up patrols, communication, messaging. With regard to discussions with the Board of Trustees, there are hard decisions to make and the engagement continues.

The Chancellor has a message that is going out to the community on “investment principles” soon.

Julie Flory has stepped in as the Interim Vice chancellor for Public Affairs.

There is an ongoing discussion about how to handle the major award ceremonies celebrating faculty achievement, the Compton Award and Faculty Achievement awards. The Chancellor feels that it is terrific that the FSC sponsors and supports these events but the overall experience can be improved.

3. Chair's Report – Leila Sadat, Chair

The Senate Chair reported that progress is being made on the Senate's agenda. We have been able to schedule more of the items the FSC has asked to discuss. Upcoming items include bicampus experience, gender pay equity, international student admissions.

4. Mental Health – Lori White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Vice Chancellor White reports that there remain issues and challenges in the area of mental health. A presentation on these challenges is available at the FSC [website](#). She also reported that we could do a better job of managing our expectations in this area – that is, what is the university's role?

Question and Answer:

Q: How well is “Uncle Joes” working?

A: These are good peer resources, providing confidential peer resources, and it helps reduce need.

Q: Are we doing a good job of promotion and prevention?

A: We have made some strides in this area. For example, we hired in our religious ethical spiritual life area. We have made improvements in our environmental policies, and in URM policies.

Q: The faculty do not always share an awareness of the urgency. What can faculty do?

A: The faculty can do the Incognito program and we suggest they do it.

5. Libraries Strategic Plan – Denise Stephens, Vice Provost and University Librarian

The Vice Provost presented a Strategic Plan for the Library which is available on the Senate [website](#).

Question and Answers:

Q: The work on the bicampus library is good.

A: Thank you

Q: What progress have we made on the rare books collections?

A: We have more visibility with modern book collections, outreach to K12, stressing importance of primary materials, outward facing materials.

Q: Is there a problem with large publishers, bundling?

A: Part of the wave here to bundle everything. Our library has 15-20 fewer positions. One of our disadvantages is that we are not part of a system; we have little leverage.

6. International Travel -- Ben Akande, Assistant Vice Chancellor

Assistant Vice Chancellor Akande made a presentation which is available on the Senate [website](#).

Questions and Answers:

Q: Is MYTrips a separate product or integrated with WashU?

A: It is a separate product.

Q: Is this work integrated with global health?

A: We link to pages on website. Our plans cover spouse and dep children. We give information about coverage, GeoBlue website. The premium is covered centrally for faculty and staff. Students covered by trip.

7. MyDay – Henry Webber, Executive Vice Chancellor

Executive Vice Chancellor Webber made a presentation available on the Senate [website](#).

A question was asked about recharge centers, which are audited right now. This led to a two week long freeze, and worries that this wasn't a collaborative approach. Vice Chancellor Webber said he would look into it.

9. Executive Session

An executive session was held starting at 6 p.m.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary