

Washington University in St. Louis
Minutes of Faculty Senate Council Meeting
February 20, 2020

Attending: Chair Leila Sadat, Secretary Timothy McBride, David Balota, Kim Carmichael, Douglas Dowd, Derek Hoeflerlin, Darrel Hudson, Stephen Nowlis, Vijay Ramani, Guillermo Rosas, Douglas Schuerer, Victoria Thomas, Linda Tsai, Renee Van Stavern, Chancellor Andrew Martin, Provost Marion Crain, Gerhild Williams, Brian carpenter, Rob Morgan, Rebecca Hollander-Blumhoff.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

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

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. Chancellor’s Report—Andrew Martin, Chancellor

One important issue facing the campus is COVID-19, affecting many departments. We are helping to communicate on this; what are the steps to take if you come back from China. We have taken precautionary steps, and the situation has created angst; we have a diverse, global campus. We are mindful of the impact of an outbreak if it occurs. For example, how would it impact commencement. How many students would not have family members attend? Would we not have as many students enroll? Every campus is facing this, even though at this point there are no known cases in the US.

On the A&S Dean search, we reactivated the search after we hired the Provost. It is progressing as expected, and we have every reason to expect it to be completed this semester.

On the endowment, the Chancellor indicated he has been writing about it in his blog and has met (twice) with the students interested in a “fossil free” endowment.

Discussion: FSC member engaged in a discussion with questions on: the financial implications of COVID-19; the endowment (can we divest from fossil fuels? A: decisions are not easy).

3. Strategic Plan —Andrew Martin, Chancellor

In terms of the Strategic Plan:

- We have hired Huron, a consulting firm.
- We will organize Strategic Planning around 6-8 “Foundational pillars” (e.g., Academic distinction, Educational Access, St. Louis Impact).
- We will have a targeted strategic plan, keeping in mind that we will also have academic Unit plans, Operational Imperatives (e.g., MYDay).
- Integral throughout will be:
 - Diversity, Inclusion and Equity
 - International activities
 - Stewardship of resources
- In terms of the process we will use:
 - A Commission Model (following Danforth, 1980s)
 - Oriented around primary key drivers
 - Cohesive with school level planning

- Meaningful and efficient
- We will have an overall strategic planning committee of faculty, staff, students, alumni, trustees, community
- School level plans
- Key drivers
 - Undergraduate education
 - Danforth research: How to increase funded research?
 - STL initiative: Relationship to STL; we are the 3rd largest employer
 - Commercialization of research and tech transfer
 - Public health and community impact
 - Student wellness incl mental health and wellness
 - Career service
 - Sustainability and Climate Change
 - Each of these eight groups will get a charge, and develop a white paper
 - If something is missing, please reach out and let the Chancellor know.
- Timeline
 - The Steering committee will be formed in February
 - In March we will appoint steering committee
 - In May we will update the Board
 - From July to March 2021 the subcommittees meet and finish
 - Report back to steering committee
 - April to July 2021: draft edits, deliver to Board
 - September 2021: final edits
 - October 2021: plan to Board
 - December 2021: plan approved by Board

FSC discussion: FSC members discussed whether the plan would include a focus on faculty, staff wellness mental health; whether the plan is too Danforth focused?; if there are strategic imperatives that emerge before FY2022 will these be acted upon; the role of University College.

4. Chair's Report – Leila Sadat, Chair

The Chair is communicating with Lori White to have a discussion and working group related to some of the issues raised at the last FSC meeting. We will convene a working group. If interested in being part of it, let Leila know. Another issue raised has been the Faculty Achievement Awards – how to improve attendance and engagement. There will be a small task force engaged on this topic, including John Drabeck.

4. Committee on the Bicampus Experience – Rebecca Hollander-Blumhoff, Law School

A presentation was made (available on the [FSC website](#)).

FSC discussion: FSC raised the issues of how research faculty are treated differently on the different campuses; how the research funding infrastructure is a “nightmare” between campuses; parking; child care; and specifically what would be done with the recommendations of the Bicampus Committee.

5. New Business

None

9. Executive Session

Started at 4:09 pm

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary