

Washington University in St. Louis
Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2020

1. Call to Order – Andrew Martin, Chancellor

Chancellor called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting of October 7, 2019

The minutes were approved.

3. Chancellor's Report, Chancellor Andrew Martin

The Chancellor welcomed Beverly Wendland as the new Provost and Feng Sheng Hu as the new Dean of Arts and Sciences, starting July 1. He also thanked Arts and Sciences Dean Barbara Schaal for her years of service to the University. Finally, he thanked William Tate, Dean of the Graduate School, who is leaving the University.

The Chancellor provided an update on campus changes related to the COVID-19 virus. Late in February, travel restrictions were put in place, including study abroad. On March 7th, the first person in St. Louis county was recorded as testing positive and on March 9th the Chancellor told students not to come back from Spring Break. He believes this was the right call, because of known community spread. The students' belongings in the dorms were packed and shipped at our cost, organized in 2,000 packages to our students, something most of our peer institutions did not do. We still have some of our students (about 230) in dorms and apartments. As of March 15th, we moved the University to alternative operations, and this took a week. By March 23 the medical school had ramped down most of its research program and began ratcheting down all clinical operations to deal with the expected surge of cases. On March 18th, the first death was recorded in the area, and on March 20th, the University began preparing the Knight Center for use by medical personnel serving patients. On March 23rd, the "Stay at home" order was issued in St. Louis. All of these plans will be revisited in the middle of May. The state of Missouri has proceeded on a different track.

A de facto hiring freeze has been implemented at WUSM. On April 1, a student crisis fund was reopened. The University restarted the budget process; it was already completed, but now will be revisited. The Fiscal Year 2020 budget will be affected, and the FY2021 budget begins in July. There are two scenarios about what this will look like that the University will consider, a best case, and a worst-case scenario. The University will process and re-prepare the budget the take the budget to the Trustees and consider the current operational status on April 6.

In general, this is a tale of two campuses. The Danforth campus remains at a "new normal," very quiet with few students and faculty and staff on campus. The Medical campus is preparing for the surge. The Chancellor reported that he sent out on communications on April 17 and 20. The COVID-19 virus will exact a financial toll, but this will be softened by FEMA and CARES cost recovery dollars. The University will begin a phased approach to bring back faculty and staff back when appropriate. The medical school is carefully looking at clinical operations. And the University has created a Fall contingency committee.

The Chancellor indicated the University will not cancel the fall or spring semester. The question is how will we open? The BJC system now has hundreds of empty beds – 60% fewer patients – so the financial impact is significant, and the impact is \$60 million per month. Other changes implemented include making some draws from the endowment, an indefinite hiring freeze continued indefinitely, and no merit salary increases.

As for the next academic year, the Chancellor reported that the University is worried about the impact on our clinical revenues; there is a great deal of uncertainty about revenues for the Danforth campus. We do not have a good estimate of what it will look like for the Danforth campus at this time. In terms of the public health side, the Chancellor reported that we are doing remarkably well at this time -- we have flattened surge for now, because we have moved to social distance – and we would have been very stressed if that were not the case.

The Chancellor thanked the faculty on both campuses for stepping up to deal with this situation.

4. Faculty Senate Council Chair’s report, Leila Sadat, Chair, Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Council

The Faculty Senate Chair reported that the Senate had worked hard in nine areas. A long report on the work of the Senate is posted on the Senate’s website, at:

<https://facultysenate.wustl.edu/files/2020/05/Sadat-EndofYearReport-Faculty-Senate-Council-Final2020.pdf>

Chair Sadat reported that Senate completed work in nine areas:

- Accountability, transparency and good governance
- The bicampus experience
- Diversity, equity and inclusion and faculty equity pay studies
- Faculty Achievement Awards
- Global Priorities
- Gun violence
- St. Louis experience and pledge
- Strategic Planning
- University Operations.

The Senate created a great deal of momentum and showed resilience.

5. Memorial Resolution, Professor Jonathan Katz

Professor Jonathan Katz introduced a resolution that stated:

“Whereas there is no memorial to the Washington University students and graduates who died in the Armed Services of the United States during the Second World War, the faculty resolve:

1. That the University Archivist be requested to compile a list of Washington University students and graduates who died in the Armed Services of the United States from December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945, or subsequently as a result of injuries sustained during that period;

2. That the Fox School of Art be requested to design a suitable plaque or other memorial;

3. That the Trustees be requested to provide funds to realize and install this memorial.”

A motion was made to present this resolution to Faculty Senate Council for consideration and deliberation by the FSC and University officials, and this motion was seconded. The motion was approved.

6. Necrology Report, Timothy McBride, Secretary, Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Council

The Faculty Senate Secretary read the Necrology Report and a few moments of silence were held.

7. Other Business

There was no other business raised.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary