

**Washington University in St. Louis**  
**Minutes of Faculty Senate Council Meeting**

November 19, 2020

Amy Eyler, Derek Hoeflerlin, Darrell Hudson, Stephanie Kirk, Vijay Ramani, Timothy McBride, Guillermo Rosas, Douglas Schuerer, Victoria Thomas, Renee Van Stavern, Chancellor Andrew Martin, Provost Beverly Wendland, Guillermo Rosas, Adam Rosenzweig, Carla Siegfried, Bess Marshall.

Guests: -- **Ronne Turner**

The meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes from September 22 were approved.

**2. Chancellor's Report—Andrew Martin, Chancellor**

The Chancellor thanked the Senate for their work through eight months, but acknowledged we are now in a third surge. He gave an operational update.

As of a week ago, 681 hospitalized, 100 more than April, and we are facing a prevalence rate of 7.5/1000 which is high and trending and a positivity rate of 24%. Deaths have not spiked yet, but it is a lagging indicator. ICU admissions have not yet reached April levels though it is possible we will reach those levels in a few weeks. We began to stop electives in a week or so. All this created stress on the faculty, workforce in May; frontline workers are tired, many are getting sick and it is concerning.

On the Danforth campus we are monitoring the situation. We are doing tremendously well; with a less than 2% positivity rate. For the remainder of the semester, we will do four different things: quarantine if needed, though we have significant excess capacity; contact tracing, and we still have tracing here. We see no evidence of any systemic spread. We are on course to finish the fall semester as planned, and start the spring semester as planned too.

The budget is variable right now. On clinical revenues if things problematic, we could see costs. We were pleased to see restoration of retiree match.

On the personnel side, it is bittersweet to see Adrienne Davis step down after 10 years and 4 months, returning to faculty. This will be released tomorrow to the campus. We have a plan for a national search, with Vijay Ramani as Chair.

Questions and answers.

Q: Have we set aside space for medical colleagues?

A: We have done so, but not needed to use much of it.

Q: What would happen if the county went into lockdown again?

A: We will have to close; but remain cautiously optimistic

Q: We asked the students a housing question – indicate how they responded?

A: On the question 75-80% responded... 70% the intention through-to stay and not go home over Thanksgiving. But there are some anecdotal reports that some students may not be truthful about this. Our students have been remarkable in responding so far; only a few incidents. There have been a few repeat offenders and that is being handled by the student conduct process. The community has a mechanism for raising complaints.

### **3. Chair's Report -- Vijay Ramani, Chair**

The Senate will launch a gender pay equity study and a racial pay equity study. We are nearly done standing up the committee. Lisa Wiland will lead the study. There was so much work done last time on methods and data much of the work can be distilled down. Work should commence at beginning of Spring term.

At the next meeting Rob Wild will report on student mental health. Brad Evanoff from WUSM will discuss faculty and staff mental health.

### **4. Admissions Processes -- Ronné Turner, *Vice Provost for Admissions & Financial Aid***

Ronne Turner presented a PowerPoint which is posted on the Senate website [here](#).

Faculty Senate discussion centered around the elimination of testing over four years. In Fall 2021 we recommended test remain optional. Why? (1) we are still in midst of COVID, and (2) if others opt out sig impact, and (3) strong anti-testing sentiment. In selecting class of 2025, we are looking at diversity issues, merit, STEM and math. What high school prep is needed? How do ensure success? What issues?

Q&A:

Q: What do we know about tests and People of Color?

A: The College Board has found a relationship between test outcomes for people of color.

Q: We use interviews and other items, if not scores then what?

A: WashU looks at a range of items when considering admissions.

### **5. FSC Membership Sub-Committee Update -- Timothy McBride, *Secretary, Faculty Senate Council***

A PowerPoint was presented that reviewed options for making changes universal for how membership in the FSC is handled, available [here](#).

The FSC agreed that FSC members should send letters to Schools to encourage uniformity in how Schools choose members.

### **6. Other Business -- Vijay Ramani, Chair**

Previously, the Senate considered a World War II memorial proposal brought to the Faculty Senate by Professor Jonathan Katz. It was decided that the FSC, with assistance from the University administration, should look into what other memorials exist on campus for those

who served in any wars in the U.S. over the years. After that, the University will consider options for placing a memorial to those who have served on campus.

It was reported that the Medical School is looking at adding an educator track.

**7. Executive Session -- Vijay Ramani**

An executive session started at 4:50 pm.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm  
Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy McBride, Secretary