

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
Location: Zoom
<https://wnmu.zoom.us/j/88661642717>

Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024

3:30 - 5:30pm

Attendance/Roll Call

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Approval of the Minutes (03/05/2024)

Informational Items:

- a. Faculty Salary Manual (5 minutes) – Tanya and her team are working on a Canvas shell to house the faculty salary manual. Tanya proposed that both the Faculty Salary Advisor and the Salary and Benefits Committee co-own the shell and keep the content up-to-date. The FS committee expressed its support for this idea and gratitude for the team's hard work.

Old Business:

- a. Online and Face-to-Face Courses (15 minutes) – The ad hoc committee was not able to make substantive recommendations due to low student responses. However, six basic suggestions have been identified from the data for departments to consider. These suggestions include, but are not limited to: offering additional face-to-face courses in General Education and service courses, including skill-based courses such as MATH and ENGL; and departments/programs conducting internal surveys to identify discipline-specific student needs. FS reps are encouraged to share the document with their departments. Scott will also present the same information at the General Assembly. There is a question on whether FS should conduct another survey to garner more responses, which led to a lively discussion. All options have their limitations and difficulties in implementation. The conversation concluded with a strong encouragement for departments to conduct internal surveys and continue improving their programs.
- b. Faculty Handbook Changes to Committee Descriptions, Second Read, Scott Fritz (10 minutes) – The main changes in this proposal focus on aligning policies and processes in the student and faculty handbooks, as well as removing outdated information and language. There was a concern regarding the new language stating that faculty are expected to serve over the summer to handle student appeals. The FS committee discussed the difficulties various committees face in finding faculty members to serve on committees over the summer. Since this is an ongoing issue with no quick fix at this point, the committee decided to strike the following language from the proposal: “The Student Appeals Committee will have three teaching faculty members appointed by the Faculty Senate, ~~one of whom serves as chairperson and are expected to serve over the summer.~~” Joel moved to approve the proposal with the amendment. Tanya seconded the motion. Yes: Joel, Wen-chi, Gregory, Lynn, Courtney, Eric Moore, Tanya, Liliana, Taka / Abstain: Jorge Motion carries with support to present this item at the General Assembly.

- c. Faculty Handbook Changes to Faculty Handbook Regarding Post Tenure Review, Second Read (15 minutes) – Phil provided a revised PTR proposal including the language accidentally omitted in the last draft: “The committee will consist of three or five tenured faculty.” The typo “OSice” at the end of the proposal is replaced with the correct word: “Office.” The committee also decided to edit the following language for clarity: “These evaluations will ~~at least~~ rely, at a minimum, upon student evaluations and input from the other tenured faculty.”
- Tanya motioned to approve the proposal with the above amendments.
- Yes: Joel, Wen-chi, Gregory, Lynn, Courtney, Eric Moore, Tanya, Liliana, Taka / Abstain: Jorge
- Motion carries with support to present this item at the General Assembly.
- d. University Travel (15 minutes) – The committee discussed the language in this memo and proposed the following changes to ensure the content reflect mainly on matters related to faculty.

Suggested changes:

- Domestic and International Faculty Travel:
- Outreach and Recruitment
- Educational Opportunities: Faculty-led and student-centered study abroad programs
- Delete “Additionally,” at the beginning of the concluding paragraph.

Scott will make modifications. The FS reps should take the revised language back to the departments for additional feedback. The committee discussion will continue at the next meeting.

New Business:

- a. Faculty Librarian (15 minutes) – The Faculty Librarian position has been converted to staff. The Faculty Handbook states that this position was created to support shared governance while serving several other functions. Does this raise concerns? A lively discussion followed. The committee discussed possible repercussions, including potential issues with staff qualifications not being equivalent, the university's need for salary savings, possible issues with shared governance, etc. Samantha Johnson explained that the position had been converted into two staff positions, filled by individuals with the required MLS degrees. A new issue regarding appropriate compensation and titles for the staff emerged. Scott asked the FS reps to discuss this with their departments and bring feedback to the next meeting.
- b. \$155,759 for Faculty Salaries (15 minutes) – The committee discussed options for managing the salary increases and decided it is probably best to proceed as has been done in the past. Lynn motioned to opt for the "default" option, which is to allocate the funds according to the current salary formula. Tanya seconded the motion.
- Yes: Joel, Wen-chi, Lynn, Courtney, Eric Moore, Tanya, Lilyana, Taka / Abstain: Jorge
- Motion carries with support to present this item at the General Assembly.

Announcements:

Next Faculty General Assembly Meeting, April 11th, 3:30 - 5pm

Next Faculty Senate Meeting, April 30th, 3:30 - 5:30 pm – Next FS meeting.

Other relevant upcoming events

Adjournment: Joel motioned, Jorge seconded

Attachments:

Meeting Agenda: 04/02/2024

Meeting Minutes: 03/05/2024

Handbook Changes Section 304 Proposal

Memo Post Tenure Review Handbook Change 2024

Faculty Senate Memo on Travel - DRAFT

Suggestion from the Student Survey Analysis

Meeting Organizational Team:

Recorder of the Minutes: Wen-chi Chen

Timekeeper: Phillip Schoenberg

Participants (25)  

WC Wen-chi Chen (Me)  	KO Kate Oubre  
SS Scott Smith (Host)  	KP Kim Petrovic ~ WNMU Nursing...  
PS Phil Schoenberg  	 LH Lynn Haugen  
M mooree  	MM Mary McBrayer  
 Adele Springer  	MT Melissa Teller  
 Bailey Pagels  	 Patti West-Okiri, WNMU (she, h...  
 Bobbi.Dodson@wnmu.edu  	RB Roberta Brown, WNMU  
CM Courtney Michaud  	SM S.J. MCFEATERS  
DF Dean Foster  	SJ Samantha Johnson  
G Gregory.RobinsonGuerra@wn...  	TS Takahiro Sato  
JB Joel Blaxland 	 Tanya Rivers  
JR Jorge Romero-Habeych  	 Zully Villanueva  