

Wake Forest University Faculty Senate Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Tribble Hall, DeTamble Auditorium

Minutes prepared by Sophie Leruth and Senate Secretary Erica Still; submitted by Erica Still.

Note: To facilitate open discussion, the identity of most Senators making comments or questions is not recorded. Such comments as recorded here are generally not verbatim. The identity of comments from Senate Officers and Senate Ad Hoc and Standing Committee Chairs are given, as is the identity of persons commenting in their official administrative capacity (e.g. EVP, Provost and College Dean.)

In Attendance: Jane Albrecht, Margaret Bender, Steve Boyd, Simone Caron, Arjun Chatterjee, L. Gail Curtis, Michele Gillespie*, Omaar Hena, Natalie Holzwarth, Allyn Howlett*, Ana Iltis, Carrie Johnston, Steve Kelley, Rogan Kersh*, Mark Knudson, Pat Lord, Sherry Moss, Matthew Phillips, Tim Pyatt, Jimmy Ruiz, Wayne Silver, Michelle Steward, Erica Still, Mark Jensen, and Ellen Makaravage*

(*) denotes non-voting members

21 voting members in attendance, a quorum

I. President Mark Knudson: Call to Order

II. Knudson: Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2020

- a. The motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

III. President Hatch: Q&A

Vision/Scope

- *Where do you see WFU in 10 years?*
 - WFU has developed its identity as a collegiate university; looking out 10-years the hope is to enhance, not change, this identity. We must continue to be a place of quality and intention, educating the whole person, seeking diversity, etc. We can do so by being radically traditional in some ways and radically innovative in others. For example, could we imagine having new schools in Public Health and Policy or in Communications?

- *What do you think WFU needs to continue a positive financial trajectory?*
 - We will need to expand our financial base, as we still do not compare with several similar institutions in terms of endowment, especially because we want to maintain our admittedly expensive teaching model. We want to provide significant financial aid and competitive faculty salaries. Thanks to the Wake Will Campaign, which raised over \$1 billion, we have increased financial aid, increased endowed faculty lines, and made significant updates to our facilities. Moving forward, the College Academic Commons remains a top fundraising priority (of its \$75 million budget, about \$50 million needs to be raised), which is evidence of our deep commitment to the humanities.
- *Will there be an increased expectation for research in the future?*
 - We hire teacher-scholars, not scholar-teachers. Research should be done at the highest level but it will not be at the rate expected at top research universities. We are not looking simply to produce quantitatively more faculty research, but instead to maintain, and increase where possible, *quality* research production.
- *Is there truth to the rumors that he plans to retire June 30?*
 - No plans to step down June 30th—looking forward to remaining involved in seeing CAC completed, diversity and equity goals achieved, and the expansion of the medical school in Charlotte, among other things.
- *Are there future building projects planned?*
 - The College Academic Commons, the renovation of Tribble and Scales, and the renovation of space for Anthropology and Environmental Studies are the current major building projects. We need to continue with regular maintenance as well.

Campus Growth

- *Charlotte area expansion?*
 - We have maintained an active MBA program in Charlotte for 25 years. We now have the opportunity to build a branch of the medical school there through a partnership with Atrium. That partnership may also lead to additional possibilities; for example, there may be an opportunity to develop a School of Professional Studies to meet the needs of the 62,000 professionals in the area
- *Are there plans to continue expanding undergraduate enrollment?*

- There are no plans to do so at this point. The larger student body has provided for needs like maintenance and opportunities like Wake Downtown, for example. It has also created a larger number of students from underrepresented minority groups (although the percentage has not changed), which helps to create a critical mass.
- *Are there plans to expand graduate programs?*
 - Undergraduate education will always be our primary focus, even as we continue to support the various graduate programs we have. We recognize that having doctoral programs also creates opportunities for undergraduate research, and we are looking to support but not necessarily expand Ph.D. programs.
- *Are there steps being taken to connect undergrads to medical students?*
 - If there are specific, targeted reasons for making such connections, it could be done (with careful consideration), but by and large these are two very different worlds.
- *Are there plans to expand graduate enrollment?*
 - WFU is open to new programs that grow out of faculty interest and present a financial model that will work. At the same time, we need to think carefully about the “ethics of graduate education”—to what ends are we providing such programs. What are the ethics of graduate education in our current landscape—are such programs meeting a vital need?

Coronavirus

- How are Chinese students being supported?
 - Chinese students are being assisted with finding options to stay in the United States over the summer.
- *How will this affect Undergraduate admissions?*
 - We take in 80-100 students a year from China; we are looking into options, such as accepting more students from elsewhere or offering online classes in China.

Campus Climate

- *What is the status of responses to harassing emails?*
 - Protocols are now posted and detail what someone should do if such an email is received. Information Systems will block emails if requested to by

an individual, but not as blanket policy. The Bias Incident Report System also remains available.

- Slavery, Race, and Memory Project continues and enhances the work that we have been doing since 2007. Historian Andrew Cannady is working on campus this semester, and Corey Walker, who has been a consultant to the SRMP, will edit first volume of essays about its efforts. There are several events being held in partnership with WSSU this week as well to memorialize the Winston-Salem sit-ins.
- Founders Day Convocation will include an apology and discussion of the role of slavery in our institution's history.
- We are working towards creating an Africana Studies program

Additional Questions from the floor:

- *Cost of college education – what should we do to offer value?*
 - We need to be true to our identity as a place of opportunity, even as we realize that we are also a place of privilege. We have to work to control costs and raise money to support the institution. To fulfill our mission, we have to stay the course.
- *Support for free community college – has WFU thought about that; there is a lot of support in VA?*
 - If UVA, UGA, UNC were to become completely free then we may have to worry more, but as of now, this is not a high priority issue for us.
- *Why is the Wake Forest name being taken off of Innovation Quarter?*
 - The medical school thinks this change will make IQ more inviting, but nothing substantial is being changed in practice.
- *Plans for church and Whitaker Park?*
 - The purchase of the Winston Salem First building was a long-term decision, as we did not want to let other developers get to it. The church building will likely be demolished, but the other buildings offer various possibilities. The goal is to have the Whitaker Park space be a vital economic generator.
- *Can we still revise the harassing email protocol?*

- Yes, it can be a working document. We would like more guidance for students, faculty, and staff.
- *Where do you see college athletics heading in 10 year (specifically football)?*
 - It is the most uncharted time ever; states have followed CA when it comes to 'pay for play'. Congress may need to put guardrails around this concept – if it ever came down to 'pay for play,' good private schools would likely opt out of participating.
- *Do you think that the NCAA is doing enough to protect student health in terms of concussions?*
 - It is a complicated issue, so it is good to have more attention on it.

IV. Knudson: OmBuds Process

- Senators agreed to address this issue in the next Senate meeting.

V. Knudson: Adjournment