

WFU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – Jan 5, 2025

Call to Order – 4:00p

1. Approval of November 2024 meeting minutes - APPROVED

2. Announcements

- Welcome new Senators:

- Rodrigo Castro, Z. Smith Reynolds Library
- Mahta Mirzaei McKee, School of Medicine, Radiation Oncology
- Kiran K Solingapuram Sai, School of Medicine, Radiology

3. Old business

- Website updated: let secretary know if you find anything else that needs to be updated

4. Current business

- Upcoming Elections for 2025-2026 Senate Officers: Timing of elections and importance of positions to shared faculty governance
 - Let Senate President know if you are interested in committee chair roles, which are appointed by the president.
- Ad Hoc nominations committee chair: Ellen Kirkman
- Elections will be held in March to start April 1, 2025
- See attached list of Faculty Senators and service terms
- Reminder: upcoming Senate elections within units; Chairships are appointed by Senate President, not elected
- Report outs from those serving as representatives on various University committees
 - Search for new Dean of ZSR Library – Amanda Kaufman. New Dean has been named, Lauren Pressley who was previously a librarian at WFU.
- Standing Committee Reports
 - Athletics: John Sumanth, Chair
 - See attached slide deck
 - Questions to clarify nature of NIL deals as individually negotiated with athletes outside of university
 - Question about athletics budgeting in the past and future: Pres. Wentz and AD Currie presented relevant information at Nov. 20th meeting
 - Fringe Benefits: Ellen Kirkman, Chair
 - Childcare Center operated by Kindercare: self-investigation and voluntary state investigation into family complaint reveals no findings of systemic issues
 - HR and Kindercare have been transparent and cooperative with committee members about process
 - Academic Freedom and Responsibility: Sarah Morath, Chair
 - Prioritizing semester tasks: responding to the draft statement on academic freedom and reviewing processes for charges of violations of academic freedom
 - Provost Gillespie: Founders' Day will be focused on academic freedom and freedom of expression in anticipation of the release the next day of the draft statement
 - College Senators: Jason Parsley, Chair
 - Met in December on topics including advising, transfers, enrollment data, salaries, and space

concerns

- Medical School Senators: Michael Cartwright, Chair
 - Elections to be held to replace senators who have left or rotated off the senate
- Salaries: Katherine Shaner, Chair
 - Meeting next week to set priorities for the semester
- Integration: Amanda Kaufman, Chair
 - Focused on opportunities: shared dining options on campus, scholarship share-outs to encourage cross-disciplinary dialogue and networking
 - Will be speaking with Provost about these opportunities
- Capital Planning: Lauren Reid, Chair
 - No report
- Senate President and Executive Committee Report:
 - review of meeting on Jan 8, 2025
 - Considering Senate size: how to determine the appropriate number of Senators by unit.
 - Peer Institution Project: considering similarity and dissimilarity using endowment/student. –
 - In the process creating a list of peer institutions, one key measure that is often used is endowment per student – how does this look nationally (not just WF and peers)
 - More about how higher ed works (2,000 schools)
 - Based on publicly available information
 - Bigness and smallness get standardized when the variable is endowment per student
 - A larger number means more flexibility to take risks
 - Princeton is the highest at \$4.1M / students
 - Compared to Pfeiffer at \$14K / student (picked because it's regional)
 - Duke is at the bottom of the top 25 – almost all of top 25 have more than \$1M in endowments/student
 - We have about \$227K / student which puts us in the top 10%, close to top 5%, of the 2000 schools
 - Duke at \$900K/student, Davidson at \$600K/student, WFU & Catawba at around \$227K/student, then quickly moved to smaller numbers
 - Elons at \$51K/student, High Point at \$21K/student
 - Many schools with less than \$50K/student are suffering financial challenges
 - How do we disaggregate the numbers around what kinds of restrictions are on funding?
 - True that there are restrictions that are hard to untangle, but this is a challenge across the entire dataset.
 - Who is the audience for this data?
 - Often included in the background of various rankings, but unlikely that it's on students' radar.
 - Because endowments support the whole operation, can we find a ratio around administration, academic staff, etc.?
 - Chair of SCA suggests that we are in the middle of the pack for schools that play in Power 4 conferences
 - How does the endowment get measured across university (separate endowment for medical school?) and who counts as a student?

5. New Business

- Adjourn – by 5:30p

End notes

Executive Committee Membership:

- Saylor Breckenridge (College/Sociology) - President
- Steve Virgil (Law) - Vice President
- Ryan Shirey (College/English/Writing Program) - Secretary
- Angie Edwards (Medicine) - Member-at-large
- Raja Chatterjee (Medicine) – Past President
- Mike Cartwright (Medicine) – Chair, Medical School Senators
- Amanda Kaufman (Library) – Chair, University Integration
- Ellen Kirkman (College/Mathematics) – Chair, Fringe Benefits
- Sarah Morath (Law) – Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (CAFR)
- Jason Parsley (College/Mathematics) - Chair, College Senators
- Lauren Reid (Business) - Chair, Capital Planning
- Katherine Shaner (Divinity) - Chair, Salaries
- Michelle Steward (Business) – Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on the Faculty Handbook
- John Sumanth (Business) - Chair, Athletics