Wichita State University Faculty Senate meeting  Monday, January 25, 2010


MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Bennett, Horn, Moore-Jansen, L. Russell, Taher, Yildirim

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Anderson, Brooks, Carruthers, Celestin, Monroe, Soles

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Provost Miller

Summary of Action:

I. Call of the Meeting to Order: President Soles had a medical emergency so the meeting was called to order by President-elect Hemans

II. Informal Statements and Proposals:
    President-elect Hemans told the senate about President Soles's father and the senate to keep her in their thoughts.
    Senator Anderson announced Feed Haiti project at the Metroplex, Feb. 5, 6, & 7
    Senator Hershfield stated that several people had been nominated and elected to the senate without their knowledge or approval. Bobbi Dreiling said there is a place on the nomination form that ask if the nominee has been consulted and is willing to stand for election. President-elect Hemans informed the Senate that the election process for the 2010-2011 senate would begin February 1 and the process would again be done electronically via mrInterview.
    He also mentioned that nomination form for recipients' of the President's Distinguished Service award to be distributed soon.

III. Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of October 26, 2009, meeting accepted as presented.

IV. President's Report:

V. Committee Reports: none

VI. Old Business: none

VII. New Business:
A. Budget update --- Gary L. Miller, Provost  Academic Affairs and Research

The Provost gave highlights of several possible scenarios if there is a significant or a small reduction in funds allocated by the state. He stated that detailed information has been shared with the Faculty Senate Planning and Budget committee. He noted that last year the Council of Chief Academic Officers decided to suspend payments to the University of Kansas Press for one year to draw down the reserves. Payments will be resumed. He commended the quality of the press.

He said that the new proposal for admissions standards has been drafted through collaboration with Regents. It would require High School students to complete more college prep courses and would relieve the problem with home schooled applicants.

He noted that the Governor supports a temporary increase of taxes on tobacco and during a visit to campus last week the Governor stated that there was no intent to reduce the budget for higher education. If reductions are required to the operating grant by at least $15 million WSU will plan for 3% budget reduction. The Faculty of Distinction budget may have to be reduced and the Foundation will have to make adjustments. The Board of Regents document was shared with senate. The 3% budget reduction, at this point, will be absorbed by the Provost’s Office and the details will be provided to the Planning and Budget committee.

Provost Miller took questions and copies of the new proposal admissions policies were made available. It was noted that the stimulus money was used to help offset the tuition increases. He also noted that some searches will begin and it is his hope that some vacancies can be filled, especially in Education because of NCATE accreditation, however, he noted that Engineering and Fine Arts (String faculty) are especially needing faculty.

He also said that this spring he will hold open meetings in each college.

B. Update on Rhatigan Student Center proposed renovations -- Wade Robinson, Vice President, Campus Life and University Relations and Jim Herrman, Director, Rhatigan Student Center

They made a power point presentation “Rhatigan Renewal The Future is Ours.” VP Robinson presented some background on the RSC saying in 1959 Phase 1 was completed, in 1969, the Bookstore, Ballroom and CAC theater were added. In 2006, they began the planning for these new renovations. This was prompted by students and also by the fact that the new renovations will be more efficient as far as utilities are concerned.

They presented their rationale for the renovations, including that students stated they needed more meeting space, lounge space and hours of service;
renovation also is supported by five foundations for recruitment and retention -- students and parents are interested in a campus having excellent programs, student union, modern residential living, health facilities and a safe environment.

VP Robinson noted that 80% of the current center will be renovated but the bookstore will not be touched. The total cost of the renovations is estimated to be $33 million and the project will be funded by student fees through a 20 year bond. It is hoped that construction will begin in 2011 and be completed by August, 2013. There will be several open forums for student input and ask the senators to encourage their students to attend these forums. This project must be approved by the students.

They mentioned that there may be a Phase 2 with additions to the west and incorporating the CAC Theatre and possible parking garage however Phase 2 will be in the distant future.

VIII: As May Arise:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm
Respectfully submitted:
Johnnie Thompson