Wichita State University Faculty Senate meeting   Monday,  November 23, 2009


MEMBERS ABSENT: Baker, Baldridge, J. Bennett, Horn, Hu, Moore-Jansen, Rillema, Rokosz, Yeager

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Hershfield, Monroe, Strattmann, Thompson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Provost Miller

Summary of Action:

I. Call of the Meeting to Order: President Soles called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm

II. Informal Statements and Proposals: none

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

IV. President’s Report:
   A. President Soles said the governor is supposed to release his new budget numbers this afternoon. If that information is released before the meeting today adjourns, Provost Miller will come by and tell us about it.
   Last week the Kansas Board of Regents submitted a budget to the governor for FY2011. The proposal was for a flat budget. There is some confusion over which version of the budget, however, the July 1 budget or the July 2 budget.
   B. The Planning & Budget Committee continues to meet. Almost all of the suggestions which have been submitted to date have been discussed.
   C. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Provost Miller will be doing an in-depth review of General Education at WSU.
   D. President Soles announced that the Holiday Gathering party will be Monday, December 7, 3:30 - 5:00 in the lower level of Ablah Library

V. Committee Reports: none

VI. Old Business: none
VII. New Business:

A. **WSU Copyright policy and Guidelines -- Lisa Jones, Assistant General Counsel**, discussed the proposed Copyright Policy and Proposed Copyright Guidelines. The proposed policy has been sent to President Beggs but it has not yet been signed. No action by the Faculty Senate is required for this new policy.

Currently, the only policy relating to copyright in WSU Policies & Procedures is found in Section 15.04, which relates to copyright regulations for course packets. The intent of the proposed policy is to have something specific in WSU Policies & Procedures about copyright generally. This policy is fairly basic. The proposed guidelines are for guidance only; they will not be part of WSU Policies & Procedures.

Ms. Jones discussed some of the specific parts of the proposed policy. She noted that Section 3 states that if faculty and staff “willfully disregard” this Policy they may not be covered by the Kansas Tort Claims Act and would not be defended by the university.

There are several questions from the senators and a couple of points were noted that need further clarification or revision. First, Senator Soles pointed out that the reference to faculty and staff in the proposed policy may be unclear with respect to the application to graduate teaching assistants. Ms. Jones said that she believes GTAs fall under “staff” but agreed that may need clarification. Senator Spurgeon noted that the reference to the designation of “©” in the introductory section of the guidelines needs clarification, because the current wording implies that simply placing that symbol on something provides litigation rights, when in fact, it is the registration of a copyright which does that. Ms. Jones said that she understood this point and would look into that.

B. **Budget Update -- Provost Gary L. Miller**, made a brief report about the governor’s news conference and press release concerning the new budget numbers. There is a $260 million deficit for FY2010 and by law the governor must close that gap. The current budget for FY2010 is $6 million over the 2006 budget amount, which is the “maintenance of efforts” floor established by Congress in the Stimulus Bill. To reduce the gap, the governor recommended a number of things including a $50 million transfer of funds from the highway funds; a $5 million reduction for the Kansas Bioscience Authority; a $36 million reduction in K-12 spending; a $2 million reduction for universities in the regents’ system; taking unspent money from state agencies from previous years; adjustments in Medicare; and not funding K-12 increases from revised property taxes (though some of that will be offset by stimulus money). If the cut to the universities remains at that level it will be good news. However, Provost Miller said that we are not sure whether the taking of unspent money includes RU money, and if it does, that would create a problem for WSU.

VIII: As May Arise:
The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm
Respectfully submitted:
Larry Spurgeon, Acting Secretary