Wichita State University Faculty Senate meeting  Monday, March 8, 2010


MEMBERS ABSENT: Baldridge, Dale, Hu, Monroe, Pickard, Taher, Wolf
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Celestin, Rillema, Ross

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Assoc. Provost Pickus

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 February 22, 2010, were accepted as presented.

IV. President's Report:
   President Soles reported:
   A. The Planning and Budget Committee continues to meet weekly. They have been working with Associate Provost Pickus on a new audit program -- CAPP an electronic degree audit program which is now accessible. Every requirement for each degree is built into system. The system is accessible to students and faculty, and is a part of the Banner System. The new system will also allow courses to be evaluated periodically; although there is no set time to re-evaluate. It will also aid in seeing if transfer courses are equivalent to the WSU course.

V. Committee Reports:
   A. Rules committee, Fritz Hemans, chair, mentioned that Committee Preference forms are due Friday, March 12, 2010.

VI. Old Business: none

VII. New Business:
   A. Andrew Schlapp, Executive Director, Government Relations -- gave a presentation on the legislative process with emphasis on the
budgetary process. He then entertained questions from the floor. Topics ranged from consolidation of KBOR Universities, the legislature’s image of higher education, WSU’s relationship with the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, the possibility of an increase in taxes, and how we can have an impact on the decision-making process. He mentioned that the some of the Legislators feel that higher education is more of a private problem rather than a public problem. The KBOR totally disagrees with that idea. He said that "mass mailings" to a member of the legislature are not the most effective way to communicate with them and suggested that face to face was much more effective and suggested the following talking points - 1. No new cuts, 2. Keeping our youth in the state., 3. Economic Development, higher education provides employees, research and sources to review business. He said we need to hold our legislators accountable. He said he did not feel anything would really happen until after April 15 when the new revenue reports are due. He said that IF we fall below the 2006 funding there would be a loss of the federal stimulus funds. He said that WSU is working with the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, however, WSU does not have as much of an impact on the city as KSU or KU who are the major employers of their cities.

He noted that the Government Relations page is already in existence, http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=govrel&p=index, and that he is available should anyone have questions or concerns.

VIII: As May Arise:

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