

Washburn University Staff Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021

Members Present – Leah Brown, Matt Busey, Meagan Smejdir, Christa Smith, Blaine Smith, Marie Hall, Erik Carlson, Jackie Askren, Beth Mathews, Kathy Iwig

Members Not Present – Nancy Province, Drew Liggett, James Scotti, Jennifer Bixel, Jan Martin, Emily Schneider

Guests – Dr. Eric Grospitch, Marsha Stromgren, Chris Kuwitzky, Kristine Hicks, Brent Trammell

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christa Smith at 3:04pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance was taken by Zoom chat.
- III. Guest Speaker, Dr. Eric Grospitch, Vice President for Student Life
 - a. COVID Update
 - i. Email from Dr. Farley regarding COVID vaccines to be available to Washburn faculty & staff in Phase 2B of state's rollout plan
 - ii. Washburn was originally denied as a closed vaccine site (meaning that we could vaccinate our own faculty/staff only), and we are now being re-considered as a potential closed vaccine site
 1. If Washburn is approved as a closed vaccine site, we will use our Employee Wellness system to get everyone who wants to receive the vaccine signed up for appointments
 2. If Washburn is not approved as a closed vaccine site, then we may go through the county
 3. We are waiting to get information from the county about when and how many vaccines they receive
 - iii. If you have responded that you want to get the vaccine, then you will be contacted via email; Washburn will only be contacting individuals (approximately 400 faculty & staff) who indicated that they want the vaccine because the turnaround time for response and scheduling the vaccine appointments will be pretty short
 - iv. If someone did not respond to the initial survey or now wants the vaccine, they can contact Dr. Grospitch to be added to the list (eric.grospitch@washburn.edu)
 1. If someone contacts Dr. Grospitch via email to request being added to the list, please include name and Washburn ID number (WIN)
 2. It is likely that there will be another opportunity to respond with interest via some kind of survey
 3. If you have already received the vaccine through another channel, please feel free to contact Dr. Grospitch via email so that the list can be updated

- v. What does a post-vaccinated Washburn look like?
 - 1. We will follow all CDC and Shawnee County guidelines, but it will be difficult to know who has received a vaccine
 - 2. It is possible that when we return in the fall 2021, we may be back to pre-COVID capacity in classrooms, but may still require masks while people are inside
- b. SOAR Award Nominations are currently active – please contact Isaiah Collier (isaiah.collier@washburn.edu) if you want to nominate someone
- c. Washburn’s Basketball team did well recently, and have another tournament coming up
- d. We are resuming some athletic events
- e. Today we will be announcing that students will now be able to resume playing basketball at the SRWC
- f. Student Government elections will be next week
- g. We are starting to plan Welcome Week events and Homecoming for the fall 2021 semester

IV. Approval of February 9, 2021 Minutes (Motion)

- a. Voting
 - i. Motion – Blaine Smith
 - ii. Second – Erik Carlson
 - iii. Votes
 - 1. Yay – 10
 - 2. Nay – 0
 - 3. Abstain – 0

V. Committee Reports:

- a. Chair Report – Christa Smith
 - i. Meeting with Dr. Farley (3/4/2021)
 - 1. Continues to follow the 3 pieces of legislation mentioned last time, but do not know yet if they will be resolved before the spring break of the legislation
 - a. There is a current legislation proposal to have public colleges/universities refund tuition to students for semesters when classes were offered remotely/virtually instead of in person (focused mostly on fall 2020 and spring 2021); we are keeping an eye on this legislation as well
 - 2. Thank you to everyone for completing the additional COVID vaccine form!
 - 3. Employee Recognition Ceremony (including those who have retired in the past year, and those who will be retiring this year) – Dr. Farley plans to have some kind of celebration
 - 4. Next meeting is April 5, 2021 – if you have anything you would like Christa to discuss with Dr. Farley, please contact her
- b. Board of Regents Meeting Update – Christa Smith
 - i. No meeting since last Staff Council meeting
 - ii. Next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021

- c. All Faculty/Staff Email/Posting Committee – Jackie Askren & Christa Smith
 - i. The committee has not met yet, but Mark shared that there should be two representatives from the Staff Council, so Christa will join Jackie at the upcoming meeting
 - ii. Workplace may be going away in the future, because Facebook will begin to charge per user
- d. Benefits Committee – Jennifer Bixel, Emily Schneider, Christa Smith
 - i. Next meeting on March 23 – they will be reviewing the BCBSKS plan and listening to a presentation from Watco Benefit Group
- e. Food Advisory Committee – Jan Martin
 - i. Memorial Union is hosting some fun events this week – check the calendar!
- f. Parking Ticket Committee – Leah Brown and Blaine Smith
 - i. No report; committee has not met
- g. Safety Committee – Beth Mathews
 - i. The committee met on February 23, 2021
 - 1. No new business
 - ii. The next meeting will be on March 30, 2021

VI. Old Business:

- a. Washburn Academic Diversity and Inclusion Committee (ADIC) Statement to Faculty Affairs Committee Regarding Faculty Tenure and Promotion Processes in Light of COVID-10
 - i. Christa spoke with Kelly Erby regarding this, and the committee said that the statement will be focused more on tenure & promotion
 - ii. Statement regarding support for staff is general, because the committee did not want to bring in anything personal
 - iii. Thank you for reaching out to your participants and helping us to weigh in on this statement!

VII. New Business:

- a. Restrictions/Exceptions/Limitations in Employee Benefits
 - i. Limitations
 - 1. Expense of hearing aids, not covered by insurance
 - ii. Exclusions
 - 1. Obesity and weight management and prevention
 - iii. If you have heard of any other concerns regarding restrictions, exceptions, and/or limitations to the Employee Benefits, please notify one of our Staff Council representatives on the Benefits Committee

VIII. Informational Items:

- a. Next Meeting: April 13, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:00pm, via Zoom Video Conference
- b. Beth Mathews will be moving to a new position at the Washburn Foundation – we will miss her! Thank you for your service!
 - i. The alternate person for this area from the election has agreed to serve in this role; we will meet them at the next Staff Council meeting

- IX. Adjournment (Motion)
 - a. Motion – Beth Mathews
 - b. Second – Erik Carlson
 - c. Vote
 - i. Yay – 10
 - ii. Nay - 0
 - iii. Abstain – 0

Minutes submitted by Staff Council Secretary Meagan Smejdir.