

Washburn University Staff Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

Members Present – Leah Brown, Matt Busey, Meagan Smejdir, Christa Smith, Blaine Smith, Nancy Province, Erik Carlson, Jackie Askren, Gayla Sarkesian, Jennifer Bixel, Jan Martin

Members Not Present – Marie Hall, Drew Liggett, James Scotti, Emily Schneider, Kathy Iwig

Guests – Dr. Eric Grospitch, Jim Fosdick, Debra Mikulka, Melissa Posey, Stephanie Lanning, Colleen Theissen

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Christa Smith at 3:02pm.
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Attendance was taken by Zoom chat.
- III. Guest Speaker, Dr. Eric Grospitch, Vice President for Student Life
 - a. Washburn is preparing to sunset the COVID planning group; the group will re-assemble as needed
 - b. How are staff and co-workers feeling about wearing masks in buildings?
 - i. Necessary if you are within 6 feet or less of another person, especially because there is no way to know who has been vaccinated
 - ii. Many staff will feel more comfortable with people wearing masks inside
 - iii. Discussion about the differences in terminology for policies regarding masks inside buildings (required, recommended, encouraged, etc..)
 - iv. Facilities has been working to improve the air circulation quality on campus – it would be helpful if this information was shared with faculty and staff
 - v. If you have other thoughts, ideas, or feedback from constituents regarding returning to campus, please let Dr. Grospitch know (eric.grospitch@washburn.edu)
 - c. We are planning to return to in-person operations for the fall 2021 semester, following all safety guidelines from the CDC and Shawnee County
- IV. Approval of April 13, 2021 Minutes (Motion)
 - a. Voting
 - i. Motion – Erik Carlson
 - ii. Second – Blaine Smith
 - iii. Votes
 1. Yay – 11
 2. Nay – 0
 3. Abstain – 0
- V. Committee Reports:

- a. Chair Report – Christa Smith
 - i. Meeting with Dr. Farley May 3rd
 - 1. Christa shared concerns from staff members regarding the return to campus specifically around the ability to social distance, confirmation of vaccination
 - a. Students will not be required to be vaccinated to attend class
 - b. It is unlikely that faculty and staff will be required to be vaccinated to return to campus
 - 2. Restoring the budget cuts
 - a. Still working on some things related to this subject
 - b. Working on coming to an agreement with the Kansas Legislature
 - c. Recently a bill that will allow 18 year olds to conceal carry was passed
 - d. Looking in to tech schools to provide the Kansas Promise scholarship
 - e. Foster care tuition bill – looking in to additional information
 - 3. An increase of 2% for tuition has been proposed; if this is approved by both the students and WUBOR then a salary package is possible, but if it is not approved, then there will likely be no salary package
- b. Board of Regents Meeting Update – Christa Smith
 - i. May 5th
 - 1. Audit committee- WUBOR accepted audit findings
 - 2. Facilities improvements got passed
 - 3. Watermark contract renewed
 - 4. New academic programs approved, some that are phasing out
- c. All Faculty/Staff Email/Posting Committee – Jackie Askren, Christa Smith
 - i. Committee met in early May
 - 1. Looking at Yammer as a product to replace Workplace
 - 2. Evaluating the pros/cons of the Yammer product
 - 3. Making some decisions about who will have access to send out messages to all faculty/staff via email at the next meeting
- d. Benefits Committee – Jennifer Bixel, Emily Schneider, Christa Smith
 - i. No meeting
- e. Food Advisory Committee – Jan Martin
 - i. Chartwells will refresh Union Market – will be called Union Café, the corner store will be called The Market
 - ii. Taco Cantina will be added to food options in the union
 - iii. Refresh project will be happening over the summer 2021
- f. Parking Ticket Committee – Leah Brown, Blaine Smith
 - i. No meeting
- g. Safety Committee – Jackie Askren
 - i. COVID testing was offered during graduation
 - ii. Facilities – law building contractor will be here this week to start construction
 - 1. New lighting in parking lots 7 and 9
 - 2. Parking lot S will be re-paved over the summer
 - 3. Replacing the pavers on the BTAC patio, improving water drainage system

- 4. Fire dept at indoor practice facility – they are just doing practice drills
- iii. COVID vaccine clinics are still being offered at the Student Health Center – please contact them if you want to get a vaccine
- iv. Bird Scooters – motorized scooters are banned/prohibited from campus, but there will be places near campus that the scooters can be parked if someone is going to campus

VI. Old Business:

- a. Employee Recognition Ceremony on May 14, 2021 from 3:00pm-5:00pm in Washburn A & B
 - i. Recognition for 2020 and 2021
 - ii. Remarks will begin at 3:30pm
 - iii. Videos and livestreaming available during the event
 - iv. Pre-packaged food with both sweet and savory options
 - v. There will be indoor and outdoor seating options
 - vi. Masks required to attend the event

VII. New Business:

- a. Safety in Returning to Campus
 - i. Concerns about airflow issues in building, the mask policies, vaccinations, etc.. brought to Christa
 - ii. If you constituents have concerns, please pass the information along to Christa
 - iii. June 1 date for returning to campus – this is for student facing positions/offices and academic departments
 - 1. If you or your constituents have a concern about this date and returning to campus, they should work with their supervisor and HR

VIII. Informational Items:

- a. Changes to the TIAA retirement plan; we have hired Inifintas to evaluate Washburn's retirement plan
 - i. There will be a default options, and then a Retire Plus option
 - 1. The default option is the traditional one
 - 2. The Retire Plus option is designed for folks who are closer to retirement
 - ii. There is nothing that individuals need to do right now, but more details to come in the fall so that you can make a selection
- b. Next Meeting: June 8, 2021 from 3:00pm-4:00pm, held via Zoom video conference

IX. Adjournment (Motion)

- a. Motion – Erik Carlson
- b. Second – Matt Busey
- c. Vote
 - i. Yay – 11
 - ii. Nay - 0
 - iii. Abstain – 0

Minutes submitted by Staff Council Secretary Meagan Smejdir.