WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS, FACULTY SENATE COUNCIL MINUTES
March 4, 2024

Attending: Dennis Barbour, Jennifer Arch, Maria Quintos Bagstron, Carlos Bernal-Mizrachi, Tonya Edmond, Salvatore (Tore) Gianino, Armando Gomes, Kim Johnson, Timothy McBride, Michelle Miller-Thomas, Iva Youngkils
Ex Officio: Andrew Martin, Beverly Wendland, Amy Eyler
Guests: Kia Caldwell

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

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<td>Approval of Minutes</td>
<td>T. McBride, Secretary</td>
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<td>Chancellor’s Report</td>
<td>Andrew Martin, Secretary</td>
<td>First, I want to recognize the tragic death of one of our students last week which you all learned about on Friday from the university. Arnoff Gosh. He was an MFA student in the performing arts department who was just about to graduate. With his MFA in dance. This is a very tragic situation. At the university, we do not know much more than what's been reported in the press. St. Louis City Police and the FBI continue the investigation. We have heard from some members of the community about why the university didn't communicate about this death earlier. We communicate only when we have the consent of the family to communicate to the university community and on Wednesday. We were able to communicate with the right members of the family beginning on Wednesday evening once we had more information, from, from the police. It is a very tragic situation for our community. A week before last, we also had a bomb threat on the campus. Here are the facts. We had a bomb threat that was called in. Those calls were reviewed by the chief of police, who made the decision, the appropriate decision, at the time to immediately evacuate Olin Library, which was the which was the</td>
<td>Q: There was an English department faculty meeting on Friday and the bomb threat was discussed extensively and it quickly went into two concerns that a lot of people have related to a possible shooting. In the building where many of us teach, the doors are glass or partly glass. And we’ve all had the doors or glass or partly glass or partly glass and we’ve all had the experience of being locked out of the rooms and we understand that there’s a central locking system of being locked out of the rooms and we understand that there’s a central locking system, but there’s no way to lock the doors from inside the building. And in addition, several people brought up that the windows are nailed shut. So it’s unfortunate that we have to think about these things at all, but I said that I would bring that concern to this group. Chancellor: I would encourage you to do and have your department. Have your department leadership reach out to our police department and have them come in</td>
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| location of the threat. We evacuated the library, brought in federal law enforcement. It turned out that the threat wasn’t real and we were able to reopen the library. Compared to many universities, we get very few bomb threats. And most of the time law enforcement deems them as non-credible. The other thing that happened is there was lots of misinformation that swirled around the campus. We had a variety of folks in various offices who heard about this and decided to email big groups of students and faculty, often with faulty information. And while I appreciate the enthusiasm, those types of emails coming from other administrative leaders are actually very counterproductive. And so, I’ve asked the Provost to work with the academic leadership and their staff to ensure that we have this type of situation again all communication comes centrally. We did get a communication out to the Danforth campus and then a subsequent communication. |
| I want the faculty to know that the university administration continues to be engaged around a whole host of issues dealing with the ongoing situation in the Middle East. I thought in the fall that it would be very useful to bring some resources to the table to meet with the university leadership team, as well as with our student affairs professionals. |
| • Dr. Sarah Coudin from the American Jewish Committee met both with University Council and Student Affairs about anti-Semitism on university campuses. This was a very nice helpful workshop. |
| • In April, we’re having a similar session, led by Dr. Amir Ahmed, on Islamophobia on to do a review of your space. And they can be helpful to think about what are some mitigation strategies, including possibly changing some of the locking, not locking window operability and the like. Our police department is more than happy to come meet with your department. And work on a work on a security plan and sort of tweak. I can tell you that in my the beginning of year 6, we’ve done 2 tabletop exercises of the university leadership team, for how we would handle and how our police department would handle an active shooter. On the campus and it’s also something that we regularly drill and test on and our campus police almost every summer. The thing that you can control is how you communicate. So those are all a matter of judgment. But you can plan what’s the police response. How do you get more in law enforcement here quickly? |
| Q: What sort of training do our police undergo? I assume it exists, but for the situation, but I was just curious. A: It is very robust, highly professional active shooting active shooter trading led by federal law enforcement. And in fact, we host it for the region. Here every summer. |
| Q: This relates to the text messages. Yes, also in the English department faculty meeting a concern was brought up which I’ve had too that the phones don’t always work in the buildings. A: I read the emergency page and it said that that the alerts are also pushed to email and |
The Chancellor reported that he recorded his state of the university address. That state of the university will be published on March seventh and distributed to the campus community and I hope you all have an opportunity to read it.

The library was under remodeling my office, but the students in the library and the students rounded? Did it go okay or kind of? It went fine.

Q: On the library situation. I wasn't on campus under remodeling my office, but I for one don't allow my students to use laptops in class.

Chancellor: I spoke to our librarian, Mimi Coulter, and she reported that it was all very orderly and calm and, you know, as uneventful as something like that couldn't possibly be.

Q: Is this still an active investigation and it hasn't been concluded yet in terms of who the culprit was for instigating this?

A: Correct. And if we find the culprit. They will face criminal prosecution and we will likely sue them civilly as well.

Q: The Olin business school also was evacuated. Was it because there was a confusion?

A: A member of the Olin administration, not the dean, heard about this. Saw Olin and decided to evacuate Olin business school.
opportunity. To hear what I have to say and what many of my colleagues have to say about where we are and where they're going.

Finally, I just want to give a congratulations to our men's basketball team. They won two overtime games on Friday and Saturday night to go to the NCAA Sweet 16. So this was the first 2 rounds of the NCAA tournament in the Sweet 16 this coming weekend. So congratulations to all of them.

**Chair's Report**

Dennis Barbour, Chair

- Amy Kweskin and her team from grants and contracts is here. We are starting to accumulate anecdotes.
- Faculty Awards – We are with Provost; all the faculty of nominations for our upcoming faculty awards. We definitely are going to want to get the word out about those.
- Secretary -- finally at next month's faculty Senate meeting will be an election for a new secretary. Tim is going on sabbatical and stepping down.

**Updates**

Provoit Beverly Wendland

Provost: after action report or the after action meeting; Post mortem on the ice storm. So, this is what was received. Notification and activation of the key decision makers did occur quickly. Part of the issue was that that realization that the that ground crews were not able to keep up with the ice based on how the timing went and everything. That all happened later than was optimal, but once they realize that very quickly. Started getting some notifications and things going. Once it was determined that a change in operations was needed immediately due to the increased risk, both the Chancellor and myself were notified and each of us independently gave our immediate. Approval of for the recommendation to alter the campus operations.

Q: What about false positives?
A: We obviously had a situation where He came upon us really quickly and this is the problem with living in St. Louis, you know. You never know what's going to hit you and then when it hits you and so you know the grade goals just sort of overreact, I think.
We were looped in as quickly as possible and neither of us interjected any delays and things. Some issues address: three corrective action planning topics.

- In the event of winter weather or other inclement situation, we will outline a process to share potential and or changing risks to campus more quickly with key decision makers to get approval for necessary operational changes. The process will also include timely messaging of any operational changes with adequate notice for faculty, staff, and students to adjust accordingly.
- Timing: There is a very clear recognition that the timing of this was not appropriate. We will do their best to avoid a repeat of that.
- Communication: We will explore additional means of communication to get messages out to the community regarding changes to WashU operations. So that includes automated phone calls. Notification pushes to the WashU app, local media, etc. And then lastly, the office of the provost has confirmed with the deans that they have the authority to make a decision regarding a switch to virtual learning for their respective schools or courses. And the Provost has the authority to cancel classes for the entire Danforth campus due to emergency.

Two things that were mentioned when we met earlier that were not included here. The concern about a wider region of consideration beyond just our campus being affected. And I think also very important, the status of public transportation. And so that has been sent back in.
| ADVANCE Grant proposal | Kia Caldwell, Vice Provost | PowerPoint presented. Issues covered:  
- Systemic causes of gender inequity in STEM  
- Project objectives – mindfulness.  
- Interventions—adaptive mindfulness curriculum; AIM dialogues for diversity on STEM; infused with civic mindfulness approach.  
- We are using Leadership Institute to measure progress.  
- Work-Life Advisor program  
- Social Science Project – pay equity through transparency; ecological model. | Q: NSF grant – may be generally applicable to other departments; matching funds?  
A: goal is to get sustainability funds beyond grant. ADVANCE office. More relevant. Targeting STEM but open to others  
Q: Missouri bill?  
A: not likely to go far  
Q: support already on board is it totally dependent or is it  
A: there is institutional interest. Say that in the grant. Do the work whether or not – think so. Q of financial commitment. Linking it to Here and Next. Sustainability.  
Q: chairs leadership and equity; close to ten chairs.  
Q: study public look up anyone salary?  
A: if passes will be able to provide pay range.  
Q: advocate for pay transparency for gender equity; this is not happening here; what is current climate?  
A: talk off the record |  
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m. |  |

Respectfully submitted by Timothy McBride