



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

MA 319 and Zoom

PRESENT:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Vice President of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology (via Zoom)

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement (via Zoom)

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Ms. Sherri Cox, Executive Assistant

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives (via Zoom)

Dr. Gail Niklason, Staff Advisory Council Chair - Exec. Dir., Office of Institutional Effectiveness (via Zoom)

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Dr. Marjukka Ollilainen, Faculty Senate Vice Chair - Professor/Sociology` (via Zoom)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by President Mortensen, who welcomed all in attendance.

Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval (April 11, 2022):**

Meeting minutes from April 11, 2022, were reviewed and approved.

USHE Updates:

President Mortensen shared a document from USHE listing Covid-19 effects on institutions. The second round of deep tech proposals went to the University of Utah, so we did not receive anything from that proposal. USHE is going to split \$15 million in funding for Learn and Work that was appropriated by the legislature into two amounts between re-engagement funds (\$10 million) and \$5 million for Learn and Work funds. A proposal will be sent out concerning this. We have been able to allocate our funds within six weeks of receiving them.

Healthcare proposals in the amount of \$2 million were appropriated by the legislature. Our proposal was for about \$950,000 in partnership with Davis Tech. The total amount of requested funds was \$4.1 million. We should know by next week how much WSU will receive in ongoing funding. Nursing pre-requisition discussions are still taking place. The USHE strategic plan will be introduced by Commissioner Woolstenhulme and Geoff Landward, who will be coming to visit the university in the near future. \$3 million in legislative funding has been allocated for mental health. Half of the funds will be used for Trula with the other half going to other institutions. There are now 18 members on the Utah Board of Higher Education with eight new replacement members coming in on July 1st. Those who are ending their terms of service are Chair Harris Simmons, Mike Angus, Nina Barnes, Wilford Clyde, Crystal Maggelet, Aaron Osmond, and the two student representatives. The selection committee has nominated a large number of names (15-20) to the governor. This process should take place this month. Two student representatives, one from degree-granting institutions, and one from technical colleges, will fill positions and be nominated. The WSUSA vice president of diversity is one of the finalists. The old board will elect the next incoming chair. In the May meeting, there will be a manufacturing sector industry meeting discussion. In October, there will be a large industry education summit. The July Board meeting will be training for Trustee chairs and vice chairs only.

Promotion and Tenure:

Provost Ravi Krovi discussed a promotion memo listing 43 faculty candidates who have gone through the review and approval process by their department, committee, chair, and dean.

Provost Krovi presented a Tenure Memo listing 25 faculty members who have applied for tenure and have been reviewed and are being recommended by the committee, deans, and provost.

Approval: The Promotion Memo and Tenure Memo for faculty candidates were both approved to move forward to the Board of Trustees.

Chair Approval - DCHP Respiratory Therapy:

Provost Krovi presented the name of Mich Oki, who was recommended for approval as Chair of DCHP Respiratory Therapy.

Approval: The recommendation of Mich Oki as Chair of DCHP Respiratory Therapy was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Curriculum:

Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering:

Provost Krovi discussed the Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering program (which was approved by President's Council during the April 11, 2022, meeting.) USHE had shared the peer review of the program, which included many questions and concerns from the University of Utah. Explanations were given concerning our proposal. Clarifications were made, and questions were answered giving details about the program, USHE forwarded the peer review so it could be considered by the WSU Board of Trustees before taking action to approve the program at their next meeting in May. This is great news as more quality biomedical engineers are needed in the industry.

Master of Science in Data Science:

Provost Krovi discussed the Master of Science in Data Science program, (which was also approved by President's Council in the April 11, 2022, meeting.) The peer review for the program was submitted and discussed at the state level and received a lot of support. There was representation from five deans from different colleges for this program. It is a stackable degree that coordinates well with different programs and engages with everyone in the process. The degree-granting college is EAST, which is hoping to have collaboration with other departments.

Department Name Change:

The name change from Department of Performing Arts to School of Performing Arts was discussed. The department has three disciplines; dance, theater, and music. Faculty are equitably split between them. There is concern among theater faculty in terms of the allocation of resources that may not be equitable. Theater faculty requested a separation to create their own department. The issue of equality is something that needs to be addressed. The college wants to preserve the autonomy of the three departments as we are one of four in the country that has a collaboration of the different disciplines. They are large enough and diversified enough to be called a school. Tom Mathews has been nominated to be the department chair. The goal is to keep the areas strong by keeping them combined. The reorganization was submitted through curriculum and is going to Faculty Senate. This is still being discussed and will most likely be brought back to PC and then to Trustees in the fall.

Policy Items:

PPM 6-22, Student Code:

Provost Krovi discussed PPM 6-22, Student Code. A charge went to Admissions, Standards and Student Affairs (ASSA) to discuss making sure code applies in virtual settings and to protect faculty who feel they might be targeted by students. The definition of harassment, language changes, and jurisdiction are outlined. Care needs to be taken regarding free speech and regulations. The 10th Circuit is not applying governmental immunities at this time concerning the law in this area. We will need to work with our Dean of Students office as free speech issues can be difficult to balance with faculty. Training for faculty may be beneficial to distinguish academic balance from harassment.

A second point was made concerning amendments to student code. A separate charge was given to ASSA on how to include Staff Advisory Council (SAC), as they do not play a role at this time, but WSUSA does. Questions came up concerning the need to add SAC, and the worry that anyone can request changes that may not agree with the policy. Stephanie Hollist indicated that the change to the policy gives a more defining role to the parties involved and that changes need to come from an outlined member of the group listed such as Trustees, president, SAC, Faculty Senate, ASSA, student groups of 250+, etc. It seems that there are multiple gatekeepers with this policy rather than one. This brings up concerns as well with PPM 12-1, as this policy overlaps with PPM 6-22. ASSA is listed as the gatekeeper in PPM 12-2. More discussion with Faculty Senate may need to take place before final approval.

Approval: The policy changes to PPM 6-22 concerning free speech and harassment were approved. However, the amendment changes will need further discussion and the summaries will need to be revised for Trustees.

PPM 3-39, University Holidays:

Vice President Norm Tarbox discussed PPM 3-39, University Holidays, and the addition of Juneteenth as a state holiday. USHE needs to approve this policy first before the institutions can fully approve it. The actual holiday is set for June 19 but will be celebrated the Monday on or following that date. The academic calendar will need to be updated to reflect this. Communication will need to be sent to faculty to include this in their syllabus information.

Approval: Changes to PPM 3-39, University Holidays, were approved to include the new state holiday of Juneteenth is to be celebrated the Monday on or following June 19 each calendar year.

Board of Trustees Draft Agenda - May 19, 2022:

President Mortensen discussed the Board of Trustees Draft Agenda for May 19, 2022. The following items were discussed:

1. Walther Spjeldvik needs to be added to the list of emeritus faculty members for the Trustee's approval.

2. The Board of Trustees' FY23 schedule of meetings will be approved at the meeting. We need to make sure that it meets the needs of the academic calendar and that our deadlines are met and coordinate with Faculty Senate and curriculum needs.
3. The Special Topic on diversity has been changed due to the HSI position not yet filled. The Digital Fluency team is preparing to go to London to present and will share their presentation on this topic.

Other:

Other items discussed by President's Council included the following:

1. The Holocaust Remembrance recording will be available for viewing.
2. A discussion on commencement took place including when to hold the main ceremony, as it was not well-attended this year by graduates early in the morning. However, many positive comments were received, including the setup of graduates seated on the floor of the Dee Events Center.
3. Provost Krovi mentioned that the Red Barn Academy presentation on the Board of Trustee's agenda will be very interesting after the Other Side Academy from Salt Lake discussion.
4. Provost Krovi discussed the Goddard School of Business & Economics process of determining an interim dean before the end of the school year. Nine nominations were received. Of those nine, one declined and two were not experienced. Of the six remaining, three applied for the position. After Faculty and staff polls, and meetings with deans, vice presidents, and Trustees, Doris Geide-Stevenson was approved to serve in this role for at least one year starting on July 1, 2022. This is the most women WSU has ever had serving as deans.
5. Dr. James Hedges from Westminster College will fill the Online & Continuing Education dean position starting in July. The search committee of 17 members conducted a national search, which is difficult at this time. The committee gave a consensus on their approval of Dr. Hedges for this role.
6. The Public Relations Director position interviews are now completed.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.