



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

MA 319 and Zoom

PRESENT:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

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

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Jeff Hurst, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Services

Ms. Aubrey Jenkins Lord, Staff Advisory Council Chair – Administrative Assoc./Provost's Office

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, General Counsel

Ms. Sherri Cox, Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary

ZOOM ATTENDEES:

Mr. Jason Francis, Faculty Senate Chair – Associate Professor/Health Sciences Librarian

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by President Mortensen, who welcomed all in attendance.

Meeting Minutes Approval (Oct. 5, 2022):

Meeting minutes from October 5, 2022, were reviewed. The graduation data listed for the anthropology and philosophy programs needs correction.

Approval: Meeting minutes from October 5, 2022, were approved subject to edits by General Counsel Stephanie Hollist and corrections to the data in the anthropology and philosophy sections.

Women in Sports Celebration Quasi Endowment:

Vice President Betsy Mennell discussed the Women in Sports Celebration Quasi Endowment. An existing gift account in the amount of \$15k is requested to be combined with an anonymous donation in the amount of \$20k to achieve the minimum threshold of \$35K to create the new quasi endowment. The primary purpose of this fund is to support the annual Women in Sports Celebration Event. Additional uses of the fund could include women's coaches and general-purpose athletic support.

Approval: The creation of the Women in Sports Celebration Quasi Endowment was approved and will be shared with the Board of Trustees as an information item.

Charter Kindergarten:

Stephanie Hollist, General Counsel, discussed the request to pause Charter Kindergarten. Due to low enrollment concerns, the program may be paused to regroup and restructure to make it more successful. Information concerning the governing board of the charter school, the number of employees involved, impacts, and discussion on steps moving forward are in process. This request will need to be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Approval: The request to pause Charter Kindergarten was approved to move to the Board of Trustees Nov. 17 meeting with more information being prepared to share.¹

WSU Housing Services Proposed Rates:

¹ Note for the record, action as indicated was subsequently revised, as of the approval of these minutes. See minutes of President's Council meeting December, 7, 2022.

Interim Vice President Jeff Hurst discussed WSU Housing Services Proposed Rates. Reference was made to the graph in the agenda packet. WSU's rate increases are lower than other institutions, but due to the increasing cost of goods, an increase is required. Discussion included application fees, deposits, and the increased amounts.

Approval: The WSU Housing Services Proposed Rates were approved to move to the Board of Trustees, keeping the same deposit application fee as currently assessed pending further action.

Auxiliary Service FY22:

Vice President Norm Tarbox discussed the Auxiliary Service Report for FY22. Each year, this information needs to be taken to the Board of Trustees to report salaries, summaries, etc.

Approval: Auxiliary Service FY22 was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Early Retirement Requests:

Vice President Tarbox discussed Early Retirement Requests. Forty applications were received, many due to VSIP and early retirement. Birthdates will need to be redacted from the documents.

Approval: Early Retirement Requests were moved forward for Board of Trustees approval pending birthdate redactions. This item will be presented as a consent calendar item and reviewed by the Business Committee before presentation for approval by the Board of Trustees.

Program Name Change: Women & Gender Studies to Women, Gender, and Queer Studies:

Provost Ravi Krovi discussed the Program Name Change: Women & Gender Studies to Women, Gender, and Queer Studies. This program will transfer from Social & Behavioral Sciences to the Office of the Provost and will house two minors; queer studies and women and gender studies. This is an interdisciplinary program treated as separate units with funding and evaluations.

Approval: The Program Name Change: Women & Gender Studies to Women, Gender, and Queer Studies was approved to move to the Board of Trustees. ²

Program Reviews:

Provost Krovi discussed the following two program reviews:

Anthropology:

The anthropology program offers a BA and BS with two tracks and a minor. There are four faculty associated with the program. Enrollment is declining and changes need to be determined to move the program forward. A 5-year review cycle was recommended, with the provost and dean monitoring SPR (strategic planning report) with the potential to adjust time frames moving forward. More information will be added to the cover sheet in Nasdaq to help Trustees have a better understanding of the program.

Philosophy:

The philosophy program offers 26 majors and has four faculty members. Concerns exist due to the national declining enrollment trends for philosophy programs. Focus on growing the minor was discussed. A 5-year review cycle was recommended, with the provost and dean monitoring SPR reports with the potential to adjust time frames moving forward. More information will be added to the cover sheet in Nasdaq for clarification for Trustees.

Approval: The program reviews for anthropology and philosophy were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees Agenda Draft:

President Mortensen reviewed the Board of Trustees agenda draft for the November 17, 2022, meeting. The location will be in the Miller Administration Betty Hess Lampros Boardroom 319. Modifications need to be made to the titles of presenters, action item #6.a.i. will need a unit name change and administrative transfer for Women & Gender Studies. The Charter Kindergarten item may be moved to information or action items on the agenda rather than discussed in the Academic Policy Committee.

Other:

² Note for the record, action as indicated was subsequently revised, as of the approval of these minutes. See minutes of President's Council meeting December, 7, 2022.

- a. During Brownies with Brad, concerns were expressed that we are closing off an emergency egress to campus if needed by shutting down Birch Avenue. The changes at Birch Avenue will allow for egress to be opened in the case of an emergency. Also, It was noted the new OGX Wildcat Shuttle route has created another emergency egress route from campus if needed.
- b. Construction for the hotel on Harrison Boulevard was scheduled to start by the end of October but has been delayed.
- c. Access to A1 parking will be closed in November due to the OGX bus line construction project.
- d. Utah Tech is starting a program in hospitality management. This is something WSU has discussed for several years.
- e. An update about USHE online was given by President Mortensen. The first two elements of the counter-proposal by the institutional presidents have been accepted, and work continues on the second two elements but looks favorable. The tuition freeze announcement by the governor was unexpected. More information will be coming on this. The legislature may need to fund compensation increases with 100% tax funds.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were reviewed without discussion.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.