

**Williston State College Faculty Senate Minutes - Approved**  
**October 17th**  
**8:30am, Stevens Hall 114**

**Chair/President:**

Katie Renville

**Members:**

Jessalyn Obenchain

Amanda Davis

Hunter Erickson - absent

Keri Fedler

Kari Lesmeister

Logan Rutledge

Richard Stenberg

Susan Zimmerman

Staff Rep-Carol Campbell - Teams

Student Rep- Neil Person - absent

Guest- Dr. Hirning

Alex Kovalev – Guest + Fill In

**1.) Call Meeting to Order – by Katie Renville at 8:30AM**

**2.) Minutes from Sept 2025 – Richard Stenberg moved to approve the minutes, Susan Zimmerman 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor, minutes approved.**

**3.) Old Business**

- a. Executive Cabinet Discussion – *Dr. Hirning (guest) was invited to discuss executive cabinet makeup. Faculty was concerned about not having a faculty member present during the cabinet meetings. All members are voting besides the staff (Jenae Hunter) and faculty representative (Gale Rassakka) are nonvoting. Policies that come to the cabinet generally always go to either faculty or staff senate for approval. The question was raised whether or not the new Deans should be on the cabinet, Dr. Hirning would be in support of this. Faculty senate is recommending to Dr. Hirning that the three academic deans sit on cabinet as voting members. The deans will take the place of the faculty representative.*
- b. 605.12 Academic Freedom and Tenure: Academic Appointments Policy – *Staying tabled as we need to address the tenure procedure before addressing this policy.*

#### **4.) New Business:**

- a. CCF Info from Alexey Tenure and Presidential Search Policy Feedback – *Alex Kovalev (guest from CCF) discussed that the SBHE is looking to change some policies, one including the tenure policy and the other about the presidential search policy. For the tenure policy, the SBHE is trying to implement a policy that says in order to obtain tenure, a faculty member must hold a masters, professional, or doctorate degree. CCF has proposed to the SBHE that an alternative tenure pathway be put in place instead that would allow trades faculty to work toward tenure with other qualifications. Faculty senate supports what CCF has drafted. For the presidential search policy, the SBHE wants to add to the policy to include that a presidential search does not need to be conducted, and the SBHE can appoint a campus president. CCF is in opposition to this and is currently drafting a letter to the SBHE. Senate will review the CCF letter and give email feedback.*
- b. Rank and Tenure Procedure – *Amanda Davis moved to table to the next meeting.*

#### **5.) Other Business**

#### **6.) Next Meeting: November 21st 8:30am**

#### **7.) Adjournment – by Katie Renville at 9:35AM**