

**Williston State College
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 2, 2023
3:30 pm, Stevens Hall 116**

Attendance:

Matt Peterson	Lynne Raymond	Derek VanderMolen (President)
Amanda Davis	Kari Lesmeister (via phone)	
Tim DeLorme	Hunter Erickson	

Carol Campbell- Staff Senate representative
Jesse Keicher-Student Senate representative

1. Meeting called to order- 3:50pm by Derek VanderMolen (hereafter Derek V.)
2. Minutes from January 18, 2023- Stand as presented
3. OLD BUSINESS-
 - a. Policy and Procedure 612- Faculty Grievances
 - i. Policy needed to be reviewed and updated and this was completed by Derek V. and Amanda D. Updates to the policy were reviewed.
 - ii. Procedure part of 612- Major change/update is once a faculty grievance gets to the Formal Process per State Board policy 605.5(2)-the Chair of Faculty Rights Committee sets up mediation.
 - iii. Matt P. moved to approve Policy and Procedure 612 as amended in today's meeting. Tim D. seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - iv. Policy and Procedure 612 goes to Faculty Council for review and approval.
 - b. University Mace Policy and Procedure- no progress on this as of today. Derek V. asked for volunteer(s) to help with this. Amanda D. stated she would work on this and Derek V. and Matt P. agreed to review her work on this policy and procedure.
 - c. Other- None noted
4. NEW BUSINESS-
 - a. HB 1446- This House Bill is trying to create a Pilot program in 2 ND institutions regarding tenure and any decision made the tenured faculty cannot comeback and complain or take legal action.
 - i. Committee Hearing on the bill takes place Friday Feb. 3rd at 8:30am.
 - ii. As of Feb. 2nd, two other ND institution's Faculty Senates posted comments/statements about this bill. Several other Faculty Senates are meeting today. Derek V. asked if our Faculty Senate would like to make a comment. Amanda D. made a motion that WSC Faculty Senate opposes HB 1446 and supports the North Dakota University System-Council College Faculty (CCF) Resolution in Opposition to HB 1446. Hunter E. seconded the motion. Discussion focused on who sits on the education

committee and who has some knowledge of tenure. Motion was voted on and passed.

- iii. Derek V. will craft a statement to Faculty Senate and submit it as a comment to legislators
- b. Senate Representatives from Departments-
 - i. Two senators' terms end in May 2023 (Derek V. and Hunter E.); both are eligible for a 2nd term in Faculty Senate.
 - ii. Derek V. asked to take this information back to departments needing new representatives.
 - iii. Derek V. reminded senate of the need to have officers elected before the end of Spring semester

5. OTHER-

- a. CCF Update-
 - i. Derek V. noted that by next Senate meeting CCF representative number for each institution will be determined and WSC Senate needs to bring forth a name as a representative.
 - ii. CCF soon to bring forth their constitution for review
 - iii. CCF is currently meeting 1-2 times a week due to legislative session.
- b. Staff Senate- Lynne R. (Faculty Senate representative) reviewed notes from 2 Staff Senate meetings (Jan. 24th-with just Staff Senate representatives and Feb 2nd- an open meeting for all staff). Notes from both reviewed comments made by Dr Hirning to staff regarding Ms. Wray's termination. Dr. Hirning's remarks during the open meeting noted that HLC's last visit to WSC was in 2013. He appeared to encourage staff to pull class schedules and count the credits that faculty teach without explanation of how credits are paid to faculty. After notes were reviewed, concerns were voiced over his presentation of inaccurate information, HLC last visit was 2020 and apparent lack of understanding on how credits are calculated and paid since delivery method and times classes are run is key.
- c. Discussion moved to an update on information around VPAA termination
 - i. Derek V. met with Dr. Hirning this morning to address rumors spreading around about the termination and asked that a public statement be made. Derek asked for Dr. Hirning and marketing to address this issue.
 - ii. A senator related that the adjunct faculty at WSC were not informed of Ms. Wray's termination by email due to Dr. Hirning sent the email only to WSC listserv not ALL WSC listserv which includes adjunct faculty. Of concern- Adjunct faculty's contracts were due to Kim Wray on February 1st and her email is no longer available. Derek V. stated he will address this issue with Dr. Hirning since he has assumed the VPAA position and duties.
 - iii. Question regarding Overload contracts – it was noted that Sandi Lillehaugen, HR at Lake Region is handling all adjunct and faculty overload contracts. A faculty member interrupted the meeting to pass along open record file was available and clarified Sandi Lillehaugen did

receive information regarding all adjunct faculty contracts and overload contracts turned in as of January 20th from Ms. Wray.

- iv. Derek V. related he had emailed Sandi L. for Open Records Request and he should have them by end of today.

- d. Student Senate- Jesse K. (Student representative) reported they have a good list of students to join and next step will be interviews. Student Senate will attend the NDSA meeting in Minot.
 - i. Discussion on students' knowledge of Ms. Wray's termination and should students be notified by Dr. Hirning. Plans to set up a meeting with Dr. Hirning to discuss this issue are in the works.

- 6. Derek V. adjourned meeting at 5:14pm