Washington University in St. Louis  
Minutes of Faculty Senate Council Meeting  
December 15, 2020  

Vijay Ramani, Amy Eyler, Derek Hoeferlin, Darrell Hudson, Stephanie Kirk, Bess Marshall, Timothy McBride, Guillermo Rosas, Adam Rosenzweig, Carla Siegfried, Douglas Schuerer, Victoria Thomas, Renee Van Stavern, Chancellor Andrew Martin, Provost Beverly Wendland, Past Chair Leila Sadat  

Guests: -- Rob Wild, Kirk Douglas  

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 pm.  

1. Approval of Minutes  

Meeting minutes from November 19 were approved.  

2. Chair’s Report -- Vijay Ramani, Chair  

The Chair addressed:  

- That he spoke with the University archivist about the resolution we received from Prof Kahn. It is awfully difficult if not impossible to find a list of all of our students lost in war. Perhaps by February we may know. However, we are looking at whether there are other memorials on campus.  
- That the Gender and pay equity committee is formed and ready to go.

Questions and Answers:  
Q: On the FEMLA policy for faculty?  
A: This is being discussed.  
Q: On the student mental health challenges?  
A: We will have a presentation later today for discussion. It was also pointed out that there was done by faculty, how they exhausted faculty. Brad Evanhoff also may want to present to us as well later. He did present to the WUSM ESC. The Provost briefed the FSC on what the campus is doing.  

3. Chancellor’s Report—Andrew Martin, Chancellor  

Washington University remains a tale of two campuses.  

- The Danforth campus took two weeks off.  
- Operational update on COVID-19: our cases remain relatively low on campus, even though the COVID-19 case rate is high in the community.  
  o The prevalence rate is 9.8/1000 and trending down; positivity rate= >22%  
  o The death rate is trending up – the highest in the last three weeks.  
  o The bottom line? The state of PH is as bad as it has ever been.  
- On the other hand,...  
  o We have managed this relatively well.
Hospitalizations under control, no clusters; our positivity rate is 0.8% at the peak and was less than 0.2% at the end of the semester. We set aside a lot of beds to manage this but are now not at capacity. We have educated our students, our labs are up, with thanks to those on the planning process. A very successful semester.

- In the spring, we will pick up where we left off. We have things to look forward to vaccine rollout. Spring may improve, especially by the summer.
  - Danforth spring enrollment ... won’t see loss of enrollment. Cautiously optimistic.
- On the budget: the biggest issue is revenues lost because of surge, and we did not accept CARES Act money.
- Finally, it is important to get rest! Bid this horrible year a farewell.

Questions and answers:
Q: Tests for students. Will we re-visit this?
A: This will be revisited. Testing frequency: is it worth $30/test? We ran 15,000 tests. We picked up only two positive cases. But we held the line at not putting our students, faculty at risk.

Q: On the budget and ramping down WUSM. Will this next surge challenge us as much?
A: We were down 10% before. We learned a lot. We were strategic from outpatient clinic, and now volume is close to 100%. On elective surgeries: we emphasized urgent, semi-urgent. Now we face less challenges, except that the staff is exhausted and there is a nursing shortage.

4. Student Mental Health— Rob Wild, Kirk Douglas

A PowerPoint was presented that reviewed that displayed and discussed challenges on mental health and is available here

Q&A
Q: We have seen an exponential path of growth. What explains this?
A: Efficacy of treatment, some changes in use of prescription drugs, a stark reduction in stigma, use of counseling centers, resources available were not escalating, stress of academics, social media.

Q: Can we support students using models that have worked such as Kognito, what has been done at Schools such as the Brown School.
A: Yes

Q: What are the resources we are using and the demands?
A: Weekly interventions, outside the university; two diff resources: case management, which connects them with community. WashU cares program works on group therapy.

Q: Can we link to faculty that could help support students?
A: Currently we are not doing so much; private practice not so much. There are also significant health disparities. There is a role faculty can play; Kognito is fantastic. Some students conflate self-worth with academic performance.

Q: Are there choke points?
A: Through WashU Cares we use follow up and it is easier to be successful. It does create challenges; we can try to use some new programs to deal with drug or alcohol issues.

Q: Are there challenges in terms of diversity?
A: There is frequency of presenting; people of color present less frequently than others; white students report more. We have made more hires that are African Americans.

Q: Uncle Joes seems to be working well.
A: Yes, it presents for volunteerism, the longest standing peer support in nation. Should we make it a course?

5. Strategic Planning Update – Provost Wendland

Strategic planning on campus was in general delayed due to COVID-19 outbreaks. We have identified themes with three key foci – academic distinction, St. Louis impact and educational access. There are also several values driving this: diversity, global, stewardship, interdisciplinary.

We are using the 1979 Commission on Future of WashU as a guide. We have identified the following structure:

Steering Committee:
- Provost, Chancellor (ex officio)
- With task to identify definition of values

A Coordinating Committee
- Chairs for each of the working groups
- Overall Chair: Provost
- Committee makes sure everything coming together, oversees progress, compatibility. A New Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Initiatives has been identified.

Working groups
- Eight key drivers:
  - Undergraduate Education; Danforth Campus Research Enterprise; St. Louis Initiative; Commercialization of Research and Tech Transfer; Public Health and Community Impact; Campus Wellness; Career Services; and Sustainability and Climate Change.

Timeline
- Spring 2021
  - Establishing groups
Begin groups

- Summer meetings
- Fall final reports
  - Draft plan, reviewed by Cabinet, March 2022

Role of faculty
- Role in leadership; a faculty driven process
- Help in driving Thematic groups

There will be some community involvement, and broader involvement of the St. Louis campus

6. Other Business -- Vijay Ramani, Chair

None.

7. Executive Session -- Vijay Ramani

An executive session started at 4:10 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary