1. Call to Order – Andrew Martin, Chancellor

Meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of October 14, 2020

The minutes were approved.

3. Chancellor’s Report, Andrew D. Martin

The Chancellor told the Senate how pleased he was to be meeting with the Faculty. He described the recent period as an extraordinary time, and that a lot has changed on campus. The Chancellor thanked FSC Chair Vijay Ramani for a productive year. The Chancellor highlighted three new recent hires in the administration: Shantay Bolton, the executive vice chancellor for administration and chief administrative officer; Anna Gonzalez, the vice chancellor for student affairs, and Julie Flory, the vice chancellor for marketing and communications (hired after a stint as an Interim).

The Chancellor said the campus has launched its Strategic Planning Effort, which will take about a year. The Chancellor also recently announced a Cluster hire initiative to hire 12 members of faculty at any of our schools. Proposals will be due May 1.

The Chancellor described the educational access initiative, discussed with the FSC. The University had started at one of the lowest in the country, but made great progress, securing $8 million. He soon hopes to become a “need blind” campus.

In the summer, the Chancellor’s fellows program for Summer 2021 was held and 61 students were supported, first generation students.

The Chancellor, Provost and Deans have engaged in a very constructive conversation on the curriculum to increase inclusion.

In terms of the operational aspect of the University, we plan to re-open ASAP only if it is safe to do so. We will be very transparent, and will be remote in part, taking account of the needs of our students. We may need greater flexibility. Looking to the fall, we may need some health precautions. The density of housing will increase, and we are giving some thought as to how to handle vaccinations.

On the University budget, the Chancellor reported that the situation has been materially improving. The Chancellor was pleased to restore the retirement match after 4 months, and to reverse some compensation reductions, and to institute a merit increase program four months early. The Chancellor thanks the leadership of the University and the faculty for their work on these issues. The campus did face one-time costs of approximately $45-50 million due to COVID-19. In general, our campus has come out of this in an extraordinarily successful way.

4. Faculty Senate Council Chair’s report, Vijay Ramani, Chair of the Faculty Senate Council

Chair Ramani reported that this has been a year of uncertainty, but that the FSC has been able to carry out operations in any case, working on several initiatives:
• Student mental health: the FSC received a briefing on faculty mental health
• Admissions: the FSC discussed whether to continue with standardized testing. The FSC recommended a flexible posture on this issue
• University College: the FSC received a briefing on its reinvention
• Strategic Planning: the FSC is an active part of this
• Membership of FSC: the FSC considered issues of equitable across the schools
• Pay equity: the FSC created a committee to explore Gender and racial equity, and report on the results by the end of the year.
• Title IX: the FSC worked with the Office of Provost to provide input on changes to the Title IX policies.

5. Necrology Report, Timothy McBride, Secretary, Faculty Senate and Faculty Senate Council

Secretary McBride read the Necrology report and a moment of silence was held.

6. WW II Memorial Resolution, Vijay Ramani

A resolution was proposed by Professor Katz to honor those students who lost their lives in WWII. It was noted that it would be difficult to get a full list of all who have served. An issue was raised about whether war casualties should be honored from all wars: Vietnam, Iraq, and more. Prof. Katz noted that Ridgely Hall already has a plaque noting the service of those served in WWI. One issue raised was how practical it was to do this. Also if we go back to the Civil War do we recognize Confederates? A question was raised about whether resolution could read “in memory of all who died”? This was agreed to as a friendly amendment.

Discussion centered on whether a motion was needed to include all wars served. The Chancellor said that we don’t need to do parliamentary procedure; if we put this to a vote of Faculty Senate; admin will faithfully execute.

The proposed amendment read:

“In honor of all of the brave students, known and unknown, from Washington University who have died in the service of their country during times of armed conflict. Their sacrifices enable us to continue our mission of education in a free society.”

This resolution was agreed to without objection.

7. Outside Professional Activities Policy, Vijay Ramani

Chair Ramani alerted the Senate to a very important issue: outside professional activities, dual appointments or collaborations. These are being scrutinized by the federal government to make sure they are not in violation of federal law. Chair Ramani said it was important that the University have a clear policy; that the faculty be aware of what is acceptable. Some faculty on some campuses across the U.S. have been arrested. Chair Ramani said a policy is being worked on – in progress. Provost Wendland reiterated the care with which we are approaching this topic with a keen eye towards supporting faculty, in close consultation with the FSC.

8. Election of New Secretary, Chancellor Martin

The Chancellor called for nominations for the Faculty Senate Secretary. Timothy McBride was nominated. No other nominations were received. Prof. McBride was approved by acclamation.
9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary