1. **Call to Order – Andrew Martin, Chancellor**

Meeting called to order at 2:31 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Faculty Senate Meeting of April 14, 2021**

The minutes were approved.

3. **Chancellor’s Report, Andrew D. Martin**

The Chancellor started by telling the faculty that it is great to be back, and he thanked the faculty for keeping the “trains running on time” during the pandemic. The Chancellor described what we have achieved as unbelievable.

Personnel update: the Chancellor recognized Hank Webber as a “visionary who left a legacy” and thanked Hank. The Chancellor also welcomed Sean Armstrong as the next Dean of U College, and Dedric Carter as the Chief Information Officer, and Mimi Calter as the Vice Provost and University Librarian, and Kia Caldwell as the Vice Provost for faculty affairs and diversity.

The Chancellor recognized Nancy Staudt as Dean of the Law School, for an “extraordinary run”. Russell Osgood has been named as the Interim Dean and a search has been organized.

COVID-19 update: the Chancellor thanked the Provost, Eva Aagaard, Steve Lawrence. We are back at full capacity and have a vaccine mandate in place. Currently 98.7% of the university community are vaccinated, with the remainder having approved exceptions. Also, we now have 115 cases of people with COVID-19, almost all unvaccinated.

Strategic Planning: we have made great progress and the Provost will report on this progress.

Gateway to Success: we allocated $1 billion of the endowment to give need blind access immediately. In strategic planning, the Board of Trustees allocated $300 million to support academic efforts in the Strategic Planning.

Endowment update: we have had outstanding operating performance, in a period with a great deal of uncertainty.

Report on incident, 9/11: a student removed flags there to commemorate 9/11. The Chancellor stated that he wanted to give a rationale for our response. The highest priority was set on getting WashU out of the news – there was 72 hours of firestorm, then it died down. There were threats to the student, though no credible threats were identified, and there was no violence of any sort. Many students were upset and scared. Anna Gonzalez reached out to students. There were a fair number of requests to denounce Islamophobia. The student will be treated like any other student who violated code. The Chancellor is grateful to faculty who helped manage the dialogue.

Resolution for a WWII memorial: a faculty member made a resolution to honor those who died in combat. This was referred to the facilities and planning committee. At this point this matter is in the hands of the Trustees.
Rankings: In the new USNWR rankings, WashU has moved from 16th to 14th. In a survey of top employers in Missouri, WashU was ranked as the top employer. The survey recognized our efforts to focus on well-being.

Questions and Answers:
Q: Two faculty members, Nancy Reynolds and Jean-Francois Trani thanked the Chancellor for the comments and congratulated the University for moving to need blind. The faculty members said they were troubled by the response to the 9/11 protests, especially on the equity issues for Muslims. In addition, many of our Asian students afraid to reveal their identities. The faculty members also expressed concerns about the lack of contact to students and expressed a lack of confidence in how the event was handled. Some students expressed concerns, concerns about Islamophobia. The faculty inserted a statement into the record.
A: the Chancellor responded and said he does not disagree in general. The issue is what is the practical way to address these issues, and how to interact with the community. The Chancellor said he made the decision that the wrong thing was to throw more fuel on the fire. We stand behind the integrity, though others may disagree. We put a priority on safety and security of campus and worked with local, regional, and federal law enforcement. Our conclusion was that those threats were not actual threats.

4. Healthy Excellence: Student Well Being at WashU, Anna Gonzalez, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Vice Chancellor Anna Gonzalez presented on the topic of Healthy Excellence on campus. Concerns about long lines at mental health center, were discussed, as well as promotion and prevention. Our campus is one of the leaders in terms of usage and demand, though need and use is now lower because of COVID. We could always use more counselors. The campus has invested in a software package called TimelyCare Telehealth. We are not lessening services, and we help with graduate students, whatever time of the day or night. We have heard from Emory where it was used, and well liked. There are trainings for faculty and staff for the Cognito program.

Q&A:
Q: Are there plans to evaluate new program?
A: Yes, we signed on for a year, then we can evaluate it with option to sign up for longer.

Q: All of this seems a great idea, but are faculty trained to do this?
A: This is being worked on, constantly.

Q: There is evidence services are needed beyond 9 am to 4 pm
A: The University will look into this; we rely on community services for this, generally.

5. Admissions and Aid Update, Ronné Turner, Vice Provost for Admissions & Financial Aid and Michael Runiewicz, Assistant Vice Provost & Director of Student Financial Services

The Vice Provost gave an overview of the entering class, including the Gateway to Success program. WashU has enrolled 1,986 students. The diversity of the class has increased: ten years ago 6% of entering students were Pell grant students, this year 17% of students are. The number of first-generation students has risen from 4% to 12%. In this entering class, 49% identify as a person of color.

The approach to aid was outlined; an approach to making WashU affordable. The University meets 100% of demonstrated need; taking the costs of education, we subtract what the family can contribute,
and what remains is the financial aid. If income is less than $75,000, we have replaced loans with scholarships. If a family loses their employment, the financial aid steps in. If a student comes from Missouri or southern Illinois, then the WashU Pledge applies and tuition, room and board are covered. We are fortunate to offer so much aid. Compared to our eight University peers, the median is 47% on assistance, at WashU 38% are; and among the peers 17% are Pell grant students, compared to WashU at 15.6%. Up until now, WashU was the only university in the top 20 that was not need blind. In terms of making entrance decisions, we look at financial aid and the decision separately. We do expect to increase diversity – social, geographic, racial/ethnic, educational diversity. International students still need to be admitted need aware.

Q&A:
Q: What are the trends in debt?
A: Currently we report under $30,000 in debt.

Q: Do we have comparable numbers of students on debt from our peers?
A: We do not have debt from peers. When we started we were at $42,000 in debt now under $30,000 in debt.

6. WashU Strategic Planning: Defining Our Vision for Washington University’s Future, Beverly Wendland, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs

The Provost gave a quick update on Strategic Planning, reporting that her office is on a tour, so far speaking to Engineering, Law.

The Provost reported that the Strategic Plan is rooted in community values, focused on five principles, reflected in all of the work. There is a steering committee, a coordinating committee, working groups. This is a faculty driven process, supported by consultants. There are 130 faculty formally imbedded into the process, leveraging strengths of Schools. The university’s plan reflects school plans. The Coordinating Committee has faculty, staff and students and the chairs of the nine working groups, with over 200 people involved.

There are nine working groups that have been deliberating, and these reflect the totality of what we already do. The final reports were completed last week and a retreat was held. A draft plan will be completed and presented at the March Board of Trustees meeting. In May 2022, the Board will make a final vote.

The committees include work on campus wellness, digital transformation, environment change and sustainability, graduate and professional education, personal and professional growth, public health, the St. Louis Initiative. The final strategic plan will not be simply stapling together plans from the nine working groups.

The Plans being developed with a focus on three high level considerations:
1. A focus on opportunities to distinguish ourselves;
2. How WashU can use our status as anchor institution to pursue initiatives; and
3. The research portfolio: how WashU can have a clear impact on the country and whole world.

WashU is creating a ten-year plan; a lot lies ahead. Three years ago no one would have predicted where we are in terms of the pandemic. The policy changes use the endowment windfall to improve ways we do our work, with an emphasis on being more collaborative, and distinction in all we do, and equity.
7. Faculty Senate Council Chair’s report, Amy Eyler, Chair of the Faculty Senate Council

The Senate Chair reviewed issues the Faculty Senate Council has been working on, some carried over from last year. There has been a focus on:

- Consistency across schools in membership;
- Faculty governance integrated into the Strategic Plan, and implementation of the plan;
- How to enhance the Bicampus Experience; and
- The Faculty Gender Equity Report, nearly completed.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy McBride, Secretary