

KANSAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Middle Managers Committee

November 8, 2019

Minutes

Present: Matt Thompson (Chair), Melissa Anderson, Jasmin Dauner, Steve Hovey, Michelle Jensen, Jay Krob, Bryan McCullar, Christian Mitchell, Daniel O'Connell, Brad Salois, Patsy Stockham David Toelle.

Absent: Lonnie Booker, Tiffany Daniels (excused), Meredith Drees, Annetta Flax (excused), Jon Freemyer (excused), Paul Green (excused), Kelley Weber (excused).

Meeting Guests: None

Call to Order: Bryan McCullar, committee facilitator, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Backstrom Conference Room.

Opening Prayer: Michelle Jensen led the opening devotions.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 1, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report: Dr. Thompson reported that new Athletic Director Steve Wilson will begin on November 11, a week earlier than planned. Four candidates will be interviewed for the MARCOM position; a decision is expected by November 18 or 19. \$800,000 in improvements to campus have been approved: in addition to new roofs on Sams Chapel, Pioneer, Peters Science, and, perhaps, the folded plate section of Wilson Hall, steps or stairs will be replaced or fixed in several buildings, areas in Pfeiffer Hall (lobby, lobby restrooms, Stewart Dining Room, and President's Dining Room) will be tiled and painted, and water damage/infiltration issues will be addressed in Pioneer Hall (though some of those appear to have been resolved by caulking windows). Following up on the email sent to the entire campus earlier in the day, Dr. Thompson discussed the requirement for next year for students to demonstrate a hard waiver for health insurance or be required to pay for insurance as part of their mandatory campus fees. Over 20% of students do not have insurance; the cost is expected to be less than or equal to \$1,000, which may be less expensive and/or provide better benefits, than parents can secure for their child. The policy will cover students for 364 days, so they are covered during breaks as well as during the semesters. In terms of the academic prioritization process, the committee is expected to provide recommendations to faculty by November 18. No faculty cuts are planned. Recommendations regarding the liberal studies program and reducing programs with few graduates are expected (they will be taught out over 1-2 years). It is likely that a recommendation will include investing in Criminal Justice and Exercise Science. Due to an anticipated decrease in high school graduates beginning in 2025, there will be increased competition for students; therefore, KWU will be increasing efforts to recruit students from lesser-served communities (Latinx and African-American primarily) as well as faculty and staff representing those communities to make KWU all the more attractive.

Unfinished Business:

- The updated Staff Development Needs Survey was reviewed. Career Services was added to the Non-Supervising Professional category and Athletic Director was replaced by Steve Wilson on the PC representative list. The committee discussed timing of distribution of the survey. Dr. Thompson requested that it not go out until after Thanksgiving to avoid conflicts with the demographic survey going out soon (and discussed earlier in the semester) and that the results be reviewed at the next meeting.
- The updated Adulting Community Partners list was reviewed. Several additions and modifications were agreed on. It was noted that Real ID takes effect 10/1/20 so students should be reminded near the end of spring semester to work on getting theirs over the summer. The committee discussed timing for offering sessions throughout a student's 4-year tenure at KWU as well as during the year; the result was a group of offerings to all students and another group for juniors/seniors. The committee was concerned about participation. Ideas for increasing participation included notifying parents through the upcoming parents' newsletter, involving coaches (such as through football's Real World Wednesday program), ties to WExperience, and ties to the points program maintained by Tiffany Daniels for athletes. It was noted that low turnout was discussed with some of the speakers/presenters on the list with the expectation that word-of-mouth would increase subsequent presentations as the program gains momentum.

New Business:

Item One – There was no new business.

Other:

- Jasmin Dauner followed up on her previous email, noting that Student Financial Planning and Registrar staff have moved around in the K-Dub Hub, with Registrar now on the right and SFP on the left.
- Dave Toelle made several announcements about upcoming athletic events, including a reminder that there is a mandatory charge for all attendees at playoff events, so faculty, staff, and their families should expect a \$6 fee to attend the soccer playoffs this weekend (students are underwritten). A similar fee will be charged for football playoffs since the prospects are very bright for continuation of our undefeated season. The prospects are good for at least one female and up to four male cross country runners to make nationals at this weekend's tournament.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 8-11:30 a.m. location TBD.

Adjournment: With no further business to address, Bryan McCullar adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan McCullar
Director of Student Success and Meeting Recorder