

Minutes
PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL
January 6, 2021
7:30 am via Zoom

PRESENT (via Zoom Meeting):

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Services

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President for Diversity

Ms. Sherri Cox, Executive Assistant to the President

Dr. Timothy Herzog, Faculty Senate Chair

Mr. Luke Jenkins, Staff Advisory Council Chair

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Dr. Jessica Oyler, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources

Mr. Dane LeBlanc, Director of Public Safety

Mr. Clayton Anderson, Director, Budget and Institutional Research

Mr. Chaz Steimel, Institutional Analyst II

Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications

Dr. Bruce Bowen, Associate Provost for Enrollment Services

Meeting Minutes
(December 2, 2020)

Stewart Library Tenure
Document

Approval

Tenure-Promotion
Guidelines for COVID-
19, Fall 2020-Summer
2021

Approval

BS in Energy Engineering

Approval

Campus & COVID-19
Updates

1. The meeting convened at 7:30 a.m. President Brad Mortensen welcomed attendees.
2. President's Council Members approved minutes from the December 2, 2020, meeting.
3. Provost Ravi Krovi discussed Stewart Library Tenure Document changes. The library is responding to changes requested by Faculty Senate Committee on Appointment, Promotion, Academic Freedom and Tenure (APAFT) and in response to feedback by faculty.

The Stewart Library Tenure Document was approved to move to the Board of Trustees pending a change of date on the document.

4. Tenure-Promotion Guidelines for COVID-19, Fall 2020-Summer 2021 were discussed by Provost Krovi concerning adjustments made due to impact on faculty from the pandemic. Recommendations by APAFT were followed. Reviews need to include all evaluations, and attitudes relating to the pandemic will need to be taken into account. Probationary periods can be extended by one year. Deans and chairs are getting information out.

The Tenure-Promotion Guidelines for COVID-19, Fall 2020-Summer 2021 were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

5. Provost Krovi discussed a curriculum proposal, BS in Energy Engineering. There is a greater demand for graduates in this field with skills in alternative energy.

The BS in Energy Engineering curriculum proposal was approved to move to the Board of Trustees meeting.

6. Mr. Dane LeBlanc, Dr. Jessica Oyler, and Mr. John Kowalewski gave an update on Campus & COVID-19 Updates. USHE has sent out documents to institutions asking them to incorporate their testing plan. Entry testing has been started and will continue through Jan. 22. Random testing will also take place and will be based on those who work, live, and attend courses on campus. We are set up to comply with all USHE has given direction to do. Departments are making decisions on how to best handle staffing in their offices on a case by case basis due to high COVID-19 counts. All programs

and services will be offered, with offices open as much as possible, similar to fall semester.

The Dee Events Center will be hosting the Weber/Morgan Health Department vaccination clinics. First responders and healthcare personnel are being taken care of first. Faculty and staff vaccinations may be available by the end of January or early February, but will all be determined by many factors outside control of the university.

Enrollment Growth in Strategic Plan

7. A presentation on Enrollment Growth in Strategic Plan was given by Mr. Clayton Anderson, Mr. Chaz Steimel, Dr. Jessica Oyler, and Dr. Bruce Bowen. Discussion on what assumptions with enrollment growth should be built into the strategic plan included dual enrollment and adding an enrollment growth goal that is either equal to our enrollment projections of 1.5% or a more conservative 1%. Other topics involved the need to become more competitive with other institutions in recruitment and retention, providing a positive experience for students, and better marketing of all WSU has to offer. We need to remember and stress the many good things taking place on campus.

Graduate Certificate Programs

8. Provost Krovi discussed the following four Graduate Certificate Programs:
 - a. Business Analytics Graduate Certificate
 - b. Business Development Graduate Certificate
 - c. Cyber Security Graduate Certificate
 - d. Systems Engineering & Sustainable Engineering Graduate CertificateThese programs align with legislative funding for the Utah Learn and Work program, targeting short-term degrees and certificates for people to upskill and retool during the economic downturn following the pandemic. Students are currently enrolled in these programs.

Approval

The four Graduate Certificate Programs were approved to move to the Board of Trustees meeting.

Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science, and Society

9. Provost Krovi discussed the Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science and Society, which is being funded by the grant from the Noorda Foundation that was received a few years ago. Goals of the Center are to enable interdisciplinary collaborations between

	different colleges, and to encourage more women and minority student involvement.
Approval	The Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science and Society was approved and will move to the Board of Trustees meeting.
Social & Behavioral Sciences Interdisciplinary Area	10. Provost Krovi discussed the Social & Behavioral Sciences Interdisciplinary Area. The purpose is to house interdisciplinary programs in the college and have a way to allocate and distribute credit hours.
Decision	The Social & Behavioral Sciences Interdisciplinary Area was not approved to move forward to the Board of Trustees. Further review and discussion needs to take place.
2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests	11. Provost Krovi discussed the 2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests. 33 requests were submitted of which seven are conditional, based on individuals getting tenure. Most are semester-long sabbaticals, with four year-long requests. Requests were all recommended by deans and seem very legitimate. Provost Krovi intends to work with Deans to see this program managed better in the future.
Approval	The 2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests were approved to move to the Board of Trustees.
USHE Immunizations Document	12. Provost Krovi and Stephanie Hollist discussed a draft USHE policy that is circulating related to immunization requirements. This is an ongoing process and will incur more discussion in the future as information related to the work of WSU's presidential task force on vaccinations and pending legislation before the 2021 session is received. Representatives at WSU will continue to monitor this policy and communication going out.
Program Reviews	13. Provost Krovi gave a report on the following three Program Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Athletic Therapy – recommended 5 year review. b. Master of Arts in English – recommended 7 year review with an annual report to track data better. c. Theatre – recommended 7 year review.
Approval	The three Program Reviews were approved to move forward to

Faculty Senate
Evaluation Task Force
Pilot Study

the Board of Trustees.

14. Provost Krovi and Mr. Tim Herzog gave an update on the Faculty Senate Evaluation Task Force Pilot Study. The focus of this is more on the student experience rather than the instructor focus. It encourages the student to be more responsible for their education. A pilot was rolled out in the fall of 2020. As data becomes available, we will learn more from it.

Approval

The Faculty Senate Evaluation Task Force Pilot Study was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Early Retirement
Request

15. Provost Krovi presented an Early Retirement Request for Lori K. Fredericksen, School of Radiologic Sciences, full retirement, 3/30/21.

Approval

The Early Retirement Request was approved to move to the Board of Trustees.

Draft Agenda for Board
of Trustees Meeting –
Jan. 19, 2021

16. President Mortensen discussed the Draft Agenda for Board of Trustees Meeting on Jan. 19, 2021. Jesselie Anderson from USHE will be presenting. Items from the Personnel & Academic Policy Committee and Business Committee were discussed. There will need to be a few agenda items reviewed and postponed until the March meeting. A closed session for discussion of honorary degrees will take place.

Other

17. Other items for discussion by the President's Council included the visit of keynote speaker Dr. Ibram X. Kendi who will be doing a virtual interview on "How to Be an Antiracist" Jan. 13, hosted by President Mortensen.

Staff Advisory Chair, Luke Jenkins mentioned that staff were very appreciative of having a week off over the holidays and wanted to thank the administration.

Upcoming Events

18. Upcoming Events were included in the packet without discussion.

Meeting Adjourn

19. Without any further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.