

November 19, 2024

TO: Kirk Schulz, President Faculty
SUBJECT: Senate Academic Rule 60 Tracy
SUBMITTED BY: Klein, Faculty Senate Chair

Background

On October 4, 2024, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee received the following request via a memorandum sent from your office:

We are requesting a temporary hold on Academic Policy 60 for the non-residential campuses through January of 2025.

A further request was:

I am seeking this temporary hold to allow time for discussions with Faculty Senate Leadership, the Chancellors, and the Office of Risk Management to develop a long-term, mutually agreeable solution to vaccination requirements for non-residential campuses.

This request has been addressed at the following meetings, and was additionally sent to Chancellors of the impacted campuses for response:

- October 10, 2024, Senate Steering Committee (Direction)
- October 24, 2024, Senate Steering Committee (Review of public health and risk management implications)
- October 31, 2024, Senate Meeting (Discussion item)
- November 14, 2024, Senate Meeting (Action item and vote)

Materials gained from the above actions can be found in the Senate agenda and attachments from October 31 and November 14, 2024.

Action and Vote

During the Thursday, November 14, 2024, meeting of the WSU Faculty Senate, additional motions concerning Action Item 1 (Item #2024.10.8_444_Steering) were presented.

The original item requested was as written by President Schultz:

a temporary hold on Academic Policy 60 for the non-residential campuses through January 2025. This includes WSU Everett, WSU Tri-Cities, and WSU Vancouver, with the exception of WSU Spokane and health sciences faculty and students residing on campuses other than WSU Spokane, where specialized programming necessitates specific vaccination requirements. (-from Exhibit 444A on the November 14, 2024, Faculty Senate Agenda.)

The discussion then proceeded on Action Item 1 as amended.

The amended Action Item was approved by a vote of 44 to approve and 4 to reject. This allows for a temporary hold on AR 60 through January 31, 2025.

During the call for additions or changes to the agenda, Senator Alexander Dimitrov moved to place the following as a discussion item on the agenda:

We direct that the Senate Executives develop and sign a MOU with the President specifying conditions to mitigate the situation surrounding compliance with Academic Rule 60 with specific criteria developed in consultation with the Senate Steering Committee.

This motion was seconded by Dene Grigar and discussed before being approved by a vote of 44 to approve and 2 to reject. The item was placed on the agenda as Discussion Item 1 and discussed during the Discussion Item portion of the agenda.

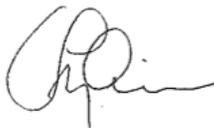
This item is next scheduled to appear as an Action Item for voting on the December 5, 2024, Faculty Senate agenda. At that time, we anticipate that the Senate Steering Committee will have developed draft criteria to form a reasonable and feasible MOU.

Senators at all meetings expressed strong concerns for both the students and staff impacted by the difficulty implementing this policy and want to work towards a solution. Additional information to help resolve this issue has been provided by staff, health experts, faculty and students. The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy have also expressed willingness and ability to assist.

Follow-Up Requested

On behalf of the Senate, I am eager to facilitate next steps. As envisioned in the original letter from your office I anticipate this will involve Faculty Senate Leadership, the Chancellors and Risk Management. Additionally, I would like to clarify in an MOU how we can report back to Senate on solutions and how we can engage our Health Services and Faculty on all involved campuses. Thank you again for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on a healthy work environment and learning environment for all.

Sincerely,



Tracy Klein, PhD, RN, ARNP
Professor, College of Nursing
Faculty Senate Chair