

February 23, 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am writing in response to the recent concerns posted on the Faculty Senate website and elsewhere by a group of faculty members. After reading these latest remarks, I remain firm in my belief that there is more that unites us than divides us in this situation.

We all have a deep and abiding commitment to Washington State University, and we want to see the institution continue to grow and thrive. We are dedicated to providing our students with a world-class education, conducting pioneering research, and faithfully serving the citizens of Washington and the world.

Where we may differ is in how best to realize that mission.

There is no doubt that colleges and universities across the country have been facing a myriad of complex challenges in recent years. WSU is certainly not immune to these issues.

I acknowledge these concerns, take them very seriously, and we have been working collaboratively with the Board of Regents, Faculty Senate, and our colleagues across the system to address them. I am convinced that together we will continue to find the best path forward to achieve our common vision for WSU.

University leaders have had frequent interactions with this group of concerned faculty over the past 12 months. These individuals have raised numerous questions and we have provided detailed responses on multiple occasions. We may not see eye to eye on the issues, but I remain committed to the ongoing dialogue.

WSU has made notable progress on a number of fronts of late. Our OneWSU strategic vision is empowering each of our campuses to better address the educational, research, and service needs unique to the various regions of our state.

We have seen hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in classroom, lab, and student buildings across the system in recent years. The Washington Legislature has funded 100 new faculty positions since 2015. The university saw a record \$167.9 million dollars raised in private philanthropy last year. Enrollment is up among first-year students and WSU rose 34 positions in the most recent U.S. News & World Report national rankings.



Much effort has already gone into addressing our challenges and we are making headway, but there is still more to be done. Higher education is undergoing profound change and change can be uncomfortable. I look forward to working in concert with the Board of Regents, the Faculty Senate, and the rest of the university community as we, together, build an even stronger Washington State University.

Kirk Schulz  
System President