



OFFICIAL MINUTES Faculty Senate Meeting 02 October 2023

Call to order: Senate President Brandon Dupont called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brandon Dupont, *Faculty Senate President* reported that:

- The Vice President elected in Spring quarter is no longer able to serve on the Senate. Senators are encouraged to contact Brandon Dupont with potential nominations.
- Interviews will be conducted this week for filling the role of the Faculty Senate Specialist, a new staff position in the Faculty Senate Office.
- Elissa Hicks will be assisting the Senate for Fall Quarter to facilitate onboarding of the new Faculty Senate Specialist as well as other duties as needed.
- Over the summer Jamie Lawson, Catalogue and Curriculum Specialist, created the new [Faculty Senate Website](#) which is now live.
- Work is in progress to resume meetings of some standing committees of the Senate. Some of these committees have been on pause or meeting without full staffing. Senators will need to be appointed to serve on these committees.

Brad Johnson, *Provost and Executive Vice President* reported that:

- The incoming class this Fall is about 3,200 students, slightly lower than last year.
- Plans to build a new facility in Poulsbo are proceeding. It is not projected to draw any resources from the Bellingham campus.

Peter Pihos, *UFWW President* reported that:

- Work with the Provost's Office on implementation tasks that have come out of the Collective Bargaining Agreement are in process.

Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative* reported that:

- The Council of Faculty had their annual meeting last week. This year, the focus of the council will be on enhancing financial access for students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Coordinating Commission: The ACC anticipates bringing a proposal to the Senate to have Departments and Colleges evaluate existing courses to ensure they are consistent with the soon to be approved college modality policies. The ACC plans to propose an updated charge for PEJ GUR revisions. Senators expressed the need for care in making changes to GURs as it may affect operations, scheduling, and faculty lines. The above plans may change as ACC has not yet met this year. The first ACC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday October 10th.

University Planning and Resources Council: The UPRC plans to forward a motion to the Senate to shift the UPRC from a committee to a position of Faculty Budget Planning and Resources Liaison. If approved, this role would serve as faculty representation at the University Budget Committee and provide relevant information to the Senate.

ACTION ITEM:

New Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Handbook Revisions: The Faculty Handbook has not been revised since 2008 and requires a review for language changes and updates. A charge was created to convene an [Ad Hoc Committee](#) to take on this task. A further goal of the review is to make references to the Collective Bargaining Agreement where appropriate. Senators asked if there will be opportunities for faculty at large to give feedback. Brandon Dupont, Senate President, reported that opportunities for feedback will be offered, potentially in the form of a comments page.

A **motion** (forwarded by the Senate Executive Committee) **to charge** a committee for Fall and Winter Quarter to review and suggest edits to the Faculty Handbook **passed** unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

University Budget Communications: Senators raised general concerns regarding a lack of transparency around University budget decisions. There were questions regarding NTT faculty lines, the use of misunderstood specific budget terms, the use of university reserves and the administration's effectiveness of communication with campus. Senators reiterated the importance of discourse and discussion regarding budgetary decisions to take place in the Senate to continue the openness of shared governance. Provost Johnson stated that there are ongoing efforts to develop better reporting tools to communicate budgetary information with the greater campus community more effectively. Johnson emphasized that correcting the current deficit is a process that will require time, but that efforts can be made along the way to increase transparency around budget strategy. He also explained why University reserves, which are meant for emergency situations only, cannot be used to balance the budget. Senate President Dupont suggested this conversation be placed on the agenda of an upcoming Senate meeting for further discussion and proposed formal presentations led by the Provost's Office occur in the future to increase understanding of budget terminology and processes.

Senators adjourned at 5:20 p.m.