



OFFICIAL MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting October 16, 2023

Call to order: Senate President Brandon Dupont called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of October 2nd 2023 minutes was delayed due to a Senator concern regarding the inclusion of names and direct quotes in minutes. Senate President Brandon Dupont agreed to look into best practices on minute keeping and address the topic at the next Senate meeting on October 30th.

Reports and Announcements

Brandon Dupont, Senate President reported that:

- The Academic Honesty Board is looking for faculty to serve for two or three year terms.

Sabah Randhawa, University President reported that:

- The Board of Trustees (BOT) met on October 12th with representatives from different staff organizations to collect information on their initiatives and goals. The BOT plans to include a selection of these topics at its December meeting.
- The Board of Trustees approved a 3% increase in tuition for Academic Year 24-25. This was set earlier than previous years in an effort to increase predictability for students and families. The goal is to have rates for Academic Year 25-26 set by the time the current academic year ends.

Peter Pihos, UFWW President reported that:

- The WWU/UFWW Partnership Committee met to implement the 2023-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Committee plans to now turn their focus on developing guidelines for the senior instructor merit review process.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative reported that:

- The Council on Faculty is working to develop methods to implement this year's goal of enhancing financial access for students.

Gabe Wong, Associated Students Senate President reported that:

- The AS Senate has had two meetings so far this quarter. Work is being done to get a student representative on each of the Faculty Senate's standing committees.

Committee Reports

Academic Coordinating Commission: The ACC's first meeting occurred on October 10th. The ACC discussed policy priorities for the year and reviewed committee minutes.

University Planning and Resources Council: Allion Giffen, UPRC Chair, is working on a proposal to implement a major revision to the structure of UPRC. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the next Senate meeting on October 30th along with a plan to vote on the proposal at the following meeting on November 13th.

Presentations

Enrollment Overview: Shelli Soto, Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, reported that the passing of census day on October 9th offers the opportunity to examine useful data related to enrollment. Of note, while the enrollment numbers from 2020 and 2021 are causing overall enrollment to appear low, Soto reports we are in a good position when looking towards the future. This Fall the University brought in the largest first year cohort of students since Fall of 2018. Students of color make up nearly 30% of this group. Soto reported improvements in transfer student and first generation student enrollment. Compared to other Washington Public Universities, Western is seeing advancements in key areas to be competitive with other colleges as we work towards pre-pandemic enrollment numbers. Those interested in further details can reference the provided [Powerpoint Presentation](#).

Senators posed questions regarding Western's success amidst other Universities' comparably low enrollment numbers. Soto pointed to several factors, including Western's targeted marketing efforts. Senators raised questions regarding Pell eligible student enrollment numbers. Soto reported that Pell numbers are slightly higher than last year, although last year's Pell eligible and first generation student enrollment was very low. Soto stated that the upcoming changes to FAFSA will affect these numbers in future years.

Soto reported that in 2021 President Randhawa approved the University's participation in the Guaranteed Admissions Program which allows high school students who qualify to be notified that they meet requirements for guaranteed admission. Soto reported that currently all of the Washington Public Universities are participating in this program except for The University of Washington. Western's participation in the program is expected to expand in the coming years. Senators raised clarifying questions regarding program requirements and operations.

Outreach and Continuing Education Programs: Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President stated that College in the High School (CiHS) previously operated as a fee based program. Changes to the program made by the Legislature have removed all fees previously associated with CiHS. Western plans to take a new approach from other participating Universities by targeting Title I schools. There is currently a pilot structure being tested by Western this quarter in order to inform what Western's specific approach to CiHS may look like. Johnson denied the suggestion that CiHS was a means of outsourcing education and stated that it is an opportunity to create a new pathway for students to attend Western.

Senators raised questions regarding examples of quality metrics and accreditation standards. Johnson stated that Western faculty have a high degree of control over what should be required of participating high schools. Senators inquired about which courses would be offered. Johnson stated Math 124 and Education 109 have been identified, and that departments will be able to choose whether or not they want to participate in the program, both during the pilot phase and once the program has been established. Senators expressed concerns that a CiHS work group has been convened without the Senate being notified. Johnson stated members were recruited based on interest expressed following the CiHS discussion that took place at the last Senate meeting of AY 22-23. Johnson reported collaboration between this work group and the OCE Senate Committee would be prioritized. Senators posed questions regarding how the program will be funded. Johnson reported the University will receive a State subsidy for its participation in CiHS which will be used to reimburse costs associated with running the program.

Senators adjourned at 5:25 p.m.