



Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting February 12, 2024

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 29th Faculty Senate meeting were approved by general consent. Minutes of the January 23rd ACC meeting, January 24th SOCEC meeting, and January 30th SLC meeting were accepted as written.

Reports and Announcements

Brandon Dupont, *Senate President* reported that:

- Kristi Tyran has been elected as the Deputy Budget Representative. Allison Giffen will serve the remainder of this academic year as the Interim Budget Representative with Kristi Tyran assuming the Budget Representative role beginning next fall.
- Regarding the formation of an AI work group, it has been determined that it may be more effective to use pre-existing groups on campus that have already done work around this issue, such as the Senate's Academic Technology Committee and the Western Coalition on Integrity. It is possible that the Senate may charge these groups with specific tasks rather than convene a new AI work group. The Senate can expect to hear details at a future meeting.
- The 2023-24 [Subscription Review List](#) is ready for faculty input.
- The Scholastic Standing Committee has several vacancies for Fall 2024. Interested faculty are encouraged to reach out to Brandon Dupont for further details.

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

- The Board of Trustees has approved the financial audit for fiscal year 2023. If there is interest, a presentation can be given at a future meeting with infographics that reflect these numbers.

Peter Pihos, *UFWW President* reported that:

- Work with the Provost's Office to come to an agreement on College in the High School compensation has concluded. The final MOU is available on the UFWW website.
- Details of the Senior Instructor Merit Raise rollout will be posted soon. Of note, senior instructor reviews will be waived for instructors in the final year of their contract.

- UFWW and other campus unions are looking to campaign for an increase in state appropriations to move towards the University being fully funded.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative reported that:

- A summary of [bills of interest](#) has been provided. A number of bills relate to financial aid accessibility. [HB2112](#) relates to introducing education on opioids and is a priority by the Legislature.
- The new FAFSA rollout has encountered many issues and will have an impact on students.

Action Item

Consideration of the Catalog Revision on Student Academic Freedom was postponed until the February 26, 2024, Senate meeting to provide additional time for the Senate Executive Council to draft proposed language.

Discussion Items

Update on Handbook Revisions and Approval Process: Brandon Dupont, Senate President, presented updates on the work of the ad hoc committee charged with revising the faculty handbook. The plan for revision is to consolidate the current short handbook and appendices into one document consisting of a preface and several parts. The preface will be based on the current handbook. Section one will cover Senate bylaws, section two will cover academic freedom, and section three will cover the faculty code of ethics. Appendices will either be incorporated into its corresponding section or be removed, as many of the appendices overlap with existing policy. The Board of Trustees (BOT) has agreed to delegate the authority to update the handbook to the Faculty Senate. The addition of future amendments will become an internal Faculty Senate process.

Senators suggested changing the requirement for faculty members proposing amendments to be specific to faculty who qualify as voting members. Senators emphasized the need to consult policies that will replace appendices to ensure they are adequate. Senators raised questions related to NTT voting rights and were assured NTT's will retain voting rights under the new handbook. Senators expressed concern related to ensuring the BOT transferring authority to the Faculty Senate does not impact the enforceability of the handbook.

The Senate can expect to vote on separate sections of the handbook as each is finalized, and then as a package. The Office of the Attorney General will also be consulted to complete a legal review on issues including enforceability of the handbook. The last step will be for the Board of Trustees to approve the revised handbook.

The Senate can expect to vote on the handbook preface at the February 26 meeting. The [original handbook](#) and [proposed preface](#) have been made available to Senators for review.

DAC Faculty Advisory Committee Update: Disability Access Center (DAC) Faculty Advisory Committee members Allison Giffen and Shevell Thibou provided an update. Faculty have brought concerns to the committee regarding student accommodations that conflict with course goals, other student's learning, and/or pedagogy. Faculty have also expressed that there has been an increase in accommodation requests, which creates a burden on faculty. Giffen and Thibou explained that faculty can consult with the DAC regarding student accommodation concerns. The DAC will work with faculty to find an alternative accommodation that satisfies ADA guidelines when a requested accommodation conflicts with course goals. In some cases, this may mean recommending the student register for an alternative course.

Senators expressed concern regarding the DAC's ability to adequately respond to faculty concerns given constraints around staffing. Senators were assured this was a priority of the DAC. Senators discussed having accommodation requests sent out sooner to manage the influx of faculty communicating with the DAC. Thibou and Giffen stated this idea was being discussed within the committee and encouraged senators to share their contact information with faculty for the purpose of sharing feedback with the committee. Senators also were encouraged to direct faculty to the [DAC's FAQ page](#) for clarification around accommodation requests. Senators expressed that it may be helpful to have a more formalized process for communication between DAC and faculty. Senators expressed a lack of transparency around the fundamental alteration process. Senators were informed that a recent memo from the Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance Office outlines steps in the process. Senators requested this be made available on the Faculty Senate website. Senators expressed that having internal methods of addressing common accommodation requests within departments may be useful. Thibou and Giffen stated the Senate can expect to hear updates regarding these issues and suggestions at a future Senate meeting.

Items from the Floor

Adoption of Okanogan Charter: A senator raised a constituent concern regarding the University joining the Okanogan Charter without adequately consulting faculty. Brandon Dupont, Senate President, stated he has followed up with this constituent and will continue to gather information about the adoption of the charter.

Senators adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Faculty Senate – ROSTER 2023-24

VOTING ATTENDEES			NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
Faculty members			Student members (if applicable)	
Troy Abel	CENV, UEPP	P	Gabe Wong, AS Senate President	--
Charles Anderson	CHSS-HUM, History	P		
Blanca Aranda	CHSS-HUM, Modern & Classical Languages	--	Standing Committees	
Rich Brown	CFPA, Theatre & Dance	P	Blanca Aranda, SLC Chair	--
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	P	Bidisha Biswas, Leg Representative	P
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE, Decision Sciences	--	Allison Giffen, Budget Representative	N/A
Kristen Chmielewski	CHSS-SBC, HDD	--	Derek Moscato, ATC Chair	--
Catherine Clark	CSE, Chemistry	P	Jennifer Seltz, OCE Chair	--
Sondra Cuban*	WCE, HCS	P	Shevell Thibou, CUE Chair	N/A
Dawna Drum	CBE, Accounting	P	Kristi Tyran, ACC Chair	P
Brandon Dupont*	At Large	P	EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS	
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE, Ed Leadership	P	Christopher Bianco, Council of Deans	P
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE, Math	P	Brad Johnson, Provost	P
Allison Giffen	CHSS-HUM, English	P	Peter Pihos, UFWW President	P
Jim Graham	CHSS-SBS, Psychology	P	Sabah Randhawa, President	--
Kameron Harris	CSE, Computer Science	P		
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS, Sociology	P		
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV, ESCI	P		
Jeffrey Meier	CSE, Math	--		
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS, Anthropology	--		
Mark Peyron	CSE, Engineering & Design	P		
Clayton Pierce	Fairhaven	P		
Camilo Ponton*	CSE, Geology	P		
Jason Query	CBE, Economics	P	Recorder	
James Ray	CFPA, Music	P	Abby Peterson, Graduate Assistant	P
Michael Slouber	CHSS-HUM, GHR	P	Guests	
Shevell Thibou*	Libraries	P	Becky Johnson, Faculty Senate Specialist	P
Derek Yip-Hoi	CSE, Engineering & Design	P	Jack Herring, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs	P
CHSS-HUM (VACANT)			Jamie Lawson, Registrar's Office	P
WCE (VACANT)				
			Voting attendees	24
			Non-voting attendees	9
			TOTAL ATTENDEES	33