



Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting February 26, 2024

Call to order: Senate President Brandon Dupont called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 12th Faculty Senate meeting were approved by general consent. Minutes of the February 6th ACC meeting and February 13th SLC meeting were accepted as written.

Reports and Announcements

Brandon Dupont, Senate President reported that:

- Regarding a recent item from the floor concerning the Okanagan Charter, clarification was received at a meeting with the Provost and President that there were no budgetary funds attached to the charter and that it would be on the agenda at an upcoming University Budget Committee meeting. Regarding the transition to a smoke-free campus, Vice-President Slouber reported it was a multi-year process that involved faculty feedback in the form of a survey. Further updates will be provided following the University Budget Committee meeting.
- Compass 2 Campus has several upcoming campus visits for low-income and BIPOC students and is looking for faculty to help support these events. Interested faculty are encouraged to reach out to Brandon Dupont for more information.
- The Academic Freedom and Free Expression Forum will occur on March 14th at 3:00 pm and will feature a panel of guest speakers attending via Zoom. Faculty can expect to receive further details related to the event.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative reported that:

- A [legislative report update](#) was provided. Senators are encouraged to email Bidisha Biswas with any questions.

Gabe Wong, Associated Students Senate President reported that:

- The AS Senate is working on securing funding to compensate students who will serve on the PEJ Task Force.
- The AS Senate appointed Yasmin Lamas Flores as the third Student Senator to serve on the ACC.

- The AS Senate plans to publish a resolution in recognition of the start of Ramadan.

Action Items

Faculty Handbook Revision: At the last Senate meeting, a summary was presented of changes proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Revising the WWU Faculty Handbook. Since the last meeting, the following change was made to the Preface:

Any proposed amendments, which may be initiated by the Faculty Senate or through a signed petition of 30 voting members of the faculty, must be approved by a majority vote of the Faculty Senate before being incorporated into the handbook.

Senators expressed concerns regarding the delegation of power to the Faculty Senate over the handbook and whether this will affect the authority and enforceability of the handbook. Senate President Dupont reported the proposed revision was provided to the Office of the Attorney General for review and that Senators can expect to hear updates on their response.

A motion made by the Senate Executive Council (and seconded) **to approve** the revised Handbook Preface **passed** unanimously with no abstentions.

Catalog Revision on Student Academic Freedom: Following feedback received at the last Senate meeting regarding the Catalog revision on Student Academic Freedom, the Senate Executive Council proposed changes in an attempt to better reflect the position of the University. Senate President Dupont reported one key change was removing the term “student academic freedom” and instead including descriptions of expectations for student evaluation in order to satisfy the accreditation standard.

Senators raised concerns regarding whether the request from The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) was appropriate and whether the grievance policy was the correct place to address the NWCCU’s recommendation. Senators discussed whether the proposed language is redundant to what is already written in the grievance policy and expressed that this redundancy could create opportunities for the same grievance to be filed under different categories. Questions were raised regarding what was sent to the NWCCU as evidence the Student Academic Freedom standard was met and whether additional pre-existing policies could be sent, requesting research to investigate what other existing policies may satisfy the NWCCU’s standard. Senators discussed asking the Board of Trustees to release a statement on Student Academic Freedom as an alternative to the proposed catalog revision.

A motion made by Charles Anderson (and seconded) **to table** the Catalog Revision on Student Academic Freedom **passed** by 17 votes with three opposed and zero abstaining.

Discussion Items

SOCEC Committee Update: Jennifer Seltz, SOCEC Chair, presented updates regarding the work of the Senate Outreach and Continuing Education Committee. She reported that in the three meetings the committee has held this year, much of the group's time has been committed to discussing the College in the High School (CiHS) program. SOCEC supports the goal of increasing enrollment for underrepresented students and has questions regarding the means of accomplishing this and about the scale of that work. SOCEC has further concerns regarding how well CiHS has tracked its goals. A CiHS pilot has been conducted with participating schools in Bellingham, Ferndale, and Mount Vernon. Seltz reported that enrollment numbers in the pilot have been low, which may be attributed to several factors, including access to other dual enrollment programs and an ALEKs exam requirement for participating students.

Senators raised concerns regarding CiHS compensation. Seltz reported that a new MOU around faculty compensation was recently signed. Peter Pihos, UFWW President, noted that departments are able to set standards for what will be required of participating high school teachers.

Seltz stated that SOCEC will communicate with the Steering Committee overseeing the CiHS pilot and plans to present details of this discussion with the Senate at a future meeting.

Senators adjourned at 5:33 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	P
Charles Anderson	CHSS-HUM, History	P		
Blanca Aranda	CHSS-HUM, Modern & Classical Languages	P	Standing Committees	
Rich Brown	CFPA, Theatre & Dance	P	Blanca Aranda, SLC Chair	n/a
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	P	Bidisha Biswas, Leg Representative	P
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE, Decision Sciences	P	Allison Giffen, Budget Representative	n/a
Kristen Chmielewski	CHSS-SBC, HDD	P	Derek Moscato, ATC Chair	--
Catherine Clark	CSE, Chemistry	P	Jennifer Seltz, OCE Chair	P
Sondra Cuban*	WCE, HCS	P	Shevell Thibou, CUE Chair	n/a
Dawna Drum	CBE, Accounting	--	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	--
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	--		
Jeffrey Meier	CSE, Math	--		
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS, Anthropology	P		
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 Johnston, Faculty Senate Specialist	P
Derek Yip-Hoi	CSE, Engineering & Design	--	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	10
			TOTAL ATTENDEES	34