



Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting March 11, 2024

Call to order: Senate President Brandon Dupont called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 26th Faculty Senate meeting were approved as written by general consent. Minutes of the February 5th ATC meeting, February 20th ACC meeting, February 21st SOCEC meeting, and February 27th SLC meeting were accepted as written.

Reports and Announcements

Brandon Dupont, Senate President reported that:

- The February 5th ATC minutes contain resources related to artificial intelligence and academic integrity that may be helpful to faculty.
- The [Academic Freedom and Free Expression Forum](#) will occur via zoom on March 14th at 3:00 pm.
- The first Faculty Senate meeting of Spring Quarter will occur on April 8th.

Sabah Randhawa, University President reported that:

- The Board of Trustees is discussing the University's strategic planning efforts and whether these goals should be reassessed considering the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on enrollment.
- The Supplemental Legislative Session has now concluded. A report will be sent to the campus community with details. Of note, a package related to Electrical and Computer Engineering and a package related to student outreach were both approved for funding at about 55-60% of the requested amount.
- The Provost's Office plans to send a message to the campus community related to Ramadan accommodations.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative reported that:

- A [Legislative Report](#) has been provided. Senators are encouraged to email Bidisha Biswas with any questions.

Gabe Wong, Associated Students Senate President reported that:

- A Graduate Student AS Senator has been hired and will begin the position at the start of Spring Quarter.
- The AS Senate plans to have a discussion related to Artificial Intelligence at its last meeting of the quarter.
- The AS General Election is expected to begin in the coming weeks.
- The AS Senate has released [a resolution](#) related to Ramadan accommodations.

Action Items

Proposed Spring 2024 Election Calendar and College Distribution Report: Each year, the Faculty Senate goes through a process to account for how many seats each college will receive, based on FTE. The [distribution report](#) for next year is available. If approved, colleges will be notified of allocated seats the first week of April to allow time for nominations to be made before the election is certified on May 20th. An [election calendar](#) has been provided with a detailed timeline.

A motion made by Shevell Thibou, Appointments and Elections Officer, (and seconded) **to approve** the distribution report and election calendar **passed** unanimously with a minor amendment to correct a date.

Brandon Dupont, Senate President, plans to reach out to several Senators regarding extending their terms for a period of one year in order to create more staggered terms, as laid out in the Faculty Senate by-laws.

An election for Senate Executive Council positions will take place in the Faculty Senate at the end of Spring Quarter.

Presentation

University Budget Update: Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, and Faye Gallant, Assistant Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget provided [a report](#) on the University’s financial health using data from FY 2023. An [analysis of financial statements](#) was also provided. Lopes reported that the Board of Trustees has suggested looking at financial health from a holistic perspective by considering several health metrics in assessing Western’s standing. In partnership with other reviewers, financial health was measured through admissions and enrollment, retention and completion, finances, and workforce. The National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) provided metrics in many of these areas. Several indicators were used to compare Western to other universities.

During discussion, Senators raised questions regarding the reserve balance at the end of FY 19 and issues related to fixed assets. Senators discussed the importance of recruiting Pell Grant-eligible students. Lopes reported that Moody’s revised their outlook from “negative”

in 2023 to “stable” for 2024, projecting sector wide revenue growth of 4 percent. Senators questioned whether getting back to the enrollment numbers of 2018 is a realistic goal. Provost Johnson reported that there are ongoing efforts to look into what a realistic enrollment goal should be.

Items from the Floor

Academic Freedom Discussion: Regarding the tabled catalog revision on student academic freedom, Senators questioned whether it would be useful to take action in the form of making a motion to support the Board of Trustees making a statement. Brandon Dupont, Senate President, reported that the Board is in the process of drafting a statement. Senators decided no further action was needed at this time.

Senators adjourned at 5:21 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 | -- | Blanca Aranda, SLC Chair | N/A |
| Tim Bruce | Graduate School | P | Bidisha Biswas, Leg Representative | - |
| 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 | -- |
| 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 | -- | Sabah Randhawa, President | P |
| 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 | P | | |
| Mark Peyron | CSE, Engineering & Design | -- | | |
| Clayton Pierce | Fairhaven | P | | |
| Camilo Ponton* | CSE, Geology | P | | |
| Jason Query | CBE, Economics | -- | 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 | P | Joyce Lopes, VP Business and Financial Affairs | P |
| CHSS-HUM (VACANT) | | | Faye Gallant, Assistant VP, SMB | P |
| WCE (VACANT) | | | Jack Herring, Associate VP for Academic Affairs | P |
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| | | | Voting attendees | 23 |
| | | | Non-voting attendees | 11 |
| | | | TOTAL ATTENDEES | 34 |