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## Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting 9/30/2024

### **Call To Order and Approval of Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Senate President Michael Slouber called the meeting to order at 4:00.

**Approval of Minutes:** The following minutes were approved by consent:

- [June 3, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes](#)
- [May 6, 2024 ATC Meeting Minutes](#)
- [May 29, 2024 SOCEC Meeting Minutes](#)

### **Reports and Announcements**

**Michael Slouber, Senate President, reported:**

- He will be working to clarify constituency groups for Senators and encourage communication between Senators and constituents
- He encourages Senators to bring issues forward and offer motions on the Senate floor, through Executive Council, or through the [website submission form](#).
- The [Building Community Through Difficult Conversation](#) series in partnership with Office of Equity is being announced campuswide on Tuesday.
- Voting on RCAC appointments closes tonight at midnight, with voting for appointments to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Socially Responsible Investing and feedback on its draft charter coming up later this week
- The Power, Equity, and Justice (PEJ) Task Force chair resigned in spring and there are additional vacancies on the Task Force. He has talked to constituents about how to proceed, Next steps will be discussed at the October 7 Senate Executive Council meeting, then brought to the full Senate.
- Time has been set aside at the October 14 Senate meeting for the Provost to address budget issues. Senators should come with questions.
- The course evaluation form questions that were removed effective this year will be removed by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness effective Fall Quarter, if possible.

- There were many website improvements over the summer, such as the new web-based version of the [ACC Handbook](#), [University service page](#), and the [President's blog](#).

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

- Thank you to new Senators and greetings from President Randhawa, who is Olympia for legislative session preparation.
- There are many things to roll out, mostly to do with budget issues, over the quarter
- He will be reporting on internal structural changes in Academic Affairs
- Anything that involves shared governance was rolled out at Academic Leadership meeting and will be covered at the October 14 Senate meeting.

**Vicki Hsueh, *UFWW President* reported:**

- This is the second year of the four-year CBA, and she is hearing positive feedback on the compensation increase. There is a lot more work to be done, including on housing, childcare, and health expenses.
- The bargaining team will reopen this year.
- Senior merit review is rolling out for the first time.
- Significant issues have been raised this year, especially involving the impact of budget cuts on faculty.
- There are concerns regarding DAC accommodations from faculty, and UFWW is working with the administration to address them. She urged Senators to forward concerns, but make sure that the confidentiality of students is preserved.
- UFWW faculty happy hours and education sessions are being scheduled.

**Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative*, reported:**

- The Council of Faculty (CoF) met in Tacoma to talk about priorities moving forward, including enrollment and budget concerns. CoF is meeting next week in Ellensburg to discuss more concrete priorities for the legislative session.

**Moose Abou-Harb, *AS Senate President*, reported:**

- He is looking forward to participating in the Faculty Senate and ACC this year.

## **Introductions**

Senators introduced themselves and responded to the question: "What is one issue or topic you hope Faculty Senate will spend time on this year?" The following is a summary of responses:

- Budget Issues (+11)
  - Mission as it relates to budget (+)
  - Organization and budget
  - Morale and budget
  - Faculty voice

- AI (+7)
- Academic Freedom
- Communication (+)
  - Transparency (+), including capital projects and allocation of space, governance, legislative advocacy
  - Budget/financial issues messaging
- Interactions with Legislature
- ADEI (+)
  - Engineering and Design issues
  - Disability and accommodations (including GLEAN)
  - Support students
- Enrollment and recruitment
- College in the High Schools

## **Action Items**

**Appointments to [President's Sustainability Council](#):** There were three nominees for three vacancies. The following appointments were approved by consent:

- Grace Wang, - Professor (UEPP) and Director of the Sustainability Engagement Institute
- Nicole Brown - CHSS
- Sara Baskenstli - CBE

**Certification of New Senators for AY 2024-26 Term:** The Senate certified the following Senators by consent

- Yanara Friedland - Fairhaven (Fall Quarter)
- Ernest Hartwell - CHSS-HUM (LLC and Linguistics)
- Johann Neem - CHSS-HUM (History)
- Greg Youmans - CHSS-HUM (English)
- Dennis Whitcomb - CHSS-HUM (Philosophy)
- Nick Washburn - CHSS-SBS (Health and Human Development)
- Maria Timmons Flores - WCE (Elementary Education)

**Approval of AY [2024-25 Faculty Senate Committee Rosters](#):** The Senate approved the AY 2024-25 Faculty Senate Committee Rosters by consent.

**Election of AY 2024-25 Faculty Senate Appointments and Elections Officer:** The Senate unanimously approved a motion by Camilo Ponton, and seconded by Dawna Drum, to nominate Johann Neem (CHSS) to serve as Faculty Senate Appointments and Elections Officer for AY 2024-25.

**Proposed "Items from the Floor" Guidance:** A motion to approve the proposed Items from the Floor Guidance developed by Senate Executive Council was made by Erika McPhee-Shaw and seconded by James Ray (CFPA). The motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussion Item**

**Follow-Up Discussion Regarding Student Conduct Process:** Melynda Huskey (Vice President, Enrollment and Student Services) and Daniel Records-Galbraith (Director, Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance) gave a follow-up presentation on the student conduct process as a follow-up to the Spring quarter meeting discussion regarding patterns of discrimination and harassment in the Engineering and Design department.

The presentation provided an overview of the student conduct processes, federal and state requirements, and how offices respond to victims and launch investigations.

This summer, the federal government issued a Title IX final rule with a two-month implementation period. The current WWU emergency policy will be developed into a permanent policy. Daniel Records-Galbraith thinks the new policy is more straightforward and transparent. His office is going to engage in listening and information sessions over the Fall Quarter and into Winter Quarters. President Slouber asked him to send the dates to the Faculty Senate so that they can be forwarded to Senators.

A Senator raised a concern, stating that it seems like Title IX violations seem to be sent to the Office of Student Life and asking if there is a plan to fix the process. Records-Galbraith responded that his office cannot investigate claims if there is not a connection to a protected class. He said that the office spends time with complainants to drill down to get to protected class issue scenarios.

A question was asked whether a department can reach out to the Office of Civil rights to follow up if a student case went to OCR. Records-Galbraith stated that OCR would reach out to the student regarding the request first. A concern was raised that an additional student complaint was dismissed by email without conversation.

A question was asked regarding what happens if a report seems like a criminal matter. Records-Galbraith said the OCR will help the individual report to law enforcement if that is what the individual wants to do. For some matters, especially sexual violence cases, they will pause the OCR process to not impede an investigation. OCR sometimes invites law enforcement to do joint interview process.

There was a question about whether there is a way for a complainant to know what to do. Records-Galbraith said that a survivor advocacy staff person is available to guide individuals through the process in OCR, law enforcement, and outside resources. If a person engages with OCR, the Office walks them through the process

and gives them the ability to choose how they would like to proceed. OCR does not tell what they should or should not do; they explain what is available.

### **Items from the Floor**

**Constituent Concern Regarding Opportunity Hire Process:** Senator Monson raised a constituent concern regarding a loophole in the opportunity hiring process and ask that the process be revised. She stated that a department chair can hire a TT faculty member without approval of the department and that the hire is legally binding under the CBA. She said there has been a lack of communication from the Administration and the UFWW and urged Senators to have a process in place for UFWW communications and to take minutes at faculty meetings.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

**Faculty Senate Attendance  
9/30/2024**

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	P	Moose Abou-Harb	AS Senate President	P
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE-Decision Sciences	P	Sabah Randhawa	President	--
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	P	Brad Johnson	Provost	P
Jim Cooper	CSE-Biology	P	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	P
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	P	Vicki Hsueh	UFWW President	P
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	P			
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Ed	P	<b>Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives</b>		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	P	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	P
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	P	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	P
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	P	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	P
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	P	Derek Moscato	ATC	
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	P	Shevell Thibou	CUE	
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	P	Vacant	CUP	
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	P	Madeline Kelly	SLC	
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	P	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	
Jeffrey Meier	CSE-Math	P			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	P	<b>Recorder</b>		
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	P	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	P
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design	P			
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	P	<b>Guests</b>		
James Ray	CFPA-Music	P	Melynda Husky	Vice President, Enrollment & Student Services	P
Anne Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	P	Daniel Records-Gilbraith	Director, Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance	P
Michael Slouber	At Large (President)	P	Brandon Dupont	Senate Executive Council	P
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD	P			
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	P			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	P			
Vacant	CENV				
Vacant	CFPA				
Vacant	CHSS-HUM				

<b>Voting Attendees</b>	26	<b>Non-Voting Attendees</b>	11	<b>Total Attendees</b>	37
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