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Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting 10/14/2024

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Minutes: The following minutes were approved by consent: [September 30, 2024 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes](#) (with a technical correction to Items from The Floor) and [October 1, 2024 SLC Meeting Minutes](#).

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, Senate President, reported:

- Ten topics for the faculty conversations portion of “Building Community Through Difficult Conversations” have been chosen. These will be sent to all faculty tomorrow with a call for volunteers.
- He is working to pair senators with their specific constituents and passed around the draft list for review.
- Senate Executive Council discussed how to proceed regarding the PEJ Task Force last week and voted to keep the current committee roster, ask the committee to select a chair and fill vacancies, and to assess the feasibility of the 2023 charge. He will send the draft intermediate charge and materials to senators, with a vote at the October 28 Senate meeting.

Sabah Randhawa, University President, reported:

- He acknowledged the difficulty of the two student deaths last week.
- His budget message was released earlier today.
- The Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting on Friday will include bargaining agreements with two staff unions and tuition rates for AY 2025-26. Approval of tuition rates has been moved to October from Spring to help families plan better.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, reported:

- He will discuss the budget in depth later in the meeting.

Vicki Hsueh, UFWW President reported:

- Regarding the budget, she is glad to see the President's message included a commitment to the academic mission and included the UFWW. She has received concerns and questions from faculty, including transparency on metrics, how faculty will be involved in the process, how long-standing gaps will be addressed, and the timing of announcements.
- She also has received emails re: CRTC training expressing concern and frustration about short notice, the time commitment involved and workload impact, and quality. UFWW will be discussing this issue and reaching out to the CRTC office.
- She reminded faculty to check that their pay stub lines up with their appointments.

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative, reported:

- She summarized [her written report](#), focusing on budget issues at the state level. The Council of Faculty (CoF) will ask for additional funding support, but the ability to provide it will be constrained. She noted that Western's budget was a subject of discussion at the CoF meeting and that all agreed that transparency is important.

Kristi Tyran, Senate Budget Representative, reported:

- There will be a budget representative blog and the first post will be after the Budget Forum, when there is information to report.

Moose Abou-Harb, AS Senate President, reported:

- He read a statement expressing concerns regarding the May 2023 removal of course evaluation questions by the Faculty Senate, which will become effective this quarter. He called attention to language in the ad-hoc committee's recommendations that said "students should not, and arguably cannot, evaluate teaching" and encouraged the Senate to alter this language. He stated that evaluations are important for students in providing genuine constructive criticism and getting heard. He noted that the CBA includes student evaluations in its tenure provisions in 9.7.2 and includes student evaluations and said that this is the only way to give input on faculty promotion.

Action Items

Certification of New Senators: A motion was made by Johann Neem, Appointments and Elections Officer to certify the appointments of Steven Garfinkle (CBE) and Stephanie Gomez (CHSS-HUM) to the Faculty Senate, and seconded. The motion passed by consent.

Discussion Items

Proposed Revision to Catalog Policy on Academic Standing: Shelli Soto, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided background on the issue regarding how the current policy impacts CiHS students. The proposed revision does not put dual enrollment accreditation at risk and reserves the nuance and intent of existing policy by separating non-matriculating students (including CiHS) from other students. She noted that the non-matriculating student count this quarter is 232, including approximately 70 CiHS students. The Senate will vote on the proposed revision on October 28.

Basic Needs Hub: Jon Stubblefield (Program Manager, Western Success Scholars) and Gina Ebbeling (Basic Needs Resource Navigator) provided an overview of the Basic Needs Hub. They encouraged faculty to include information about Basic Needs Hub on their syllabi and provided a handout on services offered.

University Budget: Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, provided an [update and overview of the budget](#). During discussion, two questions regarding the reserve funds were raised: what are the university's bond obligations and what is the full listing of WWU reserves? Provost Johnson will provide information from the budget crosswalk. There was a question regarding the timing of decisions and announcements. Provost Johnson said that some decisions will be made this week, with more by the beginning of winter quarter, and that scheduling for next year is a big component of the timing. A question was asked about who is making budget decisions and what metrics are being used. Provost Johnson said that he has been working with deans and department chairs to look at what would happen under certain metrics. There were several questions and concerns raised about the administrative restructuring, including how would moving units into Academic Affairs (AA) impact the AA budget and the impacts of moving K-12 programs, including Compass2Campus to OCE. There will be additional discussion on the budget at the October 28 Senate meeting.

Items from the Floor

Position Recruitment Request for Student Employees: Senator Ernest Hartwell (CHSS-HUM) asked that the delays in the position recruitment request for student employees be addressed. This issue was relayed to the Administration.

CRTC Training: Senator Dennis Whitcomb (CHSS-HUM) raised concerns about the current online CRTC training courses crashing. Several senators shared similar concerns.

ACSRI Charter: Jasmine Welaye, representing the Divest Apartheid coalition, raised the issue of the Ad Hoc Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI) that will be considered by the Board of Trustees on October 18. There is a petition to support increasing student representation to at least three students from two students and

requiring mandatory annual financial disclosure for WWU and Foundation to ACSRI. She asked that senators consider signing the petition and supporting the two requests.

OCE Representation: Kerry Allen (WWU Intensive English Program, OCE) informed the Senate about the lack of union and Faculty Senate representation for OCE faculty.

Adjournment

Senators adjourned at 5:38 pm.

FOR APPROVAL

Faculty Senate Attendance - 10/14/2024

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x	Moose Abou-Harb	AS Senate President	x
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE-Decision Sciences	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	x
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	x	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Jim Cooper	CSE-Biology	x	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	x
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x	Vicki Hsueh	UFWW President	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x			
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Ed	x	Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	x	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	x
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	x	Derek Moscato	ATC	
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	x	Shevell Thibou	CUE	
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	x	Vacant	CUP	
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Madeline Kelly	SLC	
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	x	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	
Jeffrey Meier	CSE-Math	x			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x	Recorder		
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design				
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	Guests		
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	x	Jon Stubblefield	Western Success Scholars	X
James Ray	CFPA-Music	x	Gina Ebbeling	Basic Needs Hub	X
Anne Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x	Jasmine Welaye	Divest Apartheid	X
Michael Slouber	At Large (President)	x	Kerry Allen	OCE/IEP Faculty	X
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD		Shelli Soto	Associate VP for Enrollment Management	X
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	x			
Vacant	CENV				
Vacant	CFPA				
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			

Voting Attendees	26	Non-Voting Attendees	13	Total Attendees	39
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For Approval