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Official Minutes Senate Outreach & Continuing Education Committee Meeting 10/30/2024

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: SOCEC Chair Shawn Knabb called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The May 29, 2024 meeting minutes were approved electronically on June 5, 2024.

Reports and Announcements

There were no reports or announcements from the Chair.

Action Items

Election of Vice-Chair: Shawn Knabb stated that he was willing to continue to serve as Chair for AY 2025-26 if there were no additional Committee members who wanted to serve. This would make the vacant position a Vice-Chair role. Jen Seltz nominated to serve as Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Items

OCE Reorganization/WWU Budget Update: Robert Squires, Vice Provost, OCE, provided a broader context of the OCE reorganization, referring to President Randhawa's October 14 [statement](#). He described the [number of programs](#) that have been part of OCE and said that part of the reorganization strategy is to make programs more impactful. One change is to move international education programs into the Office of Global Engagement Office. As part of the reorganization, Language and Culture Programs (LCP) faculty received notice on October 23 of the intent to pursue a reduction in force under section 21.2.3 of the [UFWW Collective Bargaining Agreement](#) (CBA).

The status is that the Administration has met with UFWW and LCP faculty and it has been determined that there is not a 30-day deadline pressure. This is the start of the process.

There was discussion regarding the accrued budget deficit of LCP, which currently is \$1.72 million and expected to be \$2.0 million in FY 2025. There were questions about accessing budget information, and the Vice Provost said that he is happy to engage with SOCEC on this.

There was a discussion about [Study Group](#), its effectiveness, and whether it would be impacted by the reorganization. Western pays Study Group for the work of its employees on the Global Pathway Program. This program would be impacted by the potential RIF, impacting the Study Group position.

UFWW discussed the importance of the section V, B of the [Faculty Handbook](#) (Elimination or Merger of a School, College, Academic Department, or Degree Program). One problem is that there is no existing college-level policy language regarding program closures.

Language and Culture Programs Presentation: Kerry Allen, IEP Program Director and faculty, Language and Culture Programs, provided a [handout](#) and shared that the faculty and staff were given notice by email rather than in person. She provided information about the impact of LCP on Western, including the number of students served, the offering of credit-bearing classes, and TESOL. She said that LCP is being penalized due to its lack of representation on Faculty Senate and in UFWW. There was a discussion about how OCE faculty might find an academic home for representation. She also mentioned that in the memo sent to faculty it states that the new Office of Global Engagement would have a “renewed strategic focus on internationalization and recruitment” (see [handout](#)), but that in a meeting on Mon, Oct 28 with the Provost, he explained to the faculty impacted that the administration had no plan in place yet for this strategic focus on internationalization/recruitment.”

Proposed Council on University Programs (CUP) Charge and SOCEC Impact: Karen Stout, CUP Chair, discussed proposed changes to the CUP charge that would create OCE representation on the Committee, since it has some OCE curriculum review responsibilities. She would like feedback from SOCEC about whether the representative should be voting (faculty) or non-voting (administration). The Vice Provost said that he would like to serve as a non-voting member. The charge will need to be approved by CUP and ACC.

Faculty Senate and OCE Faculty Communications/Representation: Due to time constraints, the discussion was postponed to the November SOCEC meeting.

Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Adjournment

Committee members adjourned at 5:03 pm.

SOCEC Attendance 10/30/2024

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Shawn Knabb	CBE (Chair)	x	Robert Squires	Vice Provost, OCE	x
Jennifer Seltz	CHSS	x	Ryan Larson	Director, Global Engagement	--
Tarek Idriss	CSE	x			
Vacant	Fairhaven	na	Recorder		
Vacant	Libraries	na	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Michael Medler	CENV	--			
Elizabeth Boland	WCE	x	Guests		
Susan Haines	CFPA	x	Karen Stout	Morse Leadership Institute CUP Chair	x
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	Faculty Senate	x	Andrew Blick	OCE	x
Sabina Gupta	AS Senate	x			
Steven Garfinkle	UFWW	x			
Kerry Allen	IEP/Language & Culture	x			

Voting Attendees	9
Non-Voting Attendees	4
Total Attendees	13