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## Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting 11/12/2024

### **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:

- [ACC Minutes of October 22, 2024](#)
- [Faculty Senate Minutes of October 28, 2024](#)
- [SLC Minutes of October 29, 2024](#)
- [SOCEC Minutes of October 30, 2024](#)

### **Reports and Announcements**

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

- The course evaluation questions that should have been removed this quarter have not been removed. John Krieg, Director of Institutional Effectiveness will be at next Senate meeting to discuss this issue. Slouber is also working with UFWW on an MOU on the process for using course evaluations during the faculty reviews.
- The FIG program is ending at end of the Fall Quarter.
- ACC is looking at the policy requiring that 50% of credits for a major be obtained at WWU. Should this issue move forward, it will come through the Faculty Senate.
- He and Vice President Erika Mc-Phee Shaw wrote to President Randhawa to follow up on questions raised during items from the floor on October 28 regarding vandalism in OM. They received a detailed response from the President.
- The PEJ TF convened last week and will meet again on November 26. There is a potential chair.

#### **Sabah Randhawa, University President, reported:**

- He thanked the Senate for expressing concern about the vandalism incident, which he stated was closely assessed using a detailed decision matrix. He said that the team decided it did not rise to level of sending a notice to the campus community.

- He has been having meetings regarding the upcoming legislative session, including with the new OFM director. Western received a request from OFM on November 8 that went to all state agencies and that requests information regarding reduction plans.

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

- He said that the decision to eliminate the FIG program was made because there is data showing that it does not have an effect on retention.

## **Discussion Items**

- **University Budget Update and Discussion:** Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice-President, shared follow-up information regarding the [institutional reserve balance history](#).
  - There was a concern raised that the Board of Trustees was irresponsible in allowing the funds to be spent on capital projects.
  - There was a question about whether there are consequences of having a reserve that is too high. President Randhawa responded that there can be a concern that the funds are not being strategically allocated to advance the University's mission and that the state could look at high reserves and carryover funding when making appropriations decisions.
  - A question was asked regarding whether the policies surrounding start-up and retention have changed, along with related concerns surrounding transparency and bias. The Provost responded that the policies have not changed.
  - Additional concerns regarding the process used for reductions to OCE and FIG were raised, with a question about how many credit-bearing programs there are outside of departments or the faculty governance structure. There was a follow up question regarding the reallocation of FIG funding, and the Provost responded that the decision has not yet been made, but will be a reinvestment to support retention.
  - A question was asked regarding how choices will be made regarding reduction of NTT instructors. The Provost responded that it is an ongoing process that involves college leadership, including some departmental chairs. He said that it involves how to prioritize core functions. The NTT allocations will be distributed with the call for schedules, which is ready to go out, and deans will be able to modify the allocations by doing other changes such as eliminating parallel structures. Schedules are due to be entered in early March. The target is a \$1.5 million reduction in Academic Affairs/Instruction WWU-wide.
  - There was a follow up question regarding the impact on graduate student TAs positions. The Provost did not have that information currently.
  - Senate President Slouber invited SOCEC Member Kerry Allen (IEP Program Director/Faculty) to speak about the proposed RIF. She spoke about program, the proposed RIF, and the lack of representation in the organizational structure. She cited language in the [CBA](#) and [Faculty Handbook](#) related to the RIF process. Senator Garfinkle, who serves as UFWW representative on SOCEC,

said that there will be a Senate role because SOCEC will be part of future discussions with the Provost's office. He also stated that the 30-day period is in abeyance. There was a follow-up comment from UFWW that, as of September, all faculty are supposed to be attached to a UEP, but the Administration has not provided the lists. The discussion regarding OCE will continue at the next Senate meeting due to time constraints.

- **AI at Western: Uses and Concerns:** Derek Moscato, Chair of the Senate Academic Technology Committee, talked about the formation of an AI subcommittee to look at AI usage and AI academic integrity as well as other emergent issues. George Zhao, Chair of the ATC subcommittee on AI, [presented information about AI detection](#), with a recommendation that WWU continue to not adopt AI detection software at this time. There was a question about whether the subcommittee has been looking into whether faculty can use AI to develop course materials. The subcommittee Chair reported that, in the K-12 context, math teachers are using AI to develop lessons and that the subcommittee can look into this. A senator recommended that the subcommittee review the [University of Washington AI Task Force report](#) because it fully commits to AI use.

### **Items from the Floor**

- **Concerns Regarding OCE Restructuring:** Jules Toney (Language and Culture Programs student volunteer) read a written statement in support of the IEP program. She has organized a petition, and it has almost 600 signatures.
- **Concerns Regarding Vandalism at Old Main:** Holly Folk (CHSS-Global Humanities and Religions) [provided a statement](#) expressing concerns about the administration's handling of an October 21 incident on campus and asked the Senate to encourage the administration to reopen the case.

### **Adjournment**

Senators adjourned at 5:31 pm.

**Faculty Senate Attendance**  
**11/12/2024**

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	
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	--	Vicki Hsueh (Theresa Warburton)	UFWW President	
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	--			
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Ed	--	<b>Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives</b>		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	X	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	--
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	X	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	x
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	X	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	X	Derek Moscato	ATC	x
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	X	Shevell Thibou	CUE	--
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	--	Vacant	CUP	
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	--	Vacant	SLC	
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	X	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	
Jeffrey Meier	CSE-Math	X	Brandon Dupont	Past Senate President	x
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	X	<b>Recorder</b>		
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	X	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design	X			
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	X	<b>Guests</b>		
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	X	Jules Toney	Student	x
James Ray	CFPA-Music	--	Holly Folk	CHSS-GHR	x
Annie Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	--	Kerry Allen	OCE	x
Michael Slouber	At Large (President)	X	George Zhao	WCE (ACC rep)	X
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD	X			
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	X			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	X			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	X			
Vacant	CENV-UEPP				
Vacant	CFPA				

<b>Voting Attendees</b>	22	<b>Non-Voting Attendees</b>	9	<b>Total Attendees</b>	<b>31</b>
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