



Sent for Senate Approval: [11/26/2024](#)

Senate Approved:  (Click or tap to enter a date.)

## Official Minutes Faculty Senate Meeting 11/25/2024

### **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:

- May 28, 2024 ACC Minutes
- June 3, 2024 ATC Minutes
- October 7, 2024 ATC Minutes
- November 5, 2024 ACC Minutes
- November 12, 2024 Faculty Senate Minutes

### **Reports and Announcements**

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

- The model for the Building Community Through Difficult Conversations has been adjusted to a panel model. The two winter topics are campus free expression and AI.
- He attended a meeting of department chairs, who expressed several concerns and frustration about the process and potential impact of budget reductions.

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

- The University is monitoring and in contact with counterparts regarding the impacts of the incoming US Presidential administration. He cited a recent press conference with the incoming governor and state attorney general providing guidance and direction for state agencies regarding taking positions.
- Regarding the October graffiti incident at Old Main, he is closely monitoring it and stated that Western has linked to the FBI regarding potential of an active threat. He said that the situation is closely monitored and that he could speak to different alert levels at a future date. He also said that the Provost has reached out to specific faculty members who are concerned.

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

- Regarding course evaluations, the Provost's Office made the decision to keep the three questions slated for removal while it works on the CBA overlap issues. The pause in removing those questions will continue until the draft MOU is finalized.
- The sweeping of OCE revenues from summer/self-sustaining classes is not intended to continue.

**Vicki Hsueh, UFWW President reported:**

- NTT teaching faculty are worried that sections are being cut because of senior instructor merit increases. This is not an accurate way to look at budgeting and the CBA. There is a need to look at a more holistic way of funding academic mission.
- Regarding the status of FIGs and OCE Language and Culture Programs, there should be a clearly demarcated process for faculty input. The new plan for internationalization has had lots of input from the administration but not from faculty. Faculty should have a voice in what counts as internationalization.

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

- While there was a lot of turnover in the Legislature, the balance of power in Olympia is almost the same after the elections. The budget forecast is not great. The Council of Faculty is still prioritizing more baseline funding for institutions.

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

- There was nothing to report.

**Johann Neem, Appointments and Elections Officer, reported:**

- There is an opening on the Student Publications Council for a faculty member to serve. Interested people can contact him or Betsy O'Donovan (CHSS).

## **Action Item**

**Reappointment of Ozan Sula to Student Technology Fee Tech Initiatives Committee:**

By consent, the Senate reappointed Ozan Sula (CBE) to the Student Technology Fee Tech Initiatives Committee.

## **Discussion Items**

**Faculty Senate Handbook Revisions:** Brandon Dupont, Chair, Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Handbook Revisions, gave a [presentation on the next phase of Senate Handbook revisions](#). In January, the Senate will consider and vote on BL 7, which focuses on Senate standing committees, the Faculty Legislative Representative, and the Faculty Senate University Budget and Deputy Budget Representatives. The Attorney General will need to review the handbook, and the hope is to have a final version to the Board of Trustees by the end of the academic year.

ASWWU Senate President Moose Abou-Harb spoke against the provision in the proposal which would move student representatives to ex-officio, non-voting status on Senate committees. Several senators spoke in support of retaining voting status for student representatives. There was a discussion about the rationale for the proposal.

A senator asked about whether there is a mandate for the Faculty Handbook to be followed at the college/department level. Brandon Dupont said that he does not believe that it is currently a tool that most people use, and that the objective of the revision is to provide faculty with a set of policies that are clear, concise, and usable.

**AI at Western:** Senators each had up to 30 seconds to speak about what they and their constituents are most interested in with respect to AI at Western. Issues raised included:

- Impact on student learning
- Erosion of critical thinking
- Cheating
- False positives when using AI detection software
- Need for guidelines on what's allowed/not allowed (for students and faculty)
- Impact of machine translate on language courses and perceived value of language learning
- Whether students are learning when using AI (writing papers at home as a way to clarify thoughts, using as a tool while also using critical thinking skills, student concerns that they aren't learning as much but still using generative AI)
- False dichotomy between humanities and other disciplines (STEM fields also include faculty concerned with misuse of AI)
- Traceability in citation
- How to teach students how to use AI
- What AI is learning from us
- Faculty use of AI
- Use of Google to record classes for Google to summarize content (including intellectual property issues)

Following input, the Senate President asked the Senate to think about what actions they would like the Senate to consider taking, and if continued Faculty Senate discussion alone is useful. One issue related to faculty that was raised was use of campus data by AI (including by Microsoft), how to approach student AI use, and additional workload created by AI.

The Senate President reported that Senate Executive Council will review the items raised during the discussion and consider how to proceed.

## **Items from the Floor**

**Senate Representation:** A motion was made by Senator Ernest Hartwell (CHSS), and seconded, for the Senate to discuss at a future meeting the allocation of Senate seats, specifically an idea from CHSS FAC to allow each department to have a senator if it wants one, with an option for departments to combine seats into one. The motion passed unanimously, and the idea will be a discussion item on January 13 or the following meeting.

**Immigrant Students:** Senator Maria Timmons-Flores (Woodring) raised concerns about immigrant students at Western and stated that she hopes that the administration is looking at what the university can do proactively in the future.

**FIGs:** Senator Steven Garfinkle (CBE) expressed support for providing faculty input on the proposed elimination of FIGs.

**Canceled Classes:** Senator Erika McPhee-Shaw (CENV) raised a constituent concern regarding faculty members who are canceling Tuesday classes before Thanksgiving break, stating that, as a result, some students are angry when faculty do not cancel classes.

**OCE Representation:** Kerry Allen (Language and Culture Programs), speaking as a guest, stated that OCE faculty members are peers and that Senate representation would allow them to provide input and perspectives as issues arise in the Senate.

## **Adjournment**

Senators adjourned at 5:25.

**Faculty Senate Attendance**  
**11/25/2024**

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x	Moose Abou-Harb	AS Senate President	x
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE-Decision Sciences	--	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	<b>Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives</b>		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	--	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	--
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	x	Derek Moscato	ATC	--
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	x	Shevell Thibou	CUE	--
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	x	Cindy Elliser	CUP	--
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Eva Gil	SLC	--
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	x	Brandon Dupont	Ad Hoc Handbook	x
Jeffrey Meier	CSE-Math	x	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	--
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	--			
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	x	<b>Recorder</b>		
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x			
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	x	<b>Guests</b>		
James Ray	CFPA-Music	x			
Anne Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x			
Michael Slouber	At Large (President)	x			
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD	--			
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	x			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Vacant	CENV-UEPP	na			
Vacant	CFPA	na			

<b>Voting Attendees</b>	24	<b>Non-Voting Attendees</b>	9	<b>Total Attendees</b>	<b>33</b>
-------------------------	----	-----------------------------	---	------------------------	-----------