Sent for Senate Approval: 01/14/2025

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Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
01/13/2025

For Approval

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Michael Slouber called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

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

- November 19, 2024 ACC Minutes
- November 20, 2024 SOCEC Minutes
- November 25, 2024 Faculty Senate Minutes
- November 26, 2024 SLC Minutes
- December 3, 2024 ACC Minutes

Executive Council Actions: On December 2, 2024, the Faculty Senate Executive Council approved (six yes, one no) a motion by the President to send the following revision to the draft bylaws presented to the Faculty Senate on November 25, 2024 by the Faculty Handbook to the Ad-Hoc Committee on Handbook Revisions:

> *Revise student membership on Senate standing committees to retain one voting student member per committee, with any other existing student members retained as non-voting members.*

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, *Senate President*, reported:

- Western on Peninsulas curriculum will be reviewed by CUP under the charge approved by ACC and the Faculty Senate in Fall Quarter. He reviewed the feedback from senators regarding the curriculum review process prior to his meeting with the University administration this week.
- The PEJ Task Force will be meeting Winter Quarter, starting this week, with a report due to ACC in Spring Quarter.
- Fairhaven has requested a qualitative-only course evaluation option.

- He was contacted by a faculty senate president in Colorado regarding the approval of legislation in some states to create three-year bachelor's degree programs. They do not support calling them bachelor's degrees because of their having fewer credit requirements.

Sabah Randhawa, *University President*, reported:

- President Randhawa provided a history of Western's involvement on the peninsulas, which began three decades ago. The first programs were CENV. The Legislature looked at the need for four-year degrees on the peninsulas and in 2019 WWU requested that the self-supported programs become state supported. The 2023-25 state budget provided funding for new degree programs and other support. There are mission-specific and strategic reasons for WWU to be involved, including equity of access for four-year programs and relevancy for WWU in the state higher education landscape. He stated that the urgency around academic program approval is that the funding was allocated in 2023, with programs being designed by Bellingham-based faculty and departments.
- The governor-elect's budget preference would be to make a 3% cut to four-year higher education institutions, compared to the outgoing governor's budget proposal that has flat funding. The Legislature is working with the outgoing governor's budget. The Washington Roundtable is convening a group to study higher education funding, with the intention of having a proposal for the 2026 legislative session.
- He met with the president of Skagit Valley College to discuss ways to improve the transfer student pipeline, and will be having similar meetings with to Bellevue College and Seattle Colleges.
- A policy on Keep Washington Working will be distributed this week.

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

- The transition of Enrollment and Student Services to Academic Affairs is complete.
- Some of the OCE reorganization changes have been implemented. He wants to work on broader transfer pipeline issues to make WWU more transfer friendly. This will involve OCE, Enrollment Management, and faculty.

Vicki Hsueh, *UFWW President* reported:

- The UFWW bargaining team is ramping up for reopening. Matt Roelofs (Economics) is chairing. There will be a Winter Quarter membership drive and a "know your rights" event the first week of February.
- Faculty have expressed concerns about CRTC Training, including time involved, lack of forewarning, lack of compensation, deadlines, whether it needs to be annual, and quality/rigidity/accessibility. She has been meeting with Office of Equity, Provost, Faculty Relations, and bargaining team chair about this. The hazing and DEI trainings are required under state law, but are not required to be completed annually. The message from Office of Equity is that there was a need to get as many faculty as possible trained this year. She has emphasized the need

for more faculty input (which was part of SB 5227) and will keep pressing for compensation and dedicated time to complete the trainings.

Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative*, reported:

- The Faculty Legislative Representative was not in attendance, but submitted a written report to the Senate.

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

- The AS President was not in attendance.

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

- Senators will soon be hearing about this year's seat allocations and election timeline.
- There are two appointments to confirm.

Action Items

Appointment of John Gialanella (CFPA-Design) to Faculty Senate: A motion made by James Ray (CFPA), and seconded, to certify the appointment of John Gialanella (CFPA) to the Faculty Senate was approved by consent.

Appointment of Matthew Miller (WCE-Elementary Education) to President's Sustainability Council: A motion made by Nick Washburn, and seconded, to certify the appointment of Matthew Miller to the President's Sustainability Council was approved by consent.

Faculty Senate Handbook Revisions: An Executive Council motion to approve the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Handbook pertaining to the Faculty Legislative Representative, Budget and Deputy Budget Representatives, and Senate standing committees was approved by a ballot vote (21 yes, 3 no, 1 abstention, 2 non-voting). These changes include standardizing the number of voting student members to one per Senate standing committee. It does not change the number of student members of these committees.

Discussion Items

Senate Library Committee Report and Recommendations: Eva Gil, SLC Chair, and Madeline Kelly, Past SLC Chair, provided an overview of the SLC Faculty Survey and Recommendation Report. Recommendations include a presentation this year on the library's budget processes and advocacy to increase the budget and align it with priority areas identified in the survey.

Faculty Senate Budget Representative Report: Kristi Tyran, Faculty Senate Budget Representative (FSBR), provided an overview of the FSBR role and faculty budget priorities and issues. She will publish a blog update in mid-February. There was

Pending Approval

discussion about how to include more faculty input on big picture issues during the budget process, including through the Senate, how to communicate morale and burnout issues to budget decision-makers, and how to best create communication channels between the FSBR and faculty.

Senate Representation/Restructuring: There was a follow-up discussion on the allocation of Senate seats raised during the November 25, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting. This proposal by CHSS FAC would allow each department to have a senator if it wants one, with an option for departments to combine seats into one. An overview of the current allocation formula, which is based on faculty FTE by college, was provided. Concerns were raised about the possible impact on committee vacancies and quorum, meeting length if there were more senators needing to have a voice, and workload for smaller departments. There was discussion about making sure that departmental concerns are represented and that the issue is whether to weight individual faculty voices versus departmental perspectives. A Senator raised the issue of representation for unaffiliated faculty, such as Language and Culture Programs faculty. There also was discussion about how some colleges choose to have college-wide senators, while others have Senators that represent specific departments.

Items from the Floor

Departmental Vehicle Parking Rate Increase: Senator Camilo Ponton (CSE) conveyed a message from the Geology Department about the increase in departmental vehicle parking rates. There was a message on December 16 that the rates would increase significantly effective January 15. This was approved by the Board of Trustees (BoT) without previous communication or input, and results in a cost of up to $4,000 a year to the Geology Department for university-owned vans (10% of its operating budget). A motion made by Steven Garfinkle (CBE), and seconded, for the Senate to raise this issue to the BoT and request that the increase be held in abeyance until there is consultation, was unanimously approved.

Language and Culture Programs: Senator Steven Garfinkle, who serves as UFWW representative to the Senate Outreach and Continuing Education Committee, read a statement on behalf of Language and Culture Programs faculty.

Researcher Harassment Issues: Ira Hyman, chair of the IRB, raised the issue of increased harassment of faculty by external actors on the basis of scholarship and identity, whether through social media, direct message, or open records requests. He said that he does not know how much of a problem this is at WWU and said that a possible action would be to collect information about the extent of harassment at WWU, including public records requests, and at a minimum implement the best practice of creating a central contact source and consider working with the legislature to ensure that open request laws are updated to protect researchers. Senate President Slouber said that he will bring this issue to Senate Exec to follow up.

Adjournment

Senators adjourned at 5:40 pm.

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Faculty Senate Attendance
01/13/2025

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x	Moose Abou-Harb	AS Senate President	--
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE-Decision Sciences	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	x
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	x	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Jim Cooper	CSE-Biology	--	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-ECEM	x	**Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	--
Yanara Friedland (Winter)	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	--
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	x
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	x			
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	x	**Recorder**		
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x			
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	x	**Guests**		
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Comm Studies/Journ	x			
James Ray	CFPA-Music	x			
Anne Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x			
Michael Slouber	At Large (President)	x			
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD	x			
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	--			
Vacant	CENV-UEPP	na			
John Gialanella	CFPA-Design	x			

Voting Attendees	27	**Non-Voting Attendees**	9	**Total Attendees**	**35**