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Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
01/27/2025

Final Approval

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:

- January 7, 2025 ACC Minutes
- January 13, 2025 Faculty Senate Minutes
- January 14, 2025 SLC Minutes
- January 15, 2025 SOCEC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, *Senate President*, reported:

- The Office of Equity has a FAQ on Washington State Law, Immigration Enforcement, and WWU and will post a recording of last Friday's webinar on this issue.
- He met with Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, and the Provost to follow up on the parking rate increase issue raised at the January 14 Senate meeting. There will be criteria for evaluating units that would be adversely impacted by the increase, and provisions for augmenting the budgets of departments where the cost of the fee is a significant percentage of their operating budget. In addition, the timing of the change was clarified to not be effective January 15.
- The Researcher Harassment survey was emailed to faculty over the weekend, and 35 individuals already have reported harassment issues. There will be follow up at the next Senate meeting on the final survey results.
- Senate Exec discussed the AI concerns raised by Senators during the November 25 Senate meeting and selected a few items to prioritize. The Ad Hoc Committee on Handbook Revisions has been asked to draft language on AI ethics as part of its work.

- There is a new find your representatives resource on the Faculty Senate website that organizes Senators and Committee representatives by college.

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

- The President's Cabinet is staying in regular contact with the Assistant Attorney General and linking with other institutions in the state on immigration policy and enforcement. They will communicate if anything changes.

Vicki Hsueh, *UFWW President* reported:

- There will be a "Know Your Labor Rights" event on February 11 at 4:30 in 104 Carver Hall, and people should contact her with topic ideas. There will be discussion about the Academic Freedom clause in the CBA.
- There also will be a drop-in informational event on March 6 from 9:30 – noon in the Miller Collaborative Space.
- Several faculty members, especially from WGSS and Ethnic Studies, have received harassing emails from outside and have asked for anticipatory protection for students/classroom space, including removing classroom locations from Banner and blocking email addresses.

Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative,* reported:

- The budget is not looking great in Olympia and the Council of Faculty is working to make sure that higher education funding continues to be allocated. Another policy priority is legislation to protect confidentiality in the context of faculty-related public records requests.

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

- He appreciates communication with the Senate President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Handbook Revisions regarding changes to voting membership of students on Senate standing committees. He said that students are displeased about the message it sends.

Action Items

- **Adding Campus Emergency Info to Syllabi Policies:** A motion from Senate Executive Council to approve adding campus emergency information to the syllabi policies for students was **defeated** by a vote of 8 in favor, 16 opposed, 1 abstention. During discussion, concerns were raised about whether students would see the information in a syllabus and whether syllabi is the best place for the information, in the context of existing resources.

- **Reaffirming Faculty Support of Adequate Library Collections Funding:** A motion from Senate Executive Council to approve Resolution No. 2025-01, A Resolution of the Faculty Senate of Western Washington University Regarding Libraries Collections Budget was **passed** by a vote of 23 in favor, 2 abstentions.

For Approval

Discussion Items

- **AI: Establishing the Right to Not Be Recorded in Classroom Spaces:** Senate President Slouber provided background about recordings by students being uploaded to LLMs for summaries and stressed that this is a different issue than disability accommodation. The main question is deciding whether to move forward with the idea of restricting classroom recording without consent. Senators discussed FERPA and student consent, whether a policy would also apply to video/photography, enforcement mechanisms, and how recording might be taken out of context or used for targeting and harassment. The UFWW is looking into this with respect to intellectual property, with the Assistant Attorney General doing a case law review. However, the outcome of the legal questions about intellectual property would not impact a policy change. Senate Exec will draft a policy for discussion at the February 10 Senate meeting.

- **Course Evaluations: Adding Qualitative-Only Option:** Niall Ó Murchú (Fairhaven) described the use of qualitative evaluations at Fairhaven and said that both the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and UFWW said the standard forms (that combine quantitative and qualitative questions) need to be used under the CBA. Elementary, Early Childhood, and Multilingual Education has also been discussing this issue. Senators discussed several options including having a Fairhaven-specific form, creating a University-wide qualitative form that could be used where permitted under unit evaluation plans, and designating Fairhaven or "Fairhaven-style" as a separate evaluation form type. Two issues were identified: the immediate Fairhaven issue, which will be discussed by Senate Exec and brought before the Senate on February 10, and a longer-term policy.

- **Western on the Peninsulas (WotP) Curricular Review Process:** The Senate President indicated that the discussion would focus on the status of faculty who teach in Peninsulas programs and the proper channel for approving curriculum. An email was read that the Sociology Department would find it upsetting if the approval process were changed, stating that the Sociology for Professionals program is not a CHSS program and that it does not make sense for it to go through the CHSS curricular approval process. It was clarified that the issue is future approvals rather than revoking existing approvals. A Senator stated that they have been told that WotP programs are located in home departments, so their view is that the programs should be approved through those departments/modality policies. Provost Johnson discussed the current status of WotP, stating that a 10-year goal requires a set of intermediate steps to manage the process. Some of the programs currently do not have faculty on the Peninsulas, so they are Bellingham-based currently. He stated that a curricular review needs to be in place for instances in which a department develops WotP curricula and the college modality process does not fit. He said that the procedure is faculty driven and that departments have curricular oversight. President Randhawa stated that the faculty home will be in Bellingham departments at this time and that there needs to be a process to get timely approval with ensuring

that curriculum content is there. A concern was raised that WCE faculty who have been on the Peninsulas will remain as faculty tied to a Bellingham department. There was concern about curricular approvals bypassing existing shared governance processes versus changing those processes to create flexibility on issues such as modality. Senator Ron Helms (Sociology) stated that faculty are being hired by a dean on peninsulas. Senate President Slouber stated that there is a desire to see WoTP succeed, but in the right way, and that the Senate will continue to work on this issue.

Items from the Floor

NTT and Graduate Student Pay Differential: Jim Cooper (CSE) raised the issue of pay differences between NTT faculty and graduate students performing identical jobs in the Biology Department, citing a $2,000 per month difference for a full load of two labs. He made a motion (and it was seconded) to request that the Senate ask the Provost to look into this issue. The motion **passed unanimously**.

Report of Staff Reductions: Stephanie Gomez (CHSS-HUM) requested clarification on a January 16 email from the CHSS Dean that stated that each college would need to reduce staff positions by four. This email was followed by one on January 18 which stated that the four positions was hypothetical. A third email on January 23 stated that 40 positions would be eliminated in Winter-Spring Quarters, with notification going out in February. The Provost stated that this was a miscommunication issue and that all deans received clarification that this is a continuation of restructuring process announced in the Fall quarter. He said that Academic Affairs already did many of its reductions and that staff position reductions are happening now. He said that centralization/consolidation is one tool. The process must be concluded by the end of February under relevant bargaining agreements.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:41 pm.

For Approval

Faculty Senate Attendance
01/27/2025

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	x	Vicki Hsueh	UFWW President	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x			
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Education	x	**Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership) (late)	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	--	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	x
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
John Gialanella	CFPA-Design	x	Derek Moscato	ATC	
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	x	Shevell Thibou	CUE	
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	x	Cindy Elliser	CUP	
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	x	Eva Gil	SLC	
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Brandon Dupont	Ad Hoc Handbook	x
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	x			
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	**Guests**		
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	--	Niall Ó Murchú	Fairhaven	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	x			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Vacant	CENV-UEPP	na			

Voting Attendees	27	**Non-Voting Attendees**	10	**Total Attendees**	**37**