Sent for Senate Approval:

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
02/10/2025

Not 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 21, 2025 ACC Minutes
- January 27, 2025 Faculty Senate Minutes
- January 28, 2025 Senate Library Committee Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, *Senate President*, reported:

- The AAG will come to the next Senate meeting to talk about recent federal Executive Orders (EOs).
- The Libraries subscription forum will be held on Thursday.
- Senate Exec asked SOCEC Chair Shawn Knabb to get an update on College in the High Schools.
- He sent the Faculty Researcher Harassment Survey digest to the Senate today, which shows more than 25% of respondents reporting harassment, and there will be more on this topic at the next Senate meeting.
- A new Senate webpage on Academic Freedom will be launched this week.
- Classroom locations are being removed from external-facing sites in response to harassment reports.
- The next Difficult Conversations on the promises and perils of AI is on February 26.

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

- Faculty will receive an email from him (via deans) shortly.
- He has prepared an email for faculty regarding EOs.

- WWU's broad response to the EOs is part of a wider state response to federal actions, such as the OMB and NIH state legal efforts. The first priority for the current baseline is to make sure WWU is operating in line with state law. There was a question about what will happen if the executive branch ignores court orders. The President and Provost are meeting daily with the AAG to receive briefings. President Randhawa said that it is premature to react to the EOs, but that he is aware of the emotional impact the issue is having on people, which is something that the University needs to address. The Provost said that WWU will continue to teach to our values and that further communications will be sent in the next few days.

Vicki Hsueh, *UFWW President* reported:

- She has heard deep concerns from faculty regarding the EOs, and UFWW is closely monitoring the impact on teaching and research and faculty well-being.
- All faculty are welcome at the UFWW event tomorrow, which focuses on the UFWW and what it does, the sections of CBA that relate to the current moment, and connections to other organizations. The forum will not be recorded, but a PPT will be made available on the UFWW website.

Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative,* reported:

- The Council of Faculty are talking about academic freedom and working conditions under the EOs.

John Hardgrove, *AS Senate Vice-Chair,* reported:

- ASWWU President Moose Abou-Harb has been meeting with WCE regarding student voice in course evaluations.

Action Items

- **Senate Election Calendar and Distribution Approval:** Johann Neem, Appointments and Elections Officer, described the Proposed Calendar and Distribution Table for Senate elections to be conducted in Spring Quarter. A motion made by Steven Garfinkle, and seconded, was **approved unanimously**.

- **Use of Qualitative Evaluation Forms by Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies:** The Senate **unanimously approved** a motion from Senate Executive Council to approve the use of qualitative student evaluations forms by Fairhaven College for AY 2024–25 and AY 2025–26 and to instruct Senate Executive Council to present a motion to the Senate to create an Ad Hoc Committee on Qualitative Course Evaluations**.**

  During Discussion, Senators agreed that students should be included as Task Force members. A suggestion was made that a representative from the last Ad Hoc Committee on Course Evaluations also be included. Questions were raised about the scope of the Task Force, how qualitative questions would be related to institutional data needs, and about workload issues in terms of reading evaluations for tenure and promotion.

Not Approved

- **Establishing the Right to Not be Recorded in Classroom Spaces:** The Senate considered a motion from the Senate Executive Council to establish the right to not be recorded in classroom spaces by adding language to section 3 (academic honesty violations) to POL-U2100.02, Ensuring Academic Honesty, with the language to be forwarded to the University Policy Rules and Review Group (UPRRG) for review and further action. During discussion, three friendly amendments were adopted by consent and the following language was approved unanimously:

Recording Content in Instructional Spaces

Senate Executive moves that the following language be added to POL-U2100.02 Ensuring Academic Honesty, Section 3:

d. Record content in classrooms or virtual instruction spaces, and/or disseminate classroom content, without the express permission of the instructor and students enrolled in the course section, unless approved as a disability accommodation. Unauthorized d~~D~~issemination of ~~unauthorized~~ records ~~would~~ may violate classmates' right to privacy (FERPA) and intellectual property laws.

Upon adoption by the Faculty Senate, the language will be forwarded to the University Policy Rules and Review Group (UPRRG) for review and further action.

Discussion Items

- **Space Use Policy and Procedures Proposed Revisions:** Jack Herring, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, provided information about and shared the new WWU event planning project website. The project goal is to create a one-stop site for event planning resources. The discovery phase is done and the committee is in the outreach phase. Senators were invited to participate in and forward to colleagues a feedback survey, which has already been sent to department chairs.

- **Western on the Peninsulas Update:** Senate President Slouber reviewed the current main concerns with WotP, which are the status of faculty (where they are housed, who hires them, making sure they do not fall through the cracks) and their review process. Senate Executive Council met with the President and Provost today. The meeting was productive and there are shared common goals on how to improve communication and processes. One idea is to create a flowchart on how the process works to provide a clear path for moving forward. Other issues involve budget implications and transparency, including whether any of the funding provided by the Legislature might be used to address departmental overhead and workload issues. Concerns were raised about branch campus faculty, who have some vulnerabilities because they can be too separated from main campus departments/faculty. There was a question about who will be the administrator, and the importance of having someone who understands how WWU works. President Randhawa said that Steve Hollenhorst in is this role for this year only, and spoke about the fine balance between administrative and programmatic roles because WotP is not a branch

Final Approved

campus at this time. Senate President Slouber said that the Administration agrees that faculty are housed in Bellingham departments. The Provost said that he has heard that connection to main campus departments is important, with the need for on-site administrative support. An issue was raised that the CBA also requires that all faculty have a home department and that state law requires that all faculty be represented by a wall-to-wall union. A concern was raised that library services not be an afterthought as WotP grows. Concerns were raised about the Sociology for Professionals faculty because the department has reiterated that faculty would be answering to a dean at WotP, not in Bellingham and that it seems like Sociology and Computer Science do not necessarily want an evaluation role. In the short-term, there will be a conversation between the Provost and these two departments about a plan that makes sense, due to departmental changes and communication gaps.

Items from the Floor

Steven Garfinkle (CBE) expressed that it is a good time to be WWU faculty because other state higher education colleagues are not receiving as much public support and some have been dealing with anticipatory obedience.

Stephanie Gomez (CHSS-SBS) said that a new version of the Professor Watch List recently popped up to encourage reporting of faculty who talk about "divisive topics." There is unease and uncertainty from faculty about how they will be protected and they are looking for clarity. Senators shared similar concerns and a question was raised about whether there will be remote options if faculty or students do not feel safe coming to campus. UFWW will be monitoring this.

Camilo Ponton (CSE) raised concerns about the WWU suspended operations policy, stating confusion about course times that overlapped last week's weather-related opening times. The Provost said that courses that begin prior to the opening time are canceled under the current policy.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:28 pm.

For Approval

Faculty Senate Attendance
02/10/2025

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x	Moose Abou-Harb (John Hardgrove - proxy)	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	x
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x	Vicki Hsueh	UFWW President	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	-			
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Ed	x	**Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives**		
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	x	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	-	Cindy Elliser	CUP	-
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	x	Eva Gil	SLC	x
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Brandon Dupont	Ad Hoc Handbook	x
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	-	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	x
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	x	Jack Herring	Academic Affairs	x
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	-			
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	x			
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x			
Vacant	CENV-UEPP	na			

Voting Attendees	24	**Non-Voting Attendees**	13	**Total Attendees**	**37**