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Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
03/10/2025

For 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:

- February 18, 2025 ACC Minutes
- February 19, 2025 SOCEC Minutes
- February 24, 2025 Faculty Senate Minutes
- February 25, 2024 SLC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, *Senate President*

- He shared the earned doctorates slide from David Patrick, Vice Provost for Research, that shows WWU's continually high ranking in the number of our alumni who go on to earn doctorates.
- He described how to find classroom location via Browse Classes. Classfinder will no longer be available starting this Summer.
- Additional college representatives are needed to serve Qualitative Course Evaluation Task Force for Spring Quarter, with only two colleges currently represented.
- He is continuing to work with ASWWU Senate President Moose Abou-Harb on the Spring Quarter Student Voice forum.
- He and Ira Hyman, IRB Chair, have authored a pre-print of the faculty harassment survey and report.

Brad Johnson, *Provost and Executive Vice President*

- He commented about WWU's success in doctorates awarded.
- He said that President Randhawa asked him to talk about SB 5785 which would provide tuition authority (up to 5%) to public colleges for covering compensation increases while reducing funding for the WA College Grant program. The WA House is preparing a similar bill.
- He acknowledged the difficulty over last week with respect to budget issues and layoffs. The eliminated positions will be added the FAQ page later this week. Academic Affairs has a two-fold approach to budget reductions. The first included the instructional reduction ($1.5 million during Fall Quarter. The second, part of last week's announcement, is consolidating similar job types across the institution. For Academic Affairs, that included an FTE reduction of nine (five were vacant), six marketing/communications, and one IT position. Overall reductions included 20 positions that were filled and 20 that were open. In addition, some staff were moved in their reporting chain, mostly in enrollment management.

Vicki Hsueh, *UFWW President*

- She has been hearing from lots of faculty about the uncertainty and anxiety regarding staff layoffs. These positions are crucial to the academic mission. She has heard especially from Libraries and the concern about the university wide impacts of those reductions. She urged senators to contact their legislators if they are concerned about the state budget for the next biennium.

Bidisha Biswas, *Faculty Legislative Representative*

- She also discussed the status of SB 5785, stating that it goes against the overall mission of state, which is to increase enrollment in higher education. Another bill of interest is HB 1337, which improves transparency and faculty input during university president search processes.
- Legislative Town Hall meetings will be held this weekend.
- With respect to possible furloughs, the Governor does not have the authority to mandate them. Legislators have not made their budget decisions, and furloughs have not been included in any legislative bills to date. If Medicaid cuts happen at the federal level, then there will be implications at state level for funding.

Moose Abou-Harb, *AS Senate President*

- ASWWU is working on a resolution against SB 5785 for action this week
- AS candidate filing is open, and senators are requested to mention this in class

Johann Neem, *Appointments and Elections Officer*

- He sent emails to faculty governance chairs about this Spring's elections/appointments schedule and vacancies.

Action Item

- **Certification of Patrick Buckley (CENV) Appointment to Faculty Senate:** A motion from Senate Executive Council to certify Patrick Buckley as Senator from CENV was approved by consent.

Discussion Items

- **Campus Emergency Reporting:** Miguel Anguiano, UPD Deputy Chief, and Terrance Cunningham, UPD Patrol Sargeant, provided information about emergency reporting procedures on campus. The discussion was introduced by Senate Vice President/President-Elect Erika McPhee-Shaw, who described a medical incident involving an unresponsive student last week in which another student did not know how to call for emergency assistance. Patrol Sargeant Cunningham stated that a good portion of the campus population does not want to interact with the police, which he understands. He would like for faculty to encourage students to call 911 or UPD if something is wrong. Deputy Chief Anguiano, who has been with UPD since December, said that his goal is to provide safest community possible, that calling 911 is best, and that callers are not required to provide their names. He shared information about the new Western Safe app and encouraged Senators to reach out with feedback.

  A concern was raised about the lack of landline phones on campus and dead areas in certain buildings. Deputy Chief Anguiano said that UPD can look at this issue with individual departments.

  A question was asked about whether UPD has a response plan in place if federal law enforcement/ICE wants to enter student housing. UPD responded that there is a plan developed with the AAG office.

- **Shared Governance and Centralization of Scholarships:** Senate President Slouber introduced the discussion as two separate but entangled issues. The first is scholarship centralization and the second is consultation and shared governance. The first issue was mentioned during the Provost's report at the last Senate meeting. Based on that announcement, he thought it was going to be a portal to make it easier for students to apply and that the departmental approval of scholarships would stay the same. However, in a meeting last week with Financial Aid and the Project Manager, he learned that his department's one scholarship would be centralized, centralized scholarships would not be in the hands of the department anymore, and the plan is to provide scholarships to students as they apply through the automated process.

  The Provost said that he appreciates the concerns and the need for clarity. He stated that there are two separate processes involved: a scholarship strategy discussion which began over a year ago in the upper administration on the one hand, and how

to centralize scholarships on the other. A decision was made in Fall regarding software. Following that, University Advancement created an inventory of scholarship to identify department scholarships for centralization, which then was reviewed and refined by Shelli Soto, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management for phase one (a group of recruitment scholarships with all other scholarships still being reviewed by departments). The Provost then reviewed the list and sent the information to Deans/chairs two weeks ago. He is going to the CHSS Dean's Advisory Council meeting this week to discuss with CHSS chairs. He said there will need to be adjustments to the list, but that there is a need to be more efficient on scholarships/financial aid. He said that Increased student access to scholarships will help with revenues, including with student retention and transfer students.

Several senators and the History Department Chair raised concerns regarding the lack of timely consultation with departments, the role of faculty expertise in making decisions about awards for field-based merit, automation of scholarships, and how scholarships were determined to be "centralizable."

There was a similar process at WCE last year which included identity categories for students. This resulted in lots of discussion about reducing identity to checkboxes and not understanding certain identity boxes. Shelli Soto said that the centralized system will eliminate the need for colleges/departments to do this kind of data collection, since it will work with existing data students provided when they apply for scholarships.

The Provost clarified that the administration is still accepting feedback on which scholarships should be department managed. A question was asked about the rationale to cut faculty out of decisions. The Provost said that there are over a $1 million in unawarded scholarships every year. Senate President Slouber responded that the issue of unawarded scholarships could be handled directly, but that most of the scholarships selected for centralization were regularly awarded. A Senator pointed out that some scholarships are designed to have high standards that are not necessarily met by applicants in a given year.

A Senator stated that the centralization will decrease faculty participation in fundraising. Additional issues raised included concerns about vulnerable students who may opt out of data being centralized.

Senate President Slouber closed the discussion by stating that departments that want to keep their scholarship awarding process must be able to do so. He said that the broader shared governance issue, which he views as more important, will be discussed in the Spring.

- **Curricular Review Process:** Due to time constraints, the flowchart of the current curricular review process, including Western on the Peninsulas, was postponed to the April 7 Senate meeting.

Items from the Floor

Libraries Budget Cuts: Senator Gabe Gossett (Libraries) read a statement regarding cuts to libraries staff and services and their impact on the entire campus. Senate President Slouber noted that the lack of consultation with Library leadership was unacceptable.

DAC Concerns: Senator Stephanie Gomez (CHSS-HUM) raised constituent concerns regarding DAC and student accommodations, requesting that the Senate include this issue as a discussion item at an upcoming Senate meeting. Senator Jim Cooper (CSE) raised a concern from the floor regarding DAC monitoring of students during testing. Senate President Slouber said that this issue will be included on the April 21 Senate meeting agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

For Approval

Faculty Senate Attendance
03/10/2025

Voting Members			Non-Voting Members		
Annie Riggs	CHSS-SBS-Psychology	x	Moose Abou-Harb	AS Senate President	x
Camilo Ponton	CSE-Geology	x	Sabah Randhawa	President	--
Catherine Clark	CSE-Chemistry	x	Brad Johnson	Provost	x
Dawna Drum	CBE-Accounting	x	Christopher Bianco	Council of Deans	--
Dennis Whitcomb	CHSS-HUM-Philosophy	x	Vicki Hsueh	UFWW President	x
Erika McPhee-Shaw	CENV-ESCI	x			
Ernest Hartwell	CHSS-HUM-LLC	x	**Committee Chairs and Senate Representatives**		
Gabe Gossett	Libraries	x	Bidisha Biswas	Legislative Rep	x
Greg Youmans	CHSS-HUM-English	x	Kristi Tyran	Budget Rep	x
James Ray	CFPA-Music	x	Melissa D'Eloia	ACC	x
Jeffrey Meier	CSE-Math	x	Derek Moscato	ATC	--
Jim Cooper	CSE-Biology	x	Shevell Thibou	CUE	--
Johann Neem	CHSS-HUM-History	x	Cindy Elliser	CUP	--
John Gialanella	CFPA-Design	x	Eva Gil	SLC	--
Kameron Harris	CSE-Computer Science	x	Brandon Dupont	Ad Hoc Handbook	x
Lindsay Foreman-Murray	WCE-Ed Leadership	x	Shawn Knabb	SOCEC	--
Maria Timmons Flores	WCE-Elem Ed	x			
Mark Peyron	CSE-Engineering & Design	x	**Recorder**		
Michael Slouber	At-Large (President)	x	Becky Johnston	Faculty Senate	x
Nick Washburn	CHSS-SBS-HHD	--			
Patrick Buckley	CENV-ENVS and UEPP	--	**Guests**		
Ramadha Piyadi Gamage	CSE-Math	x	Miguel Anguiano	UPD	x
Ron Helms	CHSS-SBS-Sociology	x	Terrance Cunningham	UPD	x
Sondra Cuban	WCE-HCS	x	Shelli Soto	Enrollment Management	x
Stephanie Gomez	CHSS-HUM-Jou/Com	x	Susan Costanzo	History Department	x
Steven Garfinkle	CBE-Economics	x			
Tesla Monson	CHSS-SBS-Anthro	x			
Tim Bruce	Graduate School	x			
Xiaofeng Chen	CBE-Decision Sciences	x			
Yanara Friedland	Fairhaven	x			

Voting Attendees	**28**	**Non-Voting Attendees**	**12**	**Total Attendees**	**40**