Sent for Senate Approval: 4/08/2025

Senate Approved: Click or tap to enter a date.

Official Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
04/07/2025

Pre-Approval

Call To Order and Approval of Minutes

Call to Order: Senate President Michael Slouber called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

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

- March 18, 2025 Faculty Senate Minutes
- March 11, 2025 SLC Minutes

Reports and Announcements

Michael Slouber, Senate President:

- The faculty harassment reporting site is almost ready to launch.
- The next Difficult Conversations event, which is on censorship, will be held this Wednesday.
- Interested Senators can sign up for daily federal update emails through Becky Johnston.
- It is reported that 85% of NEH grants, including all in WA, have been cancelled. Senate Vice President McPhee-Shaw reported that the expected closure of NOAA servers was resolved, but the issue is an example of the instability in programs and services that faculty rely on. President Slouber stressed the need for flexibility in working with colleagues due to elevated stress levels.
- There are two vacancies for Executive Committee. The Appointments and Elections Officer position is open for Spring Quarter and next AY. In addition, an email announcement for next year's Deputy Budget Representative will be sent to faculty this week.
- The Senate will provide draft minutes to Senators within two days of meetings to support constituent communications. Senators should not circulate the draft minutes until they approved by the Senate.

Sabah Randhawa, University President:

- He was in Olympia last week and reported that the budget environment is tough. The budget is still in process and one area of concern is the fund split. The final state budget hopefully will be available in the next couple of weeks. The Governor has said that he will veto tax proposals from the Legislature.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President:

- The biggest issue impacting the budget is that the 2021-2023 budget had more earmarks and the revenue forecast did not pan out.
- WA relies on sales tax and there is a dramatic increase on revenues in terms of business with Canada, especially in Whatcom County.
- He started traveling to meet departments and programs last week, with 27 scheduled over the next few weeks. The goal is to have face-to-face conversations with faculty and staff in order to listen and answer whatever questions he can. This is part of an effort to create more robust communication system, which also includes meeting with Senate Exec for 10-15 minutes during its regular Monday meetings.

Vicki Hsueh, UFWW President:

- UFWW been focused on the budget in Olympia. The UFWW website advocacy section has more information, including on the fund split issue.
- There will be a budget update on April 8 at 5:00 in Carver 104 Carver, as well as WAWU events in Miller Hall and Red Square, and a panel about federal Executive Orders,

Bidisha Biswas, Faculty Legislative Representative:

- The Council of Faculty is focused on budget issues, reaching out to legislators, and working on op-eds.

Moose Abou-Harb, AS Senate President:

- ASWWU candidate filing closes on April 20, and Senators are urged to encourage students to participate.

Information Item

President Slouber summarized the recommendations from the PEJ Task Force, which submitted its report on April 2. Due to time constraints, Senators are requested to read the report and submit their (and constituent) feedback and questions to Senate Exec by April 21. The Task Force co-chairs will present to Senate Exec on April 28, and Senate Exec will follow up with the full Senate on May 5.

Approved

Action Items

- **Appointment of John Bower (Fairhaven), Jim Graham (CHSS-SBS-Psychology), Margarita Ruiz-Guerrero (WCE-ECE), and Christine Johnston (CHSS-HUM-History) to Faculty Senate:** The Senate approved by consent the Spring Quarter appointments to fill seats held by Senator Yanara Friedland (Fairhaven), Annie Riggs (CHSS-SBS), Maria Timmons Flores (WCE), and Senator Johann Neem (CHSS-HUM).

- **Stand-Alone University Policy on Recording in Classrooms:** The Senate adopted by consent a modification to the February 10, 2025 Senate Motion on Recording Content in Instructional Spaces to instead authorize the development of stand-alone policy. The rationale for this change is that it was determined that it is not a minor policy change and that the Academic Honesty policy is not the right place for it. Instead, the Senate will develop and propose a new stand-alone policy that would be a general university policy resulting in a student conduct code violation. The Provost indicated that this is an enforcement mechanism issue. President Slouber said that he would initiate the process and see it through, with the draft open for a 30-day campus-wide review period. There was a question raised about whether the policy would apply to online content and how that would be enforced.

Discussion Items

- **Western in the High Schools (WiHS) Update and Discussion:** Shawn Knabb, SOCEC Chair, and Robert Squires, Vice Provost for OCE, gave a presentation on WiHS. SOCEC Chair Knabb said that WiHS is not a pilot program. Vice Provost Squires reported that current enrollment is 290. He also described an ad-hoc committee of interested faculty and said that he is not opposed to making it a SOCEC subcommittee

  A question was raised about how students benefit from taking courses at their high schools versus at WWU. SOCEC Chair Knabb said that it is a way for Western faculty to keep quality control over courses, since the College in the High Schools (CiHS) classes will be offered anyway. Concerns were raised that college courses should be taught by faculty rather than high school teachers.

  Comments regarding WiHS as a way to address access to higher education were made. The Vice Provost said that there is evidence to suggest that it is improving enrollment for students who were not planning to attend college. The Provost said that, of all dual credit programs, CiHS is better at reaching students who are not looking at college because it is part of their regular curriculum. One strategy is working with Title I schools. Senate President Slouber said that it is good to see the expansion regarding the range of courses offered and to schools in need.

  There were concerns raised regarding the compensation model for faculty. Currently, faculty are paid $2,000 per course per section plus $250 for professional

Not Approved

development. The Vice Provost said that there are current conversations on this issue.

- **Attendance and Grading Policies Draft University Catalog Revision:** Senate President Slouber said that this policy was raised by faculty and that the Senate has discussed it many times in the past without adopting a policy for the Catalog. There are three policy options to consider: authorize faculty variability in policy, prohibit faculty from grading based on attendance, or require faculty to grade based on attendance. There was a comment about whether attendance is separate from participation. There was a discussion about whether to include DAC accommodation language in the policy. Senators shared comments in support of the variability option. The Senate will vote on the proposed policy Idea on April 21.

- **Curricular Review Process:** ACC Chair Melissa D'Eloia reviewed the current curricular review process, including the Western on the Peninsulas (WoTP) program, as presented in a flowchart developed by the Senate Executive Council. Senate President Slouber said that that reason for the chart is because WoTP process was opaque and that there are concerns that routing the program through CUP was a way to bypass the CHSS modality policy. A concern was raised that that programs like Sociology on Peninsulas are not interdisciplinary so they should route through college curriculum committees. There was a clarification that the idea was to route WoTP-only courses through CUP, with courses taught in both Bellingham and through WoTP routing through college curriculum committees. The Provost identified two overlapping questions. The first is the curricular process and the second is the faculty process. UFWW President Hsueh said that the crucial issues are who are the teaching faculty, who will be reviewing them, and departmental membership. A concern was raised that moving curriculum out of the existing review processes is an abdication of shared governance and reinforces the "island of misfit toys" of interdisciplinary programs rather than finding homes for them. There was a comment that interdisciplinary programs (some more than others) have formal processes and review and are owned by faculty.

  Shared Governance Policy: Senate President Slouber shared a proposed revision to the Faculty Handbook which would create a set of guiding principles and critical elements for shared governance. A concern was raised about lack of enforcement mechanisms. The Provost said that his experience has been mostly around communications issues and that is why he is working to build a network of shared governance. President Randhawa stated that shared governance is a culture and that he is not sure how to enforce a culture, because it is built on trust and communication. There was a question about how ASWWU might be included in the document. Senate President Slouber affirmed that the policy would be meaningless unless agreed to by the Administration. The Senate will vote on the proposal on April 21.

Items from the Floor

- **Print and Copy Shop Closure:** Senate Vice President McPhee-Shaw (CENV) shared a constituent concern regarding the rumors that the print shop would be outsourced and the impact that would have. The Provost will get additional information about this and report back to the Senate.

- **Libraries Faculty Budget Reduction Resolution** Senator Gabe Gossett (Libraries) shared a resolution of the Western Libraries Faculty regarding administration decisions about personnel impacting services and resources. The resolution was unanimously approved by Libraries faculty on April 3 in an 11-0 vote. He also mentioned the letter to Administration which is still open for signatures. The Senate will vote on the resolution on April 21.

- **AI and Conference Proceedings:** Senator Mark Peyron (CSE) raised an information item brought to his attention by a faculty member at another institution, who said that detection software is erroneously flagging papers as plagiarism based on conference proceedings. This might be a be an issue of concern to graduate students or faculty.

Adjournment

The Senate adjourned at 5:35 pm.

For Approval

Faculty Senate Attendance
04/07/2025

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

Voting Attendees	30	**Non-Voting Attendees**	12	**Total Attendees**	**42**

FOR APPROVAL