**Faculty Senate Meeting 10/12/10**

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Mike LeMaster, Gavin Keulks, Tom Rand (for H. Hughes), Mark Girod, Zenon Zygmont, Michael Freeman, Tad Shannon, Scott Grim, Kevin Helppie, Susan Daniel, Katherine Schmidt, Jason Waite, Cheryl Beaver, David Foster, Doug Smith (for T. Gingerich), Dean Braa, David Doellinger, Bob Hautala, Gay Timken, Cheryl Davis, Amanda Smith, Mark Girod, Tracy Smiles, Maria Dantas-Whitney, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon

**II. Call for Corrections to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

Action: Minutes approved.

**III. Presidents’ Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

Math department proposed a split of class MTH 403 (4 cr.) into two separate sections, each 2 cr.

Action: Split approved in executive committee.

**John Minahan, Western Oregon University –**

Reported an all-time-high enrollment. Fall enrollment is up 413 fte., with the total number of students up over 532. The graduate program is coming on very strong and all divisions, with the exception of maybe one, are up. In terms of growth rates, we are in middle of pack when compared to other schools.

It was also reported that stimulus money has not been obtained yet and are around 40 million short. University has to develop a 25% cut by Christmas but goal has already been met. Will continue to produce plan and will not see any affect of the cut this year. The budget is hopefully settled for the year. Will have a detailed plan to send to the board. This plan shows us 25% poorer, meaning most teachers will have to put up with larger class sizes, etc. The plan will keep and try to expand tenured teachers.

University goal is to bring in additional 3 million in revenue to school. Will pay for this through the university budget. Waiting to see who our next governor is so we know what their stand on funding for education is. This goal is in a very strong stand, as of right now.

Question raised wondering if new faculty hires are being postponed until January.

Answer: Meetings have been in motion to hire professors to cover retirees. Are going to fill vacancies of tenured teachers with other tenured teachers but are waiting until January.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Recent Provost Council showed OUS response to Senate Bill 442. The senate bill answered questions about converting from trimesters to semesters, enrollment management and the review of admissions and programs. However, studies from other states showed that converting from quarters to semesters led to a drop in enrollment during the first quarter after the change. The last two points came about because it might be of benefit to meld certain committees and campuses with other Oregon universities. The suspicion that there are unnecessary duplications of programs around campus has been addressed. However, the system will now be audited. The auditing is an 18 month project but it may not continue after November 2nd. Request was made to notify about being contacted for auditing.

**Lisa Catto – Staff Senate**

A memorial event for two staff members (Larry Bentley and Dick Webber) who passed away last year is being held next Thursday. Gary Dukes will be reporting on Health and Wellness Center Thursday October 21st.

**IV. Consideration of Old Business**

**None**

**V. New Business**

**Academic Excellence Showcase:** PURE Committee is asking for faculty senate to show support in the form of a letter, as well as making the necessary adjustments to the schedule to allow students to attend the showcase being held May 26th. This is the 5th showcase event. (See article b.)

Question raised about ongoing request of support when faculty votes in favor of each year. Answer: A motion was made to handle this issue in committee but the motion was lost. Starting next year it will be handled in executive meeting. Will be first item of old business October 26th.

**C minimum requirement for music majors**: The current requirement for music majors is a C- average. The request is to change the requirement to no lower than a C in any major class. (See article c.)

Question raised about if there is an urgent need to change the requirement to a C: is the change motivated by accreditation or is it an issue on standards.

Answer: The raising of requirements is due to the raising of standards.

Question raised about which committee should be handling this issue and what the process is.

Answer: The Curriculum committee approved the change and routed it to the Senate to make further ruling.

Will be second item of old business on October 26th.

**VI. Committee Reports**

**LACC/General education committee final report and recommendation. Tom Bergeron –**

A general survey showed that faculty believes that the LACCs are completing said goals and that the current model is working well. The seven suggestions can be seen in theAd Hoc LACC/General Education Review Committee’s Review Report (Article D and appendixes 1, 2 and 3).

Question raised about the focus on writing intensive classes because most are upper division courses.

Answer: A number of faculty believe that the writing level is not where they would like to see it. They want to see students come in to the upper division courses with the skills necessary to complete the course. This could mean that there needs to be a writing intensive class added to lower division courses or another solution.

Question raised about resending Article D to include the table in appendix 3.

Answer: The table is on the Faculty Senate website under archive and titled appendix 3.

Question raised about the reason behind the rearrangement of ARC committee and if it could better represent the college of ed.

Answer: There is an argument against showing an increase in representatives for the college of ed. because faculty in that college is smaller.

Action: Motion to refer this issue to ARC and Committee on Committees.

Motion seconded.

Question raised about when the ARC reorganization would occur

Answer: unknown, but probably not until late this year or next fall. Restructuring would need to route back to faculty senate from Committee on Committees.

Question raised regarding whether the writing intensive committee should also be included, given that one proposal addresses that committee.

Action: Amendment proposed to add writing intensive committee as another referral.

Motion Seconded.

Action: Amendment passed.

Original motion amended to include referrals to Committee on Committees, ARC, and Writing Intensive committee

Action: Motion passed.

**VII. Special Presentation**

**Textbook rental pilot program. David McDonald, Associate Provost, and Mark Lane, WOU bookstore –**

One million dollar grant awarded to WOU to establish this program. Western is only 1 of 12 schools to be awarded this grant. The grant is a two year plan, meaning money will have to be spent quickly but wisely. The program already has a lot of positive support because of the need to address the high cost of textbook prices. (Plan of action can be seen in Article E.) Looking for involvement from faculty members.

Question raised about if professors will be required to use the same texts for the same courses or if they could use an assortment of books.

Answer: While it would be easier to use a limited number of books, it is not ideal. Professors will always have say on the number of books.

Question raised about how textbook companies feel about this rental process and if it will impose on any copyrights.

Answer: Copyrights will not be an issue with this program and textbook companies also will not have issues because they will still be receiving payment from the renting of the books.

Question raised about how to get involved with the rental program.

Answer: Simply asking about it. An email will also be sent out to all staff.

Question raised about how the process works with the bookstore keeping the books or selling them after the year is over – and if enough of a profit will be made from renting the books to cover the cost of purchasing them.

Answer: The more use the system can get from a single book the lower the cost will be. The key factor is how many books a course will require and how many times they can be reused. The program would involve the expansion of storage in the bookstore. It is also a requirement of the grant for Western to give information about how the program worked to provide other schools with feedback.

Question raised about if everything is fair game, such as eBooks and professor packets.

Answer: Ideally, yes but have to be mindful and realistic.

Question raised about an option to purchase books.

Answer: There would most likely be a rent or buy option at the cashier’s register but student would always have the purchase option.

Question raised about whether the potential success of the program would pressure professors to reuse the same books.

Answer: There will be a balance, for education is always a priority over making/saving money. It will always be the professor’s decision on what books are to be used.

Question raised about if new editions of books will have to be purchased each year they are issued.

Answer: It would be possible to rent the same edition until they are not being sold anymore or until info is no longer valid. It would depend on what is the best for the students.

Question raised about if there would there be an element were books can be put on reserve in the library with the grant money.

Answer: Hopefully the program will become successful enough that this money could be used to do something of this sort. However, money might not be fruitful enough in the beginning.

**VIII. Interinstitutional Faculty Senate report**

None.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**