**Faculty Senate Meeting 5/10/11**

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Zenon Zygmont, Michael Freeman, Tad Shannon, Henry Hughes, Katherine Schmidt, Jason Waite, Cheryl Beaver, Mike LeMaster, David Doellinger, Bob Hautala, 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. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

Executive Committee approved three minor proposals concerning credit, description and title changes to FS 600, 601 and 602.

Tracy Smiles is chair of Nominating Committee for next year. Terry Gingerich and Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon are also on the committee, as is Katherine Schmidt, past president. Nominating committee began their work two weeks earlier than required by the senate by-laws. Senators should encourage their colleagues to run for senate office (president, vice president, secretary).

By-laws stipulate that elections should take place today. Only three new senators present today, however, despite by-laws requirements that new senators attend both May meetings in order to vote in what should be today’s election of new senators (2) to Committee on Committees. **Action:** Motion made to postpone election of representatives for Com on Com until summer meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

An all faculty email was sent concerning Vicente Fox. More emails will be coming. His official visit to campus is October 20th.

**John Minahan, Western Oregon University –**

The faculty audit conducted by the Secretary of State is complete and will not be acted upon by the legislature. Details of budgetary arrangements should be released soon. President Minahan has been asked to write a letter in support for Senate bill 742. It has been written and is expected to be in the Statesmen. Enrollment is strong and Western is in good shape.

**Lisa Catto, Staff Senate –**

Not present.

**Yasmin Ibarra, ASWOU –**

None present.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Wants to remind faculty of the email sent on May 9th that the NW proposal was approved by the board and is moving forward.

**IV. Old Business**

**Credit Limitations On Open Ended Classes:** Proposing to raise the credit limitations from twelve hours to sixteen hours on seminar-style classes (ie. 406, 407, etc.).

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Motion carries.

**CGE Credit by Examination:** Proposing to accept content credit for examination scores of C or better from the General Education Certificate (GCE) that many English-speaking International students complete for university placement. This only affects incoming students and would be put in the catalog to let people know Western’s policy for international student, primarily from the UK. A change was made to correct a typo: History 104 should be listed instead of HST 106.

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Motion carries.

**Gen Ed Report:** Two items to be voted on. The first is the charge of the ARC. This was routed to ARC and Com on Com committees. See document on senate webpage for particulars. Com on Com proposes more wide-sweeping changes than ARC, rolling new responsibilities (LACC & Diversity) into the ARC.

Question raised if there is a D designation criteria.

Answer: Gen Ed did develop criteria as a request so yes. It was suggested that this definition could be one of the first tasks ARC would take up.

Question raised that Curriculum Committee currently oversees D courses. How do they feel?

Answer: CC is an overworked committee currently; this would take away some of the load, which is not a bad thing.

Question raised about ARC evaluating current LACC courses.

Answer: No. Both ARC and Com on Com did not believe that any Senate committee had the expertise to do a holistic review.

Question raised about timing. Should we postpone vote to bring to divisions again?

Answer: Generally, the two committees are in agreement that the structure should be changed. There are slight differences concerning how. Additionally, this report has been previously distributed online, has been four years in the making, and procedurally should be voted on today.

Comment that ARC is not particularly happy with the addition of the D designation. Committee feels they can do this but still have reservations and would prefer that Curriculum Committee continue to oversee.

Currently, no one really owns the D designation. This proposal does give it specifically to ARC, which might be preferable to current status.

Question raised about where evaluation comes in for 1C.

Answer: It doesn’t. Do not feel that any Faculty Senate committee has the resources to evaluate current programs. Evaluations should be done with the help of faculty but not solely from a single committee.

**Action:** Motion made and seconded to accept Com on Com amendment to Gen Ed report. Motion carries. Amended ARC charge now adopted within Gen Ed report.

Now necessary to vote down the remaining ARC charge amendments. Basically pro-forma procedure, as these items were amendments, not proposals.

**Action**: Motion made and seconded to vote down amendment 1A and 1B. Motion carries. One nay.

**ARC Structure and Membership**

Gen Ed proposed a revised structure for the ARC. When routed to them, ARC returned with a rival structure, expanding to include all divisions yet remove students. Com on Com also proposed another structure including library representatives and restoring the students.

**Action:** Motion made and seconded to approve Com on Com’s amended structure for the Academic Requirements Committee. Motion carries. That section of the Gen Ed/LACC report now amended.

**Action:** Motion made and seconded to reject ARC restructuring proposal. Motion carries.

**Action:**  Motion made and seconded to reject Gen Ed restructuring proposal. Motion carries.

Gen Ed/LACC report is now fully amended. Procedurally, what remains is for senate to formally accept or reject the report.

Question raised about what approving this document as a whole would mean.

Answer: The document would be put on the Senate website as finished. The structure and charge of the ARC would definitely change if the report is accepted. If the report is voted down, the amendments would also be voted down.

Comment made that committees could do better, especially as regards writing.

Answer: This proposal was routed to the Writing Intensive Committee, which gave their approval. The LACC ad-hoc committee also studied the question of writing requirements and concluded that the current ones were appropriate.

**Action:** Motion made and seconded to accept the document as amended. Motion carries. One nay.

**V. New Business**

None.

**VI. Interinstitutional faculty senate report**

None.

**VII. Committee Review**

**Joint Committee on Faculty Evaluation**

Some saw evaluation as a process that is simply formal; others saw it as a practice to improve themselves professionally. The second assumption is much more complex. The faculty evaluation was simplified, which made it possible to look at alternative instruments. Because this is not an evaluation of how students see themselves, questions regarding the student’s perception of their learning or interests were removed. Open ended questions were also dropped from the process because administration was not being shown these questions. The evaluation dropped from forty-five to twenty-six questions. Another aspect was looking at the notion of going online. With online evaluations, you can simplify cost, effort and manpower. This could also be made into an ongoing activity, supported by the university as a way to stay in touch with the students. Professors going up for tenure next fall could choose to use the paper version of SIRs this spring, rather than the online version. The College of Ed would not be included in this process because they have their own evaluation tools.

The Joint Committee would also like the senate to endorse their continuing to work and requests a resolution from the Senate in support of this continuance.

Question raised if all of the data will go into the SIR data.

Answer: This would be part of the things that the committee would do. Ideal is for data to be easily understood and useable.

Question raised about how to ensure that students would actually do online evaluations.

Answer: Can’t equate response rate with the value of responses. With any kind of online marketing you must captivate people to get a response. What they have seen is that this might take a year or two years but that it can be done.

**Action:** Motion made and seconded for senate president to craft a letter of support for the Joint Committee to continue their work. Motion carries.

**Informational Presentation**

**Update on Textbook Rental Program**

This is a US department grant, started during the winter term with one course. Spring term expanded to sixteen courses. Rental is now 38% of the purchase price and they are working to bring this down to 33%. See chart with retail, new and used and a rental price. So far there has been no objection from students. The only problem is expanding the available titles. Will commit to faculty that even if the publisher stops publishing an exact edition, enough copies of the edition you committed to would be made available throughout the three year period. Ideally, the book would be used/rented nine times, as this is the best financial arrangement.

Question raised about how many students were actually in the courses where this program was used.

Answer: For some courses only 10% of students used this program. In other courses it was 99%. It could be that some teachers were better at advertising than others or that students taking courses in their majors wanted to keep their textbook for future use. Want to aim for this program to target 100 and 200 level courses, where it is felt that the rental program would be used more readily. Want to see if this helps students that would otherwise not be able to afford a textbook. Custom textbooks made for universities can also be rented.

Question raised about if students could rent a textbook for more than one term.

Answer: Yes.

Question raised concerning prices.

Answer: Prices are maneuvered to the lower prices that are seen on the market. Are trying to price books so that they are competing with manufacturers and third parties.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**