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

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Michael Freeman, Katherine Schmidt, Jason Waite, Mike LeMaster, Bob Hautala, Amanda Smith, Tracy Smiles, Maria Dantas-Whitney, Erin Passehl, Keven Malkewitz, Dana Ulveland, Scot Morse, Tad Shannon, Ike Nail, Kevin Helppie, Cornelia Paraskevas, Bryan Dutton, Kristin Latham, David Foster, Terry Gingerich, Mark Henkels, Mark Van Steeter, Kathy Farrell

**II. Call for Corrections to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

Gave overview of Faculty Senate website including a reminder regarding the curriculum deadline and the roles of the Curriculum Committee.

Executive Committee voted to endorse the Academic Excellence showcase and the endorsement letter has been sent.

Exec. Cmte. also discussed the issue of fire arms on campus and decided that it was “not ready” for Senate. There is an upcoming OUS Senate leadership retreat where this will be discussed further.

**Mark Weiss, Western Oregon University –**

As of now, financials are strong. However, decreased state funding, flat enrollment and a decrease in international students means that half of the fund balance will be used. This is a large amount of the budget to spend in a short amount of time. There will most likely be an additional 7% reduction in the budget from the state.

The Finance Committee recently held a meeting. See the email sent by Mark Weiss for more information.

Oregon Government State Board of Higher Education is in collective agreement regarding the fire arms issue. There is a potential loophole that may allow a banning of guns on campus. Businesses can state that an employee cannot bring a gun to work. This could be used the same way on campus. University of Oregon will now have an actual police force instead of campus safety. Portland State is likely to follow.

A Tuition Committee is in the works. Ideally, this committee would suggest tuition rates for the following year and allow students to have a say in tuition rates. This committee needs two students, one nominated by faculty and one nominated by administration. Yanke and McDonald were recommendations made by Mark Wise to serve on committee.

The Faculty Senate nomination for the Finance Committee needs to be made before their meeting is held – the sooner the better. See email from Mark Weiss.

Question raised about filling Social Science Tenure positions and if they are on hold.

Answer: Most searches are on hold, not just Social Science, though a few searches are moving forward. The tenure track searches are not cancelled but rather deferred. Spots are being filled as a function of program demand, meaning programs in higher demand will get their searches before programs of lower demand.

**Marshall Gutherie, Staff Senate –**

A “Staff Newsletter” will be coming to the Staff Senate website. It will include info and profiles for various staff nominated for recognition. Please let Guthrie know if you have anyone in mind but remember this is not “employee of the month.”

On October 19th at 2 pm in the Summit of the Werner University Center the first presentation by the Diversity Committee will be given. Luis Rosa, the Chair of the Diversity Committee will present regarding the work of the committee. This is also an opportunity for others to present regarding diversity. If anyone is interested in presenting please let him know.

**Jonathan Farmer, ASWOU –**

An all student tuition committee is in the works. The Student Senate is down to 15 seats from 30 with 13 or 14 actual senators. Farmer views this as a positive because it allows the Student Senate to be more focused and efficient.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

The Provost Council met and discussed the issues of applied bachelorette degree and OIT.

The mission alignment is trying to determine if the mission of OUS schools is actually being fulfilled. National trends are showing that for-profit universities are under scrutiny because some (Kaplan) will not let students drop any classes after they have signed up. Also, vocational programs are subject to test because it is wondered if students are actually getting the jobs that the schools are promising. Expectations for accountability are on the rise.

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

The Faculty Executive Committee at-large position needs to be voted on. Kristin Latham is the sole candidate.

**Action:** Kristin Latham was elected to FEC as an at-large member.

**VI. Interinstitutional faculty senate report**

None.

**VII. Committee Review**

None.

**VIII. Informational Presentations**

**Abby’s House**

The director of Abby’s House presented regarding their reorganization made possible by a grant. There was a reorganization of administration, as well as new advocate training. Abby’s House is a feminist model that empowers all people to stand against violence, harassment, verbal abuse, discrimination and hatred. It is not a counseling center but is a center for crisis management and referrals. There are various programs, services, resources and contact information available on the web, including S.P.E.A.K., a student organization.

Website is <http://www.wou.edu/student/club/abbyshouse>

Question raised about if mandatory reporting applies to Abby’s House.

Answer: Yes it applies. They are required to report but are not required to use names.

**Strategic Priorities and Options Committee**

This committee provides an opportunity to collectively develop solutions for increasingly difficult financial problems. State support is the lowest it has been in 25 years.

Some options include

* Increasing revenue: new programs
* Increasing capacity: enlarge class size
* Reduce costs: cut courses, programs, people, etc. which are not viable. Come up with more efficient modes of delivery, such as online or hybrid courses

The goal of the committee is to avoid retrenchment and layoffs. The presentation is available on the Senate website with slides including the committee membership, layout and proposed options.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**