**Faculty Senate Meeting 2/28/12**

**I. Roll Call: Present**

Bob Hautala, Tracy Smiles, Maria Dantas-Whitney, Erin Passehl, Keven Malkewitz, Dana Ulveland, Scot Morse, Tad Shannon, Kristin Latham, David Foster, David Doellinger, Kathy Farrell, Claire Ferraris, Cheryl Beaver, Becca McCannell, Michael Phillips, Mark Van Steeter

**II. Correction to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

Executive committee met last Thursday and approved about a couple dozen miniscule proposals including, credit, description and title changes and a few new courses. Also approved all submitted courses requesting RP grades. A document listing approved courses was passed around. This process for allowing the executive committee to approve the courses without portal submission was implemented last year when approx. 50-75 courses were approved. This year about 25 were approved. Almost all are thesis courses and independent studies.

Wanted to clarify some things stemming from the SPOC presentation. The 16-month time line that was discussed is actually shorter for curricular proposals, if senate deadlines will remain in place. The January deadline was vetted and approved by faculty senate years ago. It is not an administrative edict. Suspects that if a good idea came before Senate after the deadline and had an impact on the financial bottom line, it could/would still be implemented. Regardless of the timeline, divisions should be working on ideas now. Do not wait until next winter to brainstorm ways to offer your curriculums in the best and most efficient manner.

**Mark Weiss, Western Oregon University –**

Wants to thank all who attended the Window of Opportunity meeting. Also wants to stress the urgency of the 16-month timeline (until the beginning of the next biennium) and how quickly it will go by.

Question concerning open social science position in the history and anthropology department due to resignation and if there is correlation between not filling the position and the possible creation of super-departments coming from SPOC.

Answer: Yes and no. SPOC is generating ideas but it is not certain that this particular idea is being implemented. If an idea were being implemented, it would be discussed with affected departments.

Question raised concerning the cancellation of the alumni magazine.

Answer: Tommy Love, who was invited to discuss alumni business, could not make this meeting due to personal reasons. He will make the March 13th Senate meeting and will discuss specifics then.

**Marshall Guthrie, Staff Senate –**

New Staff Welcome went very well. Were able to personally welcome 16 new staff. Everyone did an awesome job. New staff will also be featured in upcoming newsletters.

Staff Senate meeting is Thursday, March 1st in Hamersly Library room 107 discussing the Window of Opportunity presentation.

**Jonathan Farmer, ASWOU –**

Had a good day lobbying at the capital. Were able to have 60 meetings with the Legislature. Over 100 students represented WOU and voiced the debts students are facing with the 40:40:20 plan, as well as pledging unemployment.

IFC committee met until one a.m. Monday, February 27th discussing student fees. Official fee amount is not yet being shared but it is looking to be around $24 a term.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Provost Council meets this Thursday to discuss the Oregon Education Board Campus Compact. This has been very rushed and confusing. It will be made public Friday when OUS takes action on compact. Until then it is still subject to change.

**IV. Old Business**

**Forensic Anthropology Minor –**

Proposing a new minor building off of a single course as an introduction. It is a 28 credit minor that can be paired with Criminal Justice, Anthropology or other majors. A list of courses required for the minor under each major is available on Senate webpage. (Article e. on Senate webpage)

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

**Environmental Chemistry Minor and Option in Major –**

Environmental chemistry minor is required with the Environmental chemistry major. This is not the first major with a required minor in the program. (Article c. on Senate webpage)

\*Comment raised by the Psychology division concerning whether this is similar to a large major. The health department proposed a large major with no required minor that was not approved. This is essentially taking 2/3 of the major you want and calling it a major then taking the other 1/3 of what you want and calling it a minor. It raises the question of whether WOU should continue to require minors. The minors could become more flexible or more rigorous in return.

\*This also becomes a SPOC issue if a large majors such as this one requires courses that otherwise would have been cancelled due to low enrollment.

**Action:** Motion made to table proposal until March 13th Senate meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

**Changes to Sports Management Minor –**

This minor was created seven years ago and no major changes have been made to it since. This is mainly housekeeping, moving courses around, deleting infrequent courses, etc. (Article d. on Senate webpage)

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

**Changes to ASL Program –**

The large number of proposed changes is simply a reordering of courses to set up prerequisites and sequential course numbers. Currently, there are no prerequisite requirements so students can sign up for courses that they do not have the skill level for. Would like to prevent this jumping around. (Article b. on Senate webpage)

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

**V. New Business**

**Religious Studies Transfer Policy for LACC Courses –**

Previous policy stated that religious study courses would be accepted as transfer courses but religion courses would not be accepted. Problems have been raised concerning this language. New language has been proposed to say that if the course being transferred is equivalent to Eastern or Western religion (R201 and R204) LACC courses than it is to be accepted. If the course being transferred is not equivalent, it will not transfer as LACC credit but could possibly be accepted as R 399, an elective in Religious studies. This new language has been the practiced policy since 2009 but the catalog does not reflect this. Simply are proposing to have this statement in the catalog. (Article g. on Senate webpage)

Question raised if transfer course can receive lower division credit as well.

Answer: No. There is only five course numbers used Religious studies. A new number could be created but it would most likely not be used.

Question raised if the equivalency decision will be made by the Philosophy department or by the registrar.

Answer: The philosophy department would decide.

Question raised that a student could take a 100 level course at another university and have it transferred to WOU as an upper division course where they receive upper division credits.

Answer: The course would only count for upper division credit if their philosophy advisor approved it. The description does not say that the transfer course will count only that it can.

Question raised that the course number 199 could be used instead of 399. The last sentence could even be removed from the statement.

Answer: Do not mind striking sentence or simply striking the mention of a course number.

**Action:** Motion made to amend proposal to state that “a non-equivalent transfer course could count as a Religious Study elective,” dropping the parenthetical reference to R399. Amendment seconded and approved by unanimous consent.

**Action**: Will be first item of old business March 13th.

**Eiken Proficiency Examination for International Studies –**

The Eiken proficiency exam is most widely administrated for Japanese students. It is accepted at a number of community colleges, smaller universities and some larger universities. It is on par with the rigor and the depth of the TOEFFL and cost is comparable. Is fairly widespread proficiency exam. (Article h. on Senate webpage)

Question raised what score WOU would require for international students.

Answer: Grade 1 would be required which is equivalent to a 600 for the TOEFL.

Will be second item of old business March 13th.

**LACC Policy Change, Literature Requirement –**

About seven years ago the literature department offered to give up one of its required courses and allow students to enroll in a foreign language class to fulfill the requirement. This was to increase enrollment in French and German language courses. Were looking especially at Bachelors of Science students to enroll in a modern language course. The problem is that few students have done this. Are proposing to change the requirement back to two literature courses. (Article i. on Senate webpage)

Question raised if Spanish and ASL courses were included in the option.

Answer: Yes and students have taken these courses. However, no students have used French or German courses to fulfill the requirement, which were the ones that were a concern.

Question raised concerning students who have already used this option to fulfill their requirement.

Answer: Students that have previously used this option would still have their requirements fulfilled, as they would be staying on the same catalog.

Question raised if Spanish Literature or ASL Literature could fulfill requirement.

Answer: There are no Spanish or ASL lit courses at WOU.

Will be 3rd item of old business March 13th.

**New Course, Law and Popular Culture, Com 328 –**

Have been teaching this course for a few years. Simply want to gain a permanent course number.

(Article j. on Senate webpage)

Will be 4th item of old business March 13th.

**New Course, Psychopharmacology, PSY 461/561 –**

This course is a neurobiological approach to drugs and human behavior. It will be looking at what drugs and chemicals do at the synaptic level and how the nervous system reacts to these drugs. Course has been taught on and off for the past six years in the Psychology department. Are requesting a permanent course number. The syllabus is a work in progress. This may affect other programs such as nursing, etc. (Article k. on Senate webpage)

Question raised about how this fits into program.

Answer: This is an elective. There is a push from students to have more neurocognitive courses because they help in gaining entrance to other schools and programs.

Question raised concerning how often this course would be taught.

Answer: Would be taught at least every summer. Want to teach it more than once a year.

Question raised about how many students were enrolled in the course when it was taught previously.

Answer: About 25-30.

Question raised about differences between the 400 and 500 level course.

Answer: The 500 level course will obviously dig a little deeper. The course syllabus is on the Senate webpage.

Will be 5th item of old business March 13th.

**New Course, Criminal Justice and Pop Culture, CJ 433/533 –**

This course has been being developed since professor’s second year of graduate school. This is a media literacy course but is so much more than that. The students will be viewing media products through a theoretical lens. The media has become more and more involved in Criminal Justice and graduate students have a research demand placed on them. (Article l. on Senate webpage)

Question raised if they have talked to any other departments about media.

Answer: Have not. This is very field specific to theory and research in Criminal Justice.

Question raised concerning the redundancy of this course and COM 328 and the fact that two different faculty are attempting two different courses when they could come together and make a combined effort.

Answer: The COM course is not going into Criminal justice. Redundancy is not seen because the Criminal Justice focus is very narrow and more of a rhetorical base. COM 328 and this course were brought to Senate to ensure that departments became aware of each other. The concern is not over the two courses’ content but over the lack of communication.

Comment that the Graduate committee did see the Criminal Justice proposal and commend the syllabus.

Will be 6th item of old business March 13th.

**New Course, Human Nutrition in Evolutionary Perspective, ANTH 455 –**

This course is designed around the politics surrounding food and to trace the evolution of the human diet. The title and the abbreviated title will be changed to eliminate confusion with the nutrition courses in the health department.

New/amended title will be “Evolution of the Human Diet,” abbreviate Evo Human Diet. The revised title and abbreviation will appear on the uploaded documents for the next meeting.

Question raised concerning the content of the course. Is the focus more cultural than what happens to your food when you eat it?

Answer: Yes, it is a bio-cultural class. It is not reaching into that realm of nutrition.

**VI. Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Report**

None.

**VII. Committee Review**

None.

**VIII. Informational Presentations**

**PEBB Benefits and SB 242 Health/Welfare Review Committee –**

PEBB designs contracts and administers health and dental plans for state employees and their dependents. It can be a cumbersome process to manage a program focused on design and not so much what members are going to pay. PEBB does believe that the current health care system is in crisis. Premium costs have doubled in less than ten years and this is better than what is being seen in private sectors. Are moving toward self-insurance. However, the future looks very positive. For the first time, the state of Oregon and PEBB are working on structural changes. Governor Kitzhaber has created organization that if successful would be a dramatic change on the way health care is delivered. It would reform the way the health care system is modeled. It is very hopeful that benefits from this organization will be seen and that CCOs can be added into the health plan.

Last June, Senate bill 242 was passed. It has to do with how we contract our wellness. This committee is charged with investigating options for PEBB. The possibility of higher education opting out of PEBB is going to be reviewed. This is just one of many options. If recommended by the committee, it will still have to be approved by the legislature. This possibility goes against the direction the state is moving toward so it is controversial.

Question raised if he is representing WOU or PEBB on this committee.

Answer: Is officially a labor representative but is also representing WOU. There are about 10-12 official WOU representatives.

Question raised about if the board would consider cafeteria style representation.

Answer: Anything brought before the board it is considered.

Questioned raised if higher education is the healthier population, could costs decrease.

Answer: Yes and no. The healthier population is usually the smaller population. If you branch out on your own some agencies could increase prices and being the smaller population you would not have the power to bargain.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**