**Faculty Senate Meeting 3/8/11**

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Maria Dantas-Whitney, Scott Grim, Zenon Zygmont, Susan Daniel, Henry Hughes, Terry Gingerich, Tad Shannon, Mark Girod, Mike LeMaster, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon, Cheryl Beaver, David Foster, Pete Poston, Cheryl Davis, David Doellinger, Kevin Helppie, Jason Waite, Gay Timken, Amanda Smith

**II. Call for Corrections to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

Faculty Executive Committee met Thursday (3/8). Decided not to bring Gen Ed./LACC Proposal before Senate. Would have been too complicated, procedurally, involving amendments of amendments, etc. Ex. Com. remained sensitive to both ARC and Committee on Committee because they are both senate committees. Eventually, it was decided that Com on Com has a deadline of May 10th to review ARC’s recommendations. Proposal could not wait until next year because this is the fourth year Gen Ed./LACC has been discussed. Also, new senate committee members will be coming in after the end of this year and they may not know what to do with proposal. Ideally, the goal is that both ARC and Com on Com will agree before May and bring forth a jointly supported proposal. Due to these decisions, items that were planning to be voted on today will not be. An all-staff email was sent out discussing these same issues (shown at senate).

Next item of business is the RP (rolling progress) grade that emerged out of division chair meetings. This grade would be applied to internships, specialized courses, and any extended, graded coursework whose duration is longer than one term. Exec. Com. decided that instead of having to route these 70+ proposals through the Portal, the RP grade would be handled in committee. Deans were emailed to request a list from the division chairs of all of the courses that would be requiring this option. Exec. Com. did not see any courses that raised red flags but if anyone has any concerns please voice them. (See appendix to these minutes for full list)

**John Minahan, Western Oregon University –**

Governor expressed that Oregon has a “math problem” due to bargaining without any money. He has given six million dollars to support the smaller universities. However, the President’s Council meeting reported that Eastern Oregon University has declared retrenchment, meaning that they will be decreasing their work force and that Eastern, Southern and OIT will receive five of this six million. Oregon State will receive the remaining one million. Western is still in good shape but will still have to lose some money and continue to adapt to budget cuts. As of now, only WOU and University of Oregon are in the clear. Enrollment will continue to grow as numbers in Oregonians and international students continue to rise.

The Board of Higher Education is asking that all universities communicate with students about tuition levels. WOU expects to maintain the Tuition Promise for existing students but expects to see a rise of 5% for new students. If WOU gets some new freedom with legislative action, tuition interest would be able to be reinvested. Seven million dollars would be invested in remissions or in scholarships for students. This amount would be subtracted from the amount of funding the state will provide. Ten percent of remission would likely rise to twelve percent.

Question raised about what the strategy is for fixing the gap in head count.

Answer: Increase International students. They pay three-hundred percent tuition meaning revenue without the headcount. Enrollment of Oregon students is also rising. Believe WOU will stay ahead of the curve if the right balance of Oregonian students, international students and out-of-state students can be achieved.

Question raised about retrenchment at Eastern. If professors are let go, will there be pressure on other schools to take them in?

Answer: As of now, it is not known what their president has in mind. WOU has advised Eastern regarding recruitment of international students, but do not know how retrenchment will affect faculty at the moment.

**Lisa Catto, Staff Senate –**

Not present.

**Yasmin Ibarra, ASWOU –**

Not present.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Gerontology and Interpretive Studies proposals both passed the Provost’s board without problems.

Questions were raised about what campuses, and specifically Western are doing in terms of diversity. Discussed recruitment and support efforts offered for the Latino committee. A request for a list of measures, similar to those that WOU is taking to increase diversity, was made. This is a huge compliment to faculty and staff. Even the staff of the Oregonian praised work Western has done in terms of diversity.

The instructional audit from the Secretary of State is near conclusion. Internal auditors will be meeting with Sec. of State audit to create a draft in the next few weeks. Do not know what to expect. Are going to be conducting an independent study across the country involving teacher progress.

**IV. Old Business**

**General Ed./LACC Proposal (catalog elements only):** First recommendation is only a declaration. The second regards LACC courses and their guidelines. Nothing new here, only structural reorganization. The third recommendation is being voted on today due to the fact that it is only making the catalog more user-friendly. The committee’s goal was for all the information to be listed only on a few pages. The LACCs would be listed with the degree credit requirements (math, computer science, second languages) as well as the Honor requirements. There is an LACC advising guide that has all of this information listed in short order that would go nicely with the new catalog organization. (See article b. on Senate website).

Question raised about Section one paragraph two. It says something about recommendation number six and recommendation number six is not seen in the packet present.

Answer: Recommendation number six has already been taken care of. In October, it was sent to Com on Com, Writing Intensive Committee and ARC. Writing Intensive Committee passed this recommendation, so it is no longer a concern.

Question raised about who would actually go through the LACC section to confirm that it appears nice and cohesive.

Answer: Faculty Senate needs to tell Gavin who they feel should be the one doing this. Tom Bergeron, Gavin or any of the Deans could review the section, it just needs to be designated. Ideally, more than one person should look over it.

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

**Action:** Motion made to approve the remaining recommendations as discussed. Motion seconded and approved.

Discussion concerning who would look over the changes made to the LACC section.

It was determined and voted upon (passed) that ARC would implement the changes to the catalog identified in the report.

**MA in Criminal Justice Changes:** Proposing three changes to the graduate program degree plans. Mostly housecleaning; no courses or majors are being altered. Everything has been resolved involving previous concerns. (See article c.)

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

**Medicinal Chem. and Pharmacology Options:** Chemistry is offering a new major in medicinal chemistry and pharmacology, as well as two additional minors. Two additional courses are required but the professor is already in order. (See article d.)

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

**Economics Program Changes:** Proposing the splitting of Econ 311 into 311 and 312 to allow for the coverage of more material. Because of the addition of a new course, electives are being reduced. Also proposing to change title of Econ 315 from Economic Analysis and Report Writing to Econometric Analysis and Report Writing. Also adding one new course; Econ 165 Economics of Organized Crime. (See article e.)

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

**V. New Business**

No New Business.

**VI. Interinstitutional faculty senate report**

The update on the Governor’s recommended budget for 2011-2013 revealed there is a four percent reduction in the budget and not the twenty-five percent reduction some people feared. The reduction would be around 11.6% for WOU but is not finalized. OIT created a resolution on this topic, and is asking other schools to similarly consider doing so.

Question raised about if the resolution should be a voting item for the first spring term meeting.

Answer: Yes should be a new business item. Is similar to PEBB resolution approved earlier this year.

Question raised about University of Oregon pulling out of OUS. Would WOU gain or lose if this happens?

Answer: In the long run, WOU will benefit. Government restructuring does maintain OUS board, which is necessary to function properly.

Second update item: the tuition equity bill now before State Legislature would allow for fair tuition to individuals who were not born in the United States. These students are undocumented but have attended primary, secondary and high school in the U.S. and would pay in-state tuition rates. President Minahan wrote a letter of support for this.

**Discussion:**

Questions raised regarding process. Items cannot be voted on at this meeting, given our senate’s two meeting rule. Possible to vote to suspend the rules, but doing so is not the best option. Determined that senate verbal feedback is sufficient at this meeting, supported, if necessary, by an all-campus email. It should also be noted that Senate does not meet two weeks from today (3/22) due to Spring Break, meaning these items couldn’t be approved or rejected until April.

Question raised about the section that states that “the students intends to become a citizen.” There is no way this could be known.

Answer: That is true and is very good feedback. Might need to change that section.

Should be expressed that Senate did not take a formal vote but did express feelings toward supporting and approving the bill.

**VII. Committee Review**

None.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**