Faculty Senate Minutes

October 8, 2019

Willamette Room, WUC

Primarily paperless, wou.edu/facultysenate

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering, optional)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

1. Call to order: 3:30 p.m.

2. Call of the roll (by circulation of sign-in sheet)

3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. July 9th Meeting
- Approved as posted

- Corrections to today's agenda:
  - Elect as well as call for a senator
  - Today is October 8th

4. Institutional Reports

4.1. Faculty Senate President's Report (Kristin Latham-Scott)
- Report available on the Faculty Senate Website

- Best practices for new senators document draft also available.

4.2. University President's Report (Rex Fuller)
- Highlights of the State of the University Address available on faculty senate website
- Updates on two efforts to provide scholarships:
    - Purchase of the Vick Building in Salem included a $100,000 endowment for WOU:Salem based students.
    - We are in conversation with another donor for a student success endowment. This money will allow us to provide scholarship and other types of aid for students stuck between terms. A continuation driven scholarship.
- A future agenda item for Senate should be the WOU Foundation Comprehensive Campaign. As a precursor to that, Erin might present about the four pillars of the strategic plan, student scholarship being one of them.

- **Comment**: I'm excited about the student success endowment. I've had a number of students close to graduation but have run out of financial aid, It's a struggle between finishing and scholarships.

4.3. Office of Academic Affairs' Report (Rob Winningham)
- Report available on Faculty Senate Website

4.4. IFS Report (Erin Baumgartner, Thaddeus Shannon)
- No IFS report.

4.5. Gen Ed Report (Camila Gabaldon)
- The deadline for next year's first-year seminars is November 5.

- **Question:** How many new applications are you aiming for?
    - They can be taught every three years, so we don't need as many as last year. Maybe 15 - 20.
- **Question:** Is there a timeline for submitting proposals for integrating knowledge or other gen ed courses that are not FYS?
    - Any time.
    - They have to be within the catalog deadline to be listed in the catalog by the next year.

5. Executive Committee

5.1. Call for one more Senator-At-Large

- Need a fourth Senator-at-large for Executive Committee.
- Nominations from the floor:
  - Nomination - Melissa Cannon
- Elect a senator at large
  - Vote to elect Melissa Cannon as fourth senator-at-large for Executive Committee.
  - **Vote passes**

6. Consideration of Old Business

6.1. No old business

7. Consideration of New Business

7.1. Proposed BS Degree in Aquarium Science (Mike Baltzley)

- Proposal and related information posted to Faculty Senate website.

- Proposal would be in conjunction with a proposed change to the requirement that students have 45 of the last 65 credits on the WOU campus.
- BS would be offered in conjunction with Oregon Coast Community College, so must go through HECC.
- OCCC offers a 2-year associates and a certificate for students who have already completed a bachelor's degree. It's a successful program which offers many placements, but a number of jobs now require a 4-year degree, so graduates of these existing programs have limited opportunities for advancement.
- This proposed BS degree would allow students to get a 4-year aquarium science degree, with a combination of biology and business courses. Often students move on to open nonprofits and businesses in this field. Students would get upper-division credits at Western, then move on to OCCC to get their career-specific training & move into the workforce.
- Students would have to apply to get into the curriculum at OCCC and may not be successful. If they do not get into the program, this degree would allow them to get a 4-year degree at Western in either business or biology, and then do the 1-year certificate at OCCC after.
- **Question:** What about a student who starts at OCCC for the AS degree in aquarium studies, can they then transfer to WOU?

- - ○ Yes, they would be able to get an AB in liberal studies, but it would be a bit harder than going through the proposed BS program.
  - **Question:** Is this two separate enrollments rather that a dual-enrollment? First WOU then OCCC?
    - ○ Kristen Mauro: It depends on how we set it up. Currently it would be two separate enrollments/pathways, but we could talk more about making other pathways.
  - **Question**: Does this still count for us [as a graduated student]? Confused about the timing and residency requirements. The proposed policy changes 45, the credits and physical time required on campus. But there's a note on the proposed degree that says OCCC doesn't count for the last credits.
    - ○ Yes to the first. For the second question, that is part of the reason for this language change. It's not a legal issue so much as an institutional policy. Effectively, the proposal is to change which courses are counted as "the last 45 of 60." We would only count the pre-OCCC courses
    - ○ Rob Winningham: Amy Clark has assured us that this will work, and helped with the wording on this.
  - **Question:** What kind of student numbers do you think this would attract?
    - ○ OCCC program has cohorts of 24 students. Facility intensive, competitive program to get into.
    - ○ We expect a half-dozen to a dozen, so over three years about 20-40 students. OCCC would have to accommodate should the interest in their program increase. OCCC is hoping this will attract more competitive students, due to some people not wanting an AS degree.
    - ○ One big benefit to the program we're proposing is that we already have all the courses and faculty in place, and OCCC already has the facilities for the program. So even though the student numbers might not be huge, it's a way for us to attract some new students without
  - **Question**: Are we waiving the 45 credit requirement, counting differently for students in this program but not the last 60 in general, or writing an exception into the requirement?
    - ○ It's not a waiver, just a revision to accommodate the different structure.
    - ○ (This language is included on the faculty senate website.)

8. Discussion items

8.1. Shared governance survey results (Kimberly Jensen)

- Survey responses posted to Faculty Senate website
- This was discussed at the July meeting. Should we discuss it more?
- A request that faculty senators take this question to division meetings. Are we interested in having conversation on shared governance? We would like to see if there is interest in creating a task force to look at shared governance.
- There were 31 responses to the survey.
- **Question**: Do you know what the total number of faculty is?
  - Notes from Leanne Merrill: The Quick Facts on our website put our total enrollment at 5185 and the student:facutly ratio at 15:1, which means we have about 346 faculty according to that ratio. Based on the numbers we used to calculate faculty senate seats, the number is closer to 288. So the total number is somewhere between 288 and 346, depending on what's being counted and how.
- Discussion item for next meeting potentially?
  - First Nov. Faculty Senate meeting
  - Senators should discuss the survey idea and results with their divisions before that date.
- **Question:** Could the survey be sent out again, in case people did not see it? I heard it was only sent to a random sample of faculty.
  - It was sent to the faculty email list several times over the summer. The survey that was only sent to a random sample was the Campus Climate survey, which is not related and was carried out by a third party.
  - We will wait until after discussions about a possible task force before sending the survey again.

8.2. ATRC committee charge and division participation

- See various information related to this discussion on the Faculty Senate website.

- Trouble stirring up membership, and understanding the charge of this committee
- Steve Taylor is the chair of this committee.
  - 50% participation last year
  - UTAC and other committees now exist to take on some of the technology-related issues that ATRC used to handle.
  - At the beginning of the year the question was: With relatively low participation and changing structure on campus, why do we have this committee?

- Increased participation since last year. Some confusion over whether there is a need to change the makeup of the committee with the new Criminal Justice committee, etc.
- UTAC is in the middle of a lot of projects and ATRC is in need of some spots to be filled on the committee. Good point to communicate faculty needs.
- **Question**: Have we compared the mission statements of the two committees.
    - ATRC is a faculty-focused group and UTAC encompasses the whole university, including facilities.
- **Question:** What would keep UTAC from forming a faculty sub-committee, as a possible replacement of ATRC?
    - That would be another way to do this as well. It would be a matter to discuss at UTAC. I have added the ATRC as an item to the agenda for the next UTAC meeting.
    - ATRC would like to conduct a campus technology survey, similarly to UTAC's survey about LMS technology last year. This would go out to the full campus community.
- **Comment:** One other thing ATRC could take on is scholarship needs. We've never taken a poll on our scholarship needs on campus, outside of faculty development money. What are your needs to develop your scholarship and research? Maybe we have common needs or different needs but we have no idea.
    - Tech specific or general?
    - Anything you need for your scholarship and research?
- Question: It sounds like we have an agreement that it's important to have a faculty voice on campus. But we aren't sure whether ATRC or a UTAC sub-committee, or something else, is the most effective way to do that. Is that correct?
    - The question is: is this committee viable, do we want it to work? We would like faculty senate to reconfirm whether they want the committee to keep working.
- **Question:** Are you currently seeking input from faculty about their needs while Faculty Senate is considering this question?
    - Yes. Division members can bring these requests / comments to ATRC meetings. Bill Kernan is at each meeting, and we could also put in more formal requests to admin.
- **Question**: Would you be the person to ask about the policy for replacement of faculty computers?
    - Bill Kernan would be the person to ask about that.
    - Rob Winningham: Computers are up for replacement every 5 years. When computers are up for replacement, UCS will contact faculty to replace them.

- ■ **Follow-up:** I've had this computer for 6 years and when I've asked have been told that they are currently replacing 2013 computers.
  - ○ Comment: Bill will be talking to UTAC about this as well, so we can bring it up to him.
- ● **Question:** Where do we go from here? It looks like we are determining whether to continue with the ATRC
  - ○ This sounds like a good discussion topic for our next November meeting.
  - ○ What will the subcommittee look like? what will the representation look like, it will be hard to discuss without seeing what the alt. Option will look like.
- ● **Question:** Could this be new business at the next meeting?
  - ○ There would need to be a proposal in order to have as new business, but we may not have adequate/enough information to make a proposal.
  - ○ Guidance from the ATRC as to what an alternative model would look like will be helpful. Steve will take this to ATRC at their next meeting.
- ● **Comment**: Can senators go back and communicate with their divisions between now and the next senate meeting to find out what representation would change?

9. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports

9.1 No informational presentations or committee reports

Meeting adjourned: 4:40

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)