Faculty Senate Minutes

May 12, 2020

**Remote Meeting via WebEx**

*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 online sign-in sheet)**

## **3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting**

### **3.1. April 28th Meeting**

* Approved as posted

## **4. Institutional Reports**

### **4.1. Faculty Senate President’s Report (Kristin Latham-Scott)**

* Report available on Faculty Senate website.
* Highlights: Election of new senators; final grades deadline for spring term; bylaws change with June/July meeting change?; S\*/NC grade option to extend past spring term; Social Science resolution
* **Question:** What lead time would the registrar need if we want to extend the S\*/NC grading option.
  + **Comment**: If we think we want that grading option in summer, we should talk about it now. Some other Oregon Public universities are extending that type of a grading option and others have not decided yet.
  + **Comment from Amy Clark:** The system which allows students to select that was complicated to build. I’m not sure how we would manage it for summer, as we would have to heavily modify the system. We would need to know as soon as possible because of the amount of work.
* **Question**: The July vs June meeting, was there a rationale for considering a July meeting instead?
  + **Comment**: There is not always crucial business and it is difficult to go from having meetings at the end of the year and coming back from a break.
* **Question:** Is there a way for us to call a special meeting if we did need to do something in July?
  + **Comment:** Yes, that is in the bylaws.
* **Question**: Is there a way to opt out of the grading change if we do extend it, either per class or per program?
  + **Comment from Amy Clark**: Probably not. It’s unclear. The decision was made initially to do this across the board during spring term. The system is not built to allow for opting out.
  + **Follow-up comment**: There are a lot of complexities to this in our program. We don’t want students to drop out of the university if they
* **Question**: Thinking about the long-term effects, does anyone have any information about how taking the S/NC option will affect students who are going into graduate schools?
  + **Comment**: Nationally, this initiative was led by medical schools. There doesn’t necessarily seem to be a lot of strong data either way.
  + **Follow-up:** Part of this comes from a concern raised by an advisee who was specifically told not to do this because of her application to grad school.
  + **Comment:** The only program being flexible in Oregon with this right now is The Lebanon NW-Comp Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) program.
* **Question:** Do we know how many students are choosing to use the S/NC?
  + **Comment from Amy Clark**: 518 students have chosen the S\*/NC option for a total of 1,175 sections....aka students are selecting this option for more than one of their courses
* **Question**: Can students retroactively decide to replace the S/NC with their actual grade for a class?
  + **Comment from Amy Clark**: Students may be able to petition to change it back after the fact. A lot of other schools are doing similar things.
* **Question**: What is the university passing grade for a course, unless a program specifies a C- or higher? Is this different from the pass/no-pass
  + **Comment**: D- or higher is “satisfactory.”
  + **Comment from Amy Clark**: A course can be taught as pass/no credit, but those courses are usually designed to be taught that way and not the same as other classes. (e.g. Math 111 wouldn’t be a pass/no-credit class.)
  + **Follow-up Question**: Does this option, moving forward, allow students to bypass the requirements for their degrees?
    - **Comment from Amy Clark**: At universities where this is a long-term option selected by students, there are specific rules in place to prevent abuse of the system. For example, a rule might state that you can’t use pass/no-pass in a course required for your major. We are not discussing making this a permanent change, though, but just an extension to our emergency rules in place due to Covid-19.
* **Comment**: Thanks for all the work everyone is doing. Social Science is looking forward to seeing information on the website in both Spanish and English. We are also concerned about the potential costs to students of being tested for Covid-19.

### **4.2. University President’s Report (Rex Fuller)**

* ASWOU election results for 2020-2021 on faculty senate website.
* May 29th (3-4pm).
* There were some questions about registration. Tonight we are hosting a town hall style meeting with admitted students and representatives from departments. We have also been sharing information with students and their families.
* I was glad to hear the discussion about grading.
* **Questions**: The Humanities Division was looking to see if you could speak to the University to see what MarCom is doing to try to get students here.
  + **Comments**: I can give you a general idea but maybe Erin McDonough can bring a presentation to Senate. We are providing bilingual admissions information and ads in English and Spanish.There is also evidence that some students are looking to stay closer to home while attending university. Campus safety is also a high factor.

### **4.3. Office of Academic Affairs’ Report (Rob Winningham)**

* Report available on faculty senate website.
* Report highlights: Course delivery update; WOU partnership with Polk County on contact tracing and testing for coronavirus; Polk County applying to enter phase 1 for re-opening.
* Brief note that summer term is only online/remote. I can ask other universities’ provosts about what they are doing with regards to S\*/NC for summer term, although most people have not decided this for fall term.
* With regards to the cost of testing, WOU is not charging for the testing. We do the testing for free in a drive-up tent. The lab which processes the tests do charge $95. Insurance and Oregon Health plan cover it. If students do not have these, the lower cost we have negotiated goes onto the student’s university bill. We are trying to work to lower that cost further and recognize that this is very important.

**4.4. IFS Report (Thaddeus Shannon, Emily Plec)**

No report.

**4.5. Gen Ed Report (Camila Gabaldon)**

No report.

## **5. Faculty Senate Business**

**5.1 Election of Executive Committee officers (Adele Schepige, nominating committee Chair)**

* Still searching for a secretary. We need one by our last meeting in May.
* Faculty senators should ask in their division.
* If we do not get a secretary elected, there will not be one and there will not be minutes, only very basic notes provided by the student note taker.

## **6. Consideration of Old Business**

**7.1 Proposed new BS in Cybercrime, Investigation, Enforcement (Omar Melchor-Ayala, CJ)**

* Link to proposal files and presentation on faculty senate website.
* Motion to approve.
* **Motion passes unanimously**.

**7.2 Proposal to modify our academic calendar (Mike Baltzley)**

* Link to proposal files and presentation on faculty senate website.
* This proposal is intended to make sure we have time available for assessment and cultural competency, which we are required to do.
* **Comment:** There was a surprising amount of pushback among my colleagues. There were a lot of different concerns. One worry was that despite the intent of the proposal to carve out calendar time, designating specific days for these activities would expand the amount of expectations. There was also a comment about the possibility of online training, and some were concerned about the specific dates chosen, which are towards the end of the calendar year at a time that is already busy.
* **Comment:** Many of us in our division teach MTWR, so being told we are not going to teach on Friday, so we can use that day for other activities. I already use that time to do other activities such as grading and other important activities, so having the day “off” from teaching does not really give me additional time. Separately, Veterans day floats, and is not always on Monday, just on the 11th. There might also be years when divisions with Friday classes lose two Fridays as a result of this proposal.
* **Comment:** We have several concerns, mostly centered on the fact that many of us hold classes once a week on Fridays. As Ed majors, we have to coordinate our schedules with over 30 different districts in order to find the time for students to be able to complete student teaching, and Friday is the best day for that. We have also found that just one day in the year to dedicate to assessment is not as productive as having several smaller chunks of time. We were wondering if different divisions could schedule similar smaller meetings throughout the year in a similar way, so that they can meet their assessment needs rather than having a university-wide regulation.
* **Comment:** This was discussed at our division. One concern was around the need to not lose additional days in winter term, when inclimate weather will already cause us to lose days. I also wanted to mention some of the positive comments, which were that it was great that the university was recognizing the amount of work it takes to do assessment and cultural competencies. One suggestion was to see if there were other days or methods to support this idea without using this specific schedule, which we did not think would work as is.
* **Question:** In creative arts we had a discussion on this. A few concerns: there will be less teaching days and whether this will impact state standards. Is there a way to do this without limiting the number of teaching days?
  + **Comment:** There aren’t state mandates or regulations. This would reduce our teaching days, but would not take us out of step with other schools in the region.
* **Comment**: It seems like there is general support, but that different divisions have different ways to do it. Maybe we could have each division or department create their own assessment calendar/plan and forward that to Mike, so there’s more flexibility.
* **Comment:** Social Sciences also appreciated the consideration of assessment as work, and that we would like to see it considered separately from the length of the term and the number of days taught.
* **Comment:** It was noted that when Oregon State did something similar, they started early with something called “Week 0” and just added more class days at the end of the term.
* **Comment:** Speaking as past PURE/AES coordinator, I would like to ask if we could keep that Thursday as a day off classes as a separate proposal, separate of any days that might be set aside for assessment.
* **Comment:** Social Sciences did discuss the academic showcase and were supportive of taking Thursday as a day off for AES.
* **Comment:** On behalf of the general education program, we do have some programs which are multi-disciplinary which also have assessment tasks in which to engage. Even if the division/departments set their own calendar we do need some kind of university-wide day to be set aside for these groups--and the gen ed program--to do their work effectively.
* **Comment from Kristin Latham-Scott:** It sounds like folks can see the value of this, but not this specific proposal. Maybe we should table this topic?
  + **Question:** Would we have support from the showcase this Friday?
    - **Comment from Kristin Latham-Scott**: We would have to vote on making that amendment specifically.
* Motion is to amend the proposal to separate the Thursday of Week 9 as no class for AES, and to keep the rest of the proposal under active discussion in another format.
  + Motion to amend passes.
  + Further discussion:
    - **Comment**: I am concerned with “taking a day off.” We sometimes give extra credit to students. If we make it a day off, I am concerned we may not get as good attendance.
    - **Comment**: I am general in favour of taking that Thursday off. This is a big rehearsal day for music faculty in particular, and they will be inconvenienced by the day of classes being canceled.
    - **Comment**: To clarify, we are voting on the amendment of the proposal to Week 9 only.
    - **Comment from Kristin Latham-Scott**: If this is approved, we would not have classes scheduled for Thursday of Week 9
    - **Question**: What are the implications of this if AES is an opt-in event if we are unable to hold classes, but do not require students and faculty to attend?
    - **Question**: We have a lot of classes that are held Thursday from 5-8pm and how would this impact them(?)

**Comment**: Sometimes we have students scheduled to give a presentation during the time of their class, so this allows students the ability to give a presentation without missing a class. Some programs require students to give a presentation (i.e. Honors Program).

* + - **Comment**: Some of us teach once a week on a Thursday so to lose one Thursday means losing an entire week of class.
    - **Question:** Has the PURE board discussed this in the past or reached out to others?
      * It’s been discussed in PURE before. It would be a big help to AES.
* Motion to table the discussion for a future meeting
  + Motion seconded
  + Motion to table passes.

## **7. Consideration of New Business**

No new business.

## **Motion to extend meeting past 5pm.**

Seconded

**Motion passes with 17 yes votes**

## **8. Discussion items**

No discussion items.

## **9. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports**

### **9.1 Program Assessment Update (Mike Baltzley)**

* Presentation file on Faculty Senate website. (Updated file available as of May 12th)

## **10. Announcements**

### **10.1 Draft Policies from Academic Affairs (Bev West)**

* Files available on the Faculty Senate website for both policies.
* **Delayed to next meeting**

## **Meeting adjourned: 5:15 pm**

# **5 – 5:15 p.m.**

*Better Know a Colleague* (informal gathering continued, optional)