Faculty Senate Minutes

May 26, 2020

**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

*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. May 12th Meeting**

* Approved as posted

## **4. Institutional Reports**

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

* Report available on Faculty Senate website.
* Highlights: Curriculum updates; Faculty Assessment and Cultural Competency task force looking for volunteers; University Council updates

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

* Admissions team has put together virtual chats with admitted students and their families around our plans for reopening.
* A town hall for students and families is scheduled for Thursday, and a recording of this will be posted early next week.
* Board agendas are loaded to the Board website. There is a meeting in June of all three Board committees.
* Virtual Commencement on June 13th. 600 RSVPs from students so far.
* **Question:** Can you speak to plans for the summer?
  + **Comment from Rex Fuller**: Summer courses are remote and online primarily, if not exclusively. We are tied to where the county is in the reopening process as well as state guidelines.
  + **Comment from Rob Winningham**: Almost all are online. We are looking at some in-person biology labs but are not yet sure we can do that. Governor Brown’s executive order currently forbids in-person instruction until June 13th and we’re not sure whether that will be extended or replaced with a new order. We need to get county and probably Oregon Health Authority sign-off to do so.
* **Question:** For individually arranged courses (i.e. 1 on 1) can we come forward with a proposal?
  + **Comment from Rob Winningham**: Again, it depends on the executive order. It’s possible some time this summer we would be able to offer some physically distanced courses. We still don’t have enough information to know for sure.

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

* Report available on faculty senate website.
* Report highlights: Fall 2020 course scheduling update; Virtual Student Orientation and Registration in June;
* **Question:** Can you talk about how many classes we are offering in person?
  + **Comment**: It looks like we have a lot more in person than we do, but something about the way the data was collected is responsible for that.
  + **Comment**: Those courses will be offered in some form, depending on executive orders. We re-ran data with some courses removed because the percentages looked like we had a lot more in-person than we do. We aren’t eliminating any classes, just trying to present the data in a sensible way.

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

* Short meeting last week with a lot of discussion about different responses from various universities across the state and faculty concerns.
* Budgetary impacts at the state level are one major concern, especially as regards next year’s budget. The governor is obliged to make across-the-board cuts if there is a budget shortfall unless the legislature calls a special session and does something else. Across the board cuts could even impact HECC’s ability to do its work.
* Other universities’ faculty have concerns about shared governance and course modality. The senate passed a motion to make a statement reinforcing the importance of shared governance. This statement will be shared on the FS website when it is available.

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

* Applications for Director of Gen Ed are due this Friday, May 29th.
* Jeff Templeton is the Gen Ed chair for next year.
* Call for First Year Seminar proposals coming up.

## **5. Faculty Senate Business**

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

* Melissa Cannon has volunteered to be Faculty Senate secretary
  + 24 in favor - Melissa elected as Faculty Senate secretary for FY 2020-2021.
* Nominations from the floor for at-large positions:
  + Melanie Landon-Hayes nominated, and accepts.
    - 26 in favor - Melanie elected to an at-large senator position for FY 2020-2021.
* If you have a self-nomination or would like to nominate a colleague, please email the name to Kristin.

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

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

* Proposal withdrawn by presenter.

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

**7.1 Planning Minor – proposal to drop (Sriram Khé)**

* Curriculum PDF on faculty senate website.
* **Question:** Are you planning to completely get rid of the planning minor or add it as a certificate instead?
  + **Comment**: We are planning to drop it completely.

**7.2 Autism Spectrum Disorder Specialization Certificate – proposal to drop (Maria Peterson-Ahmad)**

**7.3 Early Intervention/Special Ed I Endorsement – proposal to drop (Maria Peterson-Ahmad)**

**7.4 Early Intervention/Special Ed II Endorsement – proposal to drop (Maria Peterson-Ahmad)**

* Curriculum PDFs on faculty senate website.
* Graduate Studies committee wants to drop these three items and bring them back after revamping them.

**7.5 Proposed changes to FS Bylaws (Kristin Latham-Scott)**

* PDF of proposed changes on Faculty Senate website.
* **Comment**: Criminal Justice name is Criminal Justice Sciences
* **Question:** This is our last official meeting until July according to the current bylaws. Will we be meeting in June this year?
  + **Comment from Kristin**: I will call a special meeting for June to vote on the proposed changes.

**7.6 (Kimberly Jensen)**

New proposal brought forward from the floor:

Proposal text reads as follows:

*In light of the financial crisis created by the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic, and given that legislation required for a Western Oregon University Doctorate of Physical Therapy has not passed the Oregon State Legislature and that Western does not have the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Committee approval for such a program, the members of the Faculty Senate of Western Oregon University call for a moratorium on all funding relating to a Doctorate of Physical Therapy program until the end of the financial crisis and the period of uncertainty due to the pandemic.* *Allocating scarce resources to a program not yet approved is not a strategic decision for WOU in these uncertain conditions.*

Motion made to bring the above proposal from the floor as new business.

Motion seconded.

* **Comment:** I think we need to think about the campus as a whole, not just surviving but progressing. I am greatly concerned about the money going into the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DpT) but am also concerned about financial challenges and enrolment and think part of the original proposal for the DpT was to help make WOU more stable. Since the university’s financial situation has decreased, I think this program is even more important. The market is high and there are not many other offerings in this area in Oregon. I am concerned
* **Comment**: In the time this was proposed, the idea is that we would be one of the first. But OIT (who had a press release a few weeks ago) and OSU Cascades have already been moving forward.
  + **Responding comment:** I’m not sure about OIT. So far as I know we are ahead of them in other ways.
* **Comment**: Recently programs have had to put together descriptions of their programs and enrollment with the implication that these will be used in retrenchment / program curtailment. This proposal doesn’t say we should not offer the DpT in the future, but that now is not a good time to set funds aside for it. I would like to see this
* **Question:** Is there a time sensitive factor that would make it necessary for us to vote on this now as opposed to in two weeks time?
  + **Comment:** It sounds like cuts might be made imminently, before we get a chance to discuss and vote on this next time.
* **Question**: Can we have information from President Fuller or Provost Winningham about next steps and the budget?
  + **Comment from Rex Fuller**: While this motion is carefully worded, I want to start by saying that the conversation around program prioritization is driven by Article 15 of bargaining. A plan will be developed after next week’s meeting about that article. At this meeting, the faculty union has an opportunity to present alternatives for the president to consider in developing a comprehensive plan.
  + So the timeline will vary a bit, but I would encourage any faculty member to express their concerns through the bargaining team. This is a fairly extensive request and I would ask why it should be voted on without discussing with all division members. We are facing a 17% cut and a limit of a 4-5% increase, and there are a lot of things that need to be managed while setting our budget going forward.
* **Question:** While the role of Faculty Senate is different from that or bargaining, I think both are bodies that have an important voice regarding to faculty and curriculum.
* **Comment:** I would like to call the question (e.g. vote now) on the motion to vote on it at our next meeting.
  + **Motion to add proposal as new business passes with 24 votes for and 2 votes against.** (28 total senators are present at this meeting, so this passes the ⅔ vote threshold.)

## **8. Discussion items**

No discussion items.

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

### **9.1 Curriculum Solutions Task Force Updates (Laurie Burton)**

* Report available on Faculty Senate website
* **Question:** Does it automatically draw related programs from the catalog?
  + **Comment**: The information is available from the registrar’s office. This automation should make it easier on faculty for relatively small changes. In the case of large changes it would still make sense to start reaching out to people earlier.
  + **Comment from Camila Gabaldon**: The pulling of related programs is live now (as of early May). The sending to others is the part that hasn’t been implemented yet.

### **9.2 Enrollment Marketing in light of COVID-19 (Marion Barnes)**

* Report will be added to the Faculty Senate website.
* Please email barnesm@wou.edu with any questions

## **Motion to extend to 5:15pm**

* Motion seconded
* **Motion passes**.

## **10. Announcements**

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

* Files available on the Faculty Senate website for both policies.
* Policy one: Distribution of indirect costs
* Policy two: Definition of “Centers”
* Please take a look and email Bev if you have questions or find typos.

### **10.2 Service survey from Committee on Committees (Stewart Baker, Melanie Landon-Hays, Becka Morgan)**

* Survey on faculty service will be sent out.

## **11. Special meeting on June 9th to vote on this meeting’s new business.**

* Motion to have a special meeting June 9th, 3:30 to 5:00pm
* Motion seconded.
* Motion passes.
* **Question:** This is my last meeting as a senator. Do I need to be present in the June meeting to vote?
  + **Response from Kristin Latham-Scott:** Existing senators should plan to attend the meeting. Since it’s a special meeting, it is part of the current academic year’s set of meetings.

## **Meeting adjourned: 5:08 pm**

# **5 – 5:15 p.m.**

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