Faculty Senate Minutes

January 12, 2021

**Virtual Meeting**

*Primarily paperless, wou.edu/facultysenate*

# 3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

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

# 3:30 – 5 p.m.

# *Business Meeting*

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# 1. Call to order

# 2. Call of the roll (by typing your name into the chat)

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# 3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting (see website)

* Motion to approve-seconded
* **Minutes approved as posted**

# 4. Institutional Reports

# 4.1. Faculty Senate President

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website

# 4.2. University President

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Question**: What did university spend the money from the CARES Act on previously?
* **President Fuller**: Expenses included things such as payroll ($1.8 M) and technology (e.g., servers). I can look back at the report that was presented earlier last year, but it is not available to give an answer at the moment. The CARES Act first passed in April and had specific limitations, especially on technology.
* **Question**: When Article 15 cuts were rolled out, they were predicated on the fact that we had a deficit, but we have since received CARES Act money and the State funding may actually be flat or increase. What amount of money could we get such that the proposed cuts to programs would no longer be necessary? What is the number?
* **President Fuller**: CARES funding was spent on student aid and institutional expenses. The current relief package also includes student aid and institutional expenses. One requirement is that we can spend no less on student aid—about $2.1M. Estimates for one-time funding for WOU include this amount for student aid and about $5M for institutional expenses. We have lost revenue and incurred a lot of expenses this year that affected our bottom line. Going into the next biennium, with cost increases, we do expect that ongoing costs won’t be covered. We will be lobbying for additional funds and expect a $60M dollar shortfall for the seven public universities from the Governor’s recommended budget. At the Jan 22nd Budget Update, we will be considering questions such as: How is the funding going to work from the State? Where we are with FY21 (including Article 15)? And what are the forecasts for the next biennium?
* **Provost Winningham**: It does look like the savings from the Article 15 cuts are $2.5 M on instructional salary alone, but that doesn’t include OPE, and then some expenses won’t be realized until retirements and other departures. It is almost impossible to give precise answer. We could make a guess but there are many moving pieces; $3.4 M total would be my best guess for the next academic year.
* **Question**: It seems like there is a lot of unknown information that would really be helpful to know before moving forward with these decisions/cuts.
* **President Fuller**: There are lots of unknowns every year, and with every biennium (e.g., What is the tuition recommendation? - we do have a 5% cap; What will enrollment be? – enrollment decline has been the biggest surprise in recent years). This will be part of the January 22nd presentation. There are lots of unknowns, but we do have an instructional cost that does not line up with enrollment reality, and these costs need to be aligned.

# 4.3. University Provost

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website

# 4.4. IFS Report

* Report not posted.
* The committee had a meeting with a focus on the upcoming legislative session last Friday. We hosted Senator Dembrow and Representative León to hear their priorities/impressions of legislative concepts coming up. Senator Dembrow chairs the Senate Education committee; he wants to remove roadblocks for transfer (especially common course numbering, as well as aligning names and outcomes for lower-division courses at OR public universities) and to pass part-time health care packages for faculty who have part-time work at institutions. León’s first priority is the Student Voices bill, a study that would involve listening sessions with students at universities and community colleges about their priorities. She is also interested in GED placement test bypass legislation.
* There was also talk that the legislature might want to make higher ed available to incarcerated individuals. We will also see a return of the Transfer Student Bill of Rights (introduced last session but not passed due to walkout). Other issues included a requirement that students have course material costs disclosed to them at registration, and an initiative to fund a food and housing navigator at each campus.

# 5. Consideration of Old Business: Proposed Changes to AUMP Proposal (David Foster)

* Report available on the FS website
* Motion to approve: seconded
* **Motion passes with 25 YES votes**

# 6. Consideration of New Business: None

# 7. Discussion items: None

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# 8. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports:

# 8.1 SHCC Services (Beth Scroggins)

* Report not posted.
* Essentially presentation covered how services are funded and how students access them. SHCC services are fully funded by student fees; students taking in-person classes are the only ones automatically assessed fees. So that revenue has been significantly reduced. Students with 1 credit or more *in-person* are charged $145/term. If students are all online, there is no fee, but they can pay the fee to get services. This is not a change from previous years.
* We have had significant staff reductions but we are offering the same services. The wait time for students is monitored each week; medical demand has increased, so we were able to increase medical provider FTE. We monitor services so students get what they need and what they are paying for. We are doing tele-counseling so we have expanded our reach. Due to licensing there are limitations however; LPC license only allows us to practice in Oregon, so we can only counsel students in another state if they already had a relationship with us while in Oregon.
* For Medical, we are doing in-person services. At first we were just doing telemedicine, but opened it up. Students must be triaged and then we decide if we can help them in person or over video. We all prefer in person. But medical providers can only practice in Oregon.
* We are doing COVID testing.
* Our costs - $145/term – are the lowest for OR universities. They get unlimited visits, while most other universities have a limit. It’s a good deal for students. It’s like insurance, paying the fee allows students to have access whenever they need services. Fees did used to be $139/term, so they did increase; students voted on it, overwhelmingly in favor. Students are some of our biggest advocates.
* We do offer after-hours services - counselors are on call – and can be accessed through Public Safety. We are also involved with the CARE Team, and if there’s a mental health issue, we reach out.
* **Question**: Thanks for all you do. Does WOU assume students have health insurance?
* **Beth Scroggins**: We don’t bill insurance; insurance is not required. We give students a fee slip for them to submit to insurance. Most students are not on insurance so this is where they go for services. We also help them sign up for OHP. And some are on parents’ health insurance. Some come for the first time because they like to get health care without their parents knowing.
* **Question:** Can you give a sense of lag time you are monitoring, to get in for regular counseling with a counselor?
* **Beth Scroggins**: So far, we always have availability on Monday, so the wait is only a day or so. A student may want to see a particular counselor and can only meet certain times they can meet. So they have to wait, which may be 2-3 weeks. Depends on specific students and their requests. But generally we have same-week availability.
* Please feel free to contact me any time, and for students, just refer them and we’ll work out details with them.

# 8.2 Midterm Course Evaluation Survey (Mike Baltzley)

* Report available on the FS website
* Main points: Midterm evaluations are common and can be helpful; this is a modified survey from UT Austin with 15 questions mostly about students’ own work/preparation for the course. Faculty can use what they like. The survey provides feedback to instructos for what is working for them. PDF available on <https://wou.edu/academic-effectiveness/resources/teaching-resources/>
* Will email link out Tuesday of Week 3 and again Monday of Week 4; encourage faculty to open survey and also discuss results with class and plan to implement changes if possible.

# 9. Announcements: None

## 4:37 motion to adjourn

# 5 – 5:15 p.m.

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