Faculty Senate Minutes

April 13, 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)

* 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**: Regarding the legislative measures, some others not mentioned are HB4146, designed to give NTT faculty health benefits if they teach at multiple institutions of higher ed; SB112, amendment to make ORP default retirement plan unless they choose PERS, which seems detrimental to new faculty; and SB854, which has a whole slew of changes to structures of governing boards of higher education.
* **President Fuller**: I will get back to you about HB4146. I can’t confirm our position on SB112, and as for SB854, I believe it is being referred to the Rules Committee of the Senate. Not sure if OR Council of Presidents has taken a position. I will follow up with you on these.
* **Comment**: In your email you referenced a position that would be temporary to help students forced to leave helping them get to graduation; as many students do not want to be taking online classes, I would encourage you to encourage advising office to work on direct outreach from programs to get them back on track.
* **President Fuller**: Good advice; this individual would work with Niki Weight and her team. We are also getting close to announcement about what Fall looks like, which will hopefully include face to face activities. I do want to acknowledge what a challenge this has been.
* **Comment**: I had a lot of students last spring who had no idea about CARES funding/eligibility - how will this be publicized moving forward and what else can be done so they don’t miss out?
* **President Fuller**: We reached out to all currently enrolled students and any students enrolled last spring/last fall who “stopped out” - all got direct emails with a survey to their WOU address. One issue is email overload; students often miss this information, but directly reaching out and referring them to financial aid helps. When another round comes there will be another opportunity and we will try to improve the process. There is still time for them to fill out the survey which asks how they’ve been impacted/financial need.
* **Question**: Does the univ have plans to help undocumented students?
* **President Fuller**: We did for the first round, but it is an open-question for the second round. I will need to do some research since I don’t know it from the top of my head. Current students who were enrolled should have received the survey.

# 4.3. University Provost

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website

# 4.4. IFS Report

* Reports available on FS website.
* **Tad Shannon**: I wanted to mention that the common course numbering bill is moving forward limiting the scope (i.e., a couple hundred courses). It calls for faculty to come together and to have a seat at the table to say what the common course outcomes/details will be. So, it seems to be moving forward but with more faculty input.
* **Emily Plec**: Please see reports for highlights such as one-time funding for summer programs and bridge programs to help students, deadlines for ways and means, presentation from OSU about COVID transmission, and a HECC strategic initiatives document.

# 5. Executive Committee Business

* 5.1 Nominating Committee (Kristin Latham-Scott, Chair/Past President)
* Reminder: Bylaws require that we announce candidates 3 day before this meeting, and we only have Stewart Baker interested in continuing as FS Vice President. Ben Cote and Cindy Ryan expressed interest in the Secretary position. There have been no nominations for FS President. Election will take place April 27th (2nd FS meeting). We will continue to take nominations for at least another week. FSEC at-large call for nominations will be happening in May.

# 6. Consideration of Old Business:

* 6.1 Article 15 Drops - Reports posted (Initiated by Faculty)
  + 6.1.1 Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Certificate
  + 6.1.2 Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Minor
  + 6.1.3 Forensic Anthropology Minor, Anthropology Majors
* **Question**: Are these drops these faculty were prepared to make or would they prefer to keep these programs?
* **Miyuki Arimoto**: It is our collective decision to drop these minors (CJ).
* Motion to approve (drop as a block). Motion seconded.
* **Motion passes**
* 6.1.1 - Motion to approve dropping the Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Certificate
* Motion passes with YES - 19 votes, NO - 3 votes
* 6.1.2 - Motion to approve dropping the Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Minor
* Motion passes with YES - 19 votes, NO - 3 votes
* 6.1.3 - Motion to approve dropping the Forensic Anthropology Minor, Anthropology Track
* Motion passes with YES - 15 votes, NO - 4 votes

# 7. Consideration of New Business: None

* 7.1 Article 15 Drops (Initiated by Provost Winningham)
  + 7.1.1. Anthropology, Non-Thesis, B.A.
  + 7.1.2. Anthropology, Thesis Option, B.A.
  + 7.1.3. Anthropology Minor
  + 7.1.4. Earth System Science Minor
  + 7.1.5. Physics Minor
  + 7.1.6. Geography, B.A.
  + 7.1.7. Philosophy, B.S.
  + 7.1.8. Philosophy, B.A.
  + 7.1.9. Philosophy Minor
* **Faculty Senate President**: Notes from Curriculum Committee are posted on FS website - they voted no on all these proposals.
* **Comment**: If these go through, especially the Philosophy minor, then WOU will lack something OCE had lacked. When we transitioned from normal school to university these additions were made, and with these current changes, this is a major step backward. We seem to be retreating from the stated mission of the university if we cut out these programs. From a practical standpoint, I’m not sure why Senate is voting on these. Why vote if rejected by Curriculum Committee? In this case, even though Curriculum Committee was clear, we are still looking at it as a Senate because of Article 15. I’d prefer we vote - and vote against all - program eliminations. Admin may ignore this, but we should express our will. [Expression of support for philosophy and anthropology].
* **Comment**: Having served under a number of deans, provosts and presidents - one thing I felt I could always expect was a conversation before a program was eliminated. I always believed if my department was threatened, an administrator would come to me and help me figure out a plan. What troubles me most is that this didn’t happen. If nothing else, federal money from the pandemic should buy us time to address the challenges and work in a collaborative way.
* **Comment**: These programs are fundamental to Liberal Arts; I’m not sure we can even have a Liberal Arts university without these programs. We don’t know what world is going to be like - not what it was before pandemic, but we are being shortsighted in making these cuts. Many professionals will not have had humanities training. It’s hard to understand savings and long-term benefits of these cuts.
* **Comment**: Speaking to minors that are being eliminated, while I understand the financial situation, I do not believe these should be eliminated. Faculty should be able to continue to offer these minors. I wish admin would work with faculty to continue to offer programs without any cost to university. Minor enrollment trends indicate that some are being retained even with lower numbers.
* **Tad Shannon**: In speaking up for faculty governance of the curriculum, I suggest we endorse the Curriculum Committee findings/recommendations. I can’t see any reason to endorse the proposals as they stand.
* Motion to suspend order of business to vote on a proposal to endorse Curriculum Committee recommendations. Motion seconded.
* **Motion passes – 24 YES votes, 1 NO vote**
* Comment: [asking for clarification]
* Motion: Vote to endorse the curriculum committee's statement on declining to drop the programs brought to them under Article 15 in their March 16th, 2021 meeting - Text of endorsement: “The faculty senate endorses the curriculum committee’s decision to reject program drops not initiated by program faculty and affirms the importance of faculty control over the curriculum.” Motion seconded.
* **Discussion**: Even if this motion passes, this would not table to proposals? We have to wait until they come up as old business, and then we can table them?
* **Faculty Senate President**: Yes.
* **Motion passes – 24 YES votes**
* Motion to extend meeting to no later than 5:15pm. Motion seconded.
* **Motion passes – 21 YES votes, 1 NO vote**

7.2 Student Senate Resolution 8.21 (Alicia Ibaraki, Liz Marquez Gutierrez, and Makana Waikiki)

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Comment**: On behalf of someone from Master Campus Planning committee last year, we found that building did not have a direction and would give full support to create this center and a vision for this building.
* **Alicia Ibaraki**: We do have more time, so can you walk through the financials a bit?
* **Makana Waikiki**: Would love to. Last year we were offered $2M by Board of Trustees to subsidize IFC funds, and with student autonomy being priority, we accepted only $1M. Another $1M was not used - so we are showing that it can go to this center for recruitment and retention. Costs include: Director/staff (e.g., retaining custodial staff cut this past year); other payroll expenses; building costs; and services and supplies. We also want to do programming to help support our BIPOC students and help build an inclusive environment.
* 7.3 Proposal to Revise S/NC Grade Policy (Amy Clark and Niki Weight)
* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Question**: If I have a student who elected S/NC and can’t make that C-, can they switch back to get a D to earn the credits to get to 180?
* **Niki** **Weight**: They have until Week 7 to change it either way. That would be our recommendation. After Week 7, the student could petition to make the change, so there is a pathway.
* **Question**: How does S/NC affect GPA?
* **Niki** **Weight**: S/NC does not affect GPA, they receive credit for class and it applies to requirements for degree/gen ED with Satisfactory or no credit for unsatisfactory.

# 8. Discussion items

* None

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# 9. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports

* 9.1. Accelerated Undergraduate to Masters Pathway (AUMP) (Hillary Fouts)
* Moved to future meeting
* 9.2. Financial Aid and Student Withdrawal Process (Kella Helier and Leslie Lloyd)
* Moved to future meeting

# 10. Announcements

* 10.1. Upcoming Virtual AES (Xiapopeng Gong)

Moved to future meeting

## 5:17pm motion to adjourn

# 5 – 5:15 p.m.

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