Faculty Senate Minutes

April 27, 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
* Note that during our June 8th meeting we will have a (virtual) celebration of retiring faculty

# 4.2. University President

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website

# 4.3. University Provost

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Question**: Is there any survey data on course modality preferences of students in Fall?
* **Provost Winningham**: From looking at anecdotal evidence, faculty have said students are having trouble with fully online courses, and that’s also been reported in national coverage. We have not conducted a survey, however.
* **Question**: Regarding the scheduling worksheets and fall schedule - is it recommended that if we planned our sections at pre-pandemic capacity that we go ahead and reduce caps? Are shadow sections being created?
* **Provost Winningham:** Leave your capacity at pre-pandemic levels. It will be harder to adjust if our capacity ends up being higher after we lowered them. We are trying to be flexible and wait for state guidance based on distancing bubbles. We do think we will be able to add some rooms, such as the Pacific Room and Columbia room, to allow for extra capacity. Regarding shadow courses, given the uncertainty, we have to begin with an assumption of reduced capacity, and if demand starts to build we will have “shadow sections,” so if needed, we will find a room (or combine sections if possible). We may even need to hire NTTs or have TT overload, if needed. For now, we are trying to stay flexible.
* **Comment:** I understand the need for listing courses at normal capacity - but our courses in Creative Arts are interactive, and we need to know what happens if we are further reduced. I can think of some odd cases in Creative Arts that may not apply to others.
* **Provost Winningham:** Let’s communicate about this outside the meeting.

# 4.4. IFS Report

* No report on the Faculty Senate website
* We have not had an IFS meeting
* **Emily Plec**: Tad updated everyone last time about the common course numbering bill that appears to be moving forward but with more faculty involvement; our next meeting is yet to be scheduled, but we can bring questions if you have them re: how other institutions are handling issue; there is still plenty of time to get on the agenda.

# 5. Executive Committee Business

* 5.1 Nominating Committee (Kristin Latham-Scott, Chair/Past President)
* Note from nominating committee: we are putting out a call for at-large nominations for Executive Committee soon
* Elections for officers - at least one name for every office. According to our Bylaws, these are conducted by ballot, tallied by secretary. Can vote for a candidate or write in name. In the case of a tie, there is a runoff.
* **Voting Results:** 
  + **FS President: Elisa Maroney (24 votes)**
  + **FS VP: Stewart Baker (24 votes)**
  + **FS Secretary: Ben Cote (11 votes)**
* Note: The meeting date (for end of current service term) is June 8, 2021.

# 6. Consideration of Old Business:

* 6.1 Article 15 Drops - Reports posted (Initiated by Provost Winningham)
* 6.1.1. Anthropology, Non-Thesis, B.A.
* 6.1.2. Anthropology, Thesis Option, B.A.
* 6.1.3. Anthropology Minor
* 6.1.4. Earth System Science Minor
* 6.1.5. Physics Minor
* 6.1.6. Geography, B.A.
* 6.1.7. Philosophy, B.S.
* 6.1.8. Philosophy, B.A.
* 6.1.9. Philosophy Minor
* **Tabled with no motion on the floor**
* 6.2 Student Senate Resolution 8.21 (Alicia Ibaraki, Liz Marquez Gutierrez, and Makana Waikiki)
* Report available
* Motion to approve the Student Senate Resolution
* **Motion passes – 23 YES votes, 1 NO vote**
* 6.3 Proposal to Revise S/NC Grade Policy (Amy Clark and Niki Weight)
* Report posted
* **Comment:** I think it’s important to go back to our divisions and discuss and collect feedback; I’m highly in support of revising this policy to make it more consistent with other universities, but this is a long-term decision; consider tabling to next meeting
* **Question:** I support this recommendation; why is C- being proposed as the passing grade? What’s the rationale if D- is considered passing in the current emergency policy and in classes overall? It can be a barrier if students get a lower grade and do not get credit.
* **Amy Clark**: This was the policy other universities have, also for prerequisite point of view, a C equivalent is considered passing.
* **Question:** Two questions that we would like to clarify: is this just for undergrads or also grads? Also, what outreach is planned if we make this change so students understand the changes?
* **Amy Clark**: To answer your first question, there is no S/NC for graduate students, so this wouldn’t apply to them. In terms of outreach, we have no specific plan, but we need to communicate clearly and broadly, especially the first year.
* **Comment:** Stewart asked for a formal motion or suggestion. I am in favor of attempt to table this.
* **Comment**: Note that, as addressed in previous meeting, students can petition to switch back their grade back to a letter grade instead of S/NC
* **Comment**: If this is tabled, this cannot be implemented for 21/22 because we will miss the catalog deadline, correct?
* **Faculty Senate President**: That is correct.
* Motion to table the vote. Seconded.
* **Motion passes – 17 YES votes, 2 NO votes**

# 7. Consideration of New Business

* 7.1 Contemporary Music, M.M. (Major) - Drop (Melanie Landon-Hays)
* The Graduate Studies Committee voted to disapprove passage of dropping this program as it is not a proposal put through by the faculty, but the administration. We would like to see this tabled until someone from administration can come to graduate studies committee and explain the reason for dropping this program. Table it until someone can come to explain the drop reasons. RW is proposer. Our move to table was Tad Shannon, seconded by Greg Zobel and approved unanimously by the committee.

# 8. Discussion items

* 8.1 FERPA Practices at WOU (Rachel Harrington)
* Report available on Faculty Senate website
* Primary concern that what FERPA permits at other institutions is not allowed here, and it maybe is being used as a tool for discouraging behavior while some things are not actually violations; when we are told by administration something is a FERPA violation, is it actually illegal/putting WOU at risk? Legitimately a FERPA violation? Based on comparison with other institutions it seems many practices that are not allowed at WOU are allowed there. The primary rationale we have been given for not allowing practices is to protect students, but many of these practices are very student-centric.

We need to know who decides what has educational value and if it should be allowed or not allowed. Although we have FERPA trainings, they are very limited (mostly covering what can be shared from student records), but we need a point person (not in administration) and a repository for information that faculty can use so they know exactly what is permitted.

* **Comment**: Thank you for bringing this, a better understanding of FERPA is important, e.g., knowing best practice vs legality. I’d support additional trainings.

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# 9. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports

* 9.1. Accelerated Undergraduate to Masters Pathway (AUMP) (Hillary Fouts)
* Approved last year; putting website on our radar to share with students (wou.edu/aump)
* One thing to emphasize: this is a pathway, an on-ramp to allow an undergraduate student to get a head start on a graduate program; allows them to save time and money, taking up to 16 credits and use them toward both degrees. Could be a good recruitment tool. Website has info for faculty who want to submit a pathway. This is a joint collaboration between an UG and grad program (submitted together).

Amber Deets is the point person; please discuss with her for further information or questions.

* 9.2. OER Updates (Sue Kunda)
* Report posted
* Survey of students (~90) in classes with teachers who received stipend to convert classes to OER; many positive responses with regard to using OER materials

# 10. Announcements

* 10.1. Upcoming Virtual AES (Xiapopeng Gong)
* S. Baker spoke briefly about this upcoming event; flyer available on Faculty Senate website; Link to deadlines: <https://wou.edu/pure/academicexcellenceshowcase/deadlines/>

Contact for issues: [pure@wou.edu](mailto:pure@wou.edu)

* Shout-out: Leanne Merrill who won the 2021 Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce Award for Educator of the Year

## 4:52pm motion to adjourn

# 5 – 5:15 p.m.

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