**Faculty Senate Meeting 4/10/12**

**I. Roll Call: Present**

Bob Hautala, Tracy Smiles, Robert Monge, Dana Ulveland, Kristin Latham, David Foster, David Doellinger, Kathy Farrell, Claire Ferraris, Mark Van Steeter, Michael Freeman, Cornelia Paraskevas, Terry Gingerich, Amanda Smith, Keven Malkewitz, Michael Phillips, Keller Coker, Katherine Schmidt, Cheryl Beaver

**II. Correction to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

X-Com met last Thursday (4/5) to set agenda. Took no independent actions on curricular items. Complete revisions to the WOU Governance Charter and Faculty Senate Bylaws and discussed process for disseminating for feedback. It was determined to route them to the past five Senate Presidents (Kat Schmidt, Mark Girod, Shaun Huston, Bryan Dutton, John Rector), who will give feedback at the next executive committee meeting. Depending on feedback, the revisions could come before Senate this term.

All senators should have received their invite to the luncheon with the Chancellor. There is no agenda for this luncheon. The invitations were based on leadership positions held, specifically: LAS Division Chairs, COE Division Chairs and coordinators, senate executive committee members, reps from Library, Teaching Research Institute, IFS and all Faculty Senators. If you know someone who would really like to attend have them contact Gavin.

Question raised if the Chancellor will hold a question/answer session or give a presentation.

Answer: No, he is not doing anything official but feel free to discuss things with him. He expects to get questions.

Question raised regarding the purpose of his visit to campus that day.

Answer: He would like to see new building projects, new developments and any other changes since his last visit.

Question raised about if the Chancellor will have a microphone when responding to questions or if discussions will follow a one-on-one format.

Answer: It is suspected that the Chancellor won’t have a microphone nor have time for one-on-one sessions. It will most likely be a small group participating in a question/answer session. If you want to speak individually with him, appointments can be made.

**Mark Weiss, Western Oregon University –**

The outlook for the future, in terms of state economy, looks like things may be moving to the upside. However, too soon to tell.

**Marshall Guthrie, Staff Senate –**

Will send out an all-fac email regarding staff senate elections. Also is asking everyone to please fill out the survey that was sent out over email.

**Jonathan Farmer, ASWOU –**

The Vote or Vote campaign is happening now. Students may be contacting professors to request a few minutes of class time to make a short presentation about registering to vote. This is important for students because it is how we become involved and gain our voice. We don’t have money or power but we do have a voice and voting is our way of being heard. If you could please allow students to use this time it would be much appreciated. Earth week and diversity week are both approaching. If anyone has any ideas or would like to help they would be more than willing to make you part of their program so please contact.

The bill titled “Know Before You Go” is essentially a bunch of data that will be presented individually to public. The data includes statistics for specific programs at universities and how successful the programs are. They couldn’t get specifics on what this bill is being used for. This is still in its infancy stage and students have taken a neutral stance until more information is known.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Coincidence and synchronicity of talking about the Campus Compacts today is that they came before Provosts council last week.

Question raised regarding SPOC and their work with retention. It is known that they are trying to pinpoint the courses where the most students are getting D and F grades. Does this mean that the course is bad and what is this information being used for?

Answer: The information was recently gathered in the last few weeks and is a summary of the incidence of D and F grades in courses over the last four years. Nothing has been done with this information yet. Retention rates are a large issue for everyone. It has been noticed that graduation rates overall are dropping. One suspicion is economics. Students often need to go to work for financial reasons or they simply can’t afford to pay for another year of schooling. An early alert system can identify if a student is going to stay with a course or not.

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

None.

**VI. Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Report**

None.

**VII. Committee Review**

None.

**VIII. Informational Presentations**

**WOU Campus Compact, Provost Kent Neely –**

Passed under Senate bill 909, the Oregon Education Investment Board is chaired by governor Kitzhaber. The OEIB will negotiate and oversee achievement compacts. Achievement Compacts will concern student enrollment, retention rates, etc. Clarification over the past couple of weeks has revealed that their purpose is to fulfill the state goal of 40:40:20. The actual numbers that this will involve is staggering, approximately 60,000 people, though it is not sure that this statistic is reliable. Do believe that this is what is necessary for Oregonians to remain competitive in this economy.

Some variables measured and reported are the number of students eligible for PELL grants, the number of bachelor degrees, the number of bachelor degrees awarded to rural Oregonians, the number of advanced degrees awarded to Oregonians, etc. Our measures will be developed for the future to deal with the employment of graduates and the satisfaction of alumni with their education. For the next two years, students are already in the system. The challenge is how these dimensions will affect recourses.

This is a continuing work in progress and more meetings regarding this are likely to come.

What makes all of this interesting is the fact the University of Oregon and Portland State both want to separate themselves, at least partly, from OUS through independent operating boards. This could have large affects on the rest of the universities. Also, governor Kitzhaber is in his second term of office and it is rumored he will not run again. This could also have a large affect on what we expect to see.

Overall a work in progress.

Question raised concerning the number or percentage of Oregonians and how it would be decided that someone is an Oregonian.

Answer: if non-residents decide to establish residency they would become Oregonians. Western does not require documentation of citizenship for application.

Question raised if identifying race as an opt-in category will make information less reliable.

Answer: Yes, makes it hard to quantify results. How can we say we are 19% Latino if selecting race is optional.

Question raised if this is in relation to how much funding we get and if so why and how.

Answer: Yes, tied to funding. We do know the size of the institution plays a role. Western is not seen as a rural campus.

Question raised if students could be assigned values and become quotas. Could this possibly come with discrimination lawsuits?

Answer: This is definitely an interesting dimension. It is hard to say what this could bring.

Question raised regarding the motivations behind all of this.

Answer: This is characteristic of something on a national level that is also happening much closer to home. This represents a trend across the country. In comparison to other states, it is amazing how well Oregon does with what little we have. When legislature says we are not spending our money wisely, it is felt that they do not have all of the facts. Unfortunately, we do not have any evidence. It will take sometime to return to how we were. The rhetoric has changed.

Question raised if there is any good news hidden in all of this. It looks like they are finding every excuse to not fund higher educations. Could there possibly be a silver lining?

Answer: One good thing is that the economy is beginning to change. The second good thing is that the dimensions are the people we serve, continue to serve and identify. Also, other people being concerned about our rates could be a good thing.

**Commemoration and moment of silence for Dr. Hank Bersani**

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**