**Faculty Senate Meeting 1/25/11**

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Michael Freeman, Kevin Helppie, Jason Waite, Mike LeMaster, Bob Hautala, Mark Girod, Maria Dantas Whitney, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon , Zenon Zygmont, Jie Liu (for D. Olson), Tad Shannon, Susan Daniel, Cheryl Beaver, Pete Poston, David Foster, Gay Timken, Amanda Smith

**II. Call for Corrections to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

 Executive committee reviewed curriculum proposals during their last meeting (1/25). No new proposals have come to them recently; all were from the previous terms. Executive did approve the name changes to three linguistic courses and added a few prerequisites to some Health Education courses in committee. The curriculum proposal process has been slightly altered due to creation of the Portal. If a proposal is rejected or approved it will come into Gavin’s access on Portal. For example, the same proposal can be rejected, adjusted, resent, rejected again, adjusted, resent again and approved. Most of the observed problems have been navigational. Nothing new is being done to the portal as of last year (2009). Open to suggestions in ways to change and better Portal. Senate extended the deadline for proposals that need consideration in order for them to make it into the catalog. The deadline of proposals trying to make it into the catalog is January 11th for the Curriculum Committee, not the Senate. The general process follows that if you submit a proposal in Fall term, it is reviewed in committee during Winter term and present in catalog Spring term. Faculty Senate hopes that the committee is pleased with the Senate’s website. No complaints have been voiced as of now.

Suggestion made to adjust Portal so one can go back and amend their first proposal instead of having to resend another one. If duplicates appear Curriculum committee could address them and the duplicate issues would not have to come in front of Senate.

**John Minahan –**

The University’s total enrollment numbers have increased by108 students from the last year. 202 seniors remained enrolled while there was an increase of 81freshman. Retentions rates are successful (^ 7.66% in the last year). The numbers of extra students means that requests made to the IFC can all be filled, though not sure how. Western looks good for the next two years. However, four of Oregon’s universities are experiencing financial troubles. The last time this happened Western lost 1 million dollars in potential grants in order to cover the debts of the other universities. This could be troublesome for WOU. Will make the case to necessary committees and legislatures because this money would potentially be covering 12% of the budget. Numbers could possibly drop to covering 10% of the budget. Will not advocate WOU’s position at the expensive of anyone but do not want to give up money to schools that have not been run as well or where faculty has not worked as hard. In Oregon, success is not always the best thing because money will be moved from the successful schools to the not so successful schools. Will not change the tuition promise but tuition prices may have to change if support is cut. Given the state of the world, WOU has a strong status.

Question raised regarding OUS and if Western is still a part.

Answer: Western is still a part of OUS but OUS is breaking away from the state, which could change some things.

Question raised about if OUS breaking away is a final decision.

Answer: No. As of now, it is a house bill that the senate and house will most likely approve. It will probably take until 2012-2013 to take effect.

 **Lissa Catto—**

Monday’s presentation is being cancelled. The food drive is scheduled for Monday, February 21st.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

The proposal regarding a masters in interpreting went to the External Reviews Committee. They represent leaders in interpretational studies. They gave a good, supportive review. It will come before the Provost’s council this Thursday and the rest of the committees February 24th. The gerontology proposal will soon come before the Provost committee. It should sail through. The proposal for teaching English as a second language will come before the Provost council, also on February 24th. Proposals have all been very good.

The Secretary of State is still conducting a performance audit of the system. A teleconference was held where all the Provosts got together. Here, it was discovered that all campuses have already been interviewed. The audit is focusing on University of Oregon, Oregon State and WOU. The faculty have also all been interviewed. Division chairs from the College of Ed. And the science department may be contacted. The audit is targeting instructional capacity. This means that they are trying to figure out whether faculty do “enough.” It is looking at assignments from faculty, research vs. teaching and the curriculum. The goal is to have a report by mid March. Once report is finished it will be shared with committee. This will be a way to demonstrate to state legislature that Western is a hard working university.

Would like to thank everyone who was able to come to Campus Conversations last week and everyone who made contributions. Next date is scheduled for February 17th. Date for first year report has been moved to March 1st. Will have a draft of report.

Wants to encourage Senate to be aware of a book that was published and announced in The Chronicle with the title *Academically Adrift*. The findings are troubling. It states that 46 % of students who enter two year colleges showed no change in learning upon graduating. For students who enter four year colleges, the range was in the 30%. This should be taken seriously due to being based on factual information.

**Yasmin Ibarra, ASWOU –**

Not present.

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

**World Literature Course Changes:** Proposing to add three new courses and make some slight changes to four. The focus is in adding diversity offerings for U.S. minorities and the larger world literatures. Wants to be able to offer more to students. Will be first item of new business February 8th. (See article b. on Senate website)

**Study Abroad Diversity Credit:** Is proposing that all students who study abroad through WOU program be able to receive diversity credits for this. Are wanting to include courses from study abroad and international internships. There have been questions regarding international students who have taken classes abroad then come to Western, and whether they should be required to take diversity credits. This issue is still being looked at. The diversity requirement is very important but it was issued at a time when there were not very many international students or students studying abroad, so some changes need to be made. This proposal has been in the works for 3-4 years so it is well thought out. A second proposal regarding the international students and their diversity requirements will be made soon. Will be second item of old business on Feb 8th. (See article c.)

Question raised about requirements of a course before it becomes a diversity course.

Answer: It must go through a formal process and the Curriculum Committee to get designated as a diversity course. It is not possible to go through the formal process for classes that would be taken abroad. If this proposal is approved, something would have to be done to designate it. This proposal is not asking for anyone to go through the formal process or through Curriculum Committee. It is proposed that study abroad classes would automatically get the D designation.

Question raised about how diverse the experience has to be in order to get the D designation.

Answer: This has been greatly discussed. Culture immersion programs in the UK, Australia and New Zealand are just as diverse as programs in Asia, Africa and Spain. There are a variety of different courses that a student can take. A student could attend lectures in synagogues, churches, mosques, etc. Daily interactions also add to the diversity experience.

Question raised about if the diversity should come from the experience or the courses.

Answer: The course would need to be diverse because it is the one getting a credit. Most of the providers from abroad have natives from the countries teaching the courses. Requirements are that teachers have to integrate the environment into curriculum. If an American was teaching Shakespeare in London they would have to have the students attend plays around London and integrate surroundings. The course has to be connected to location in order to get approved. The cultural requirements for a bachelors of arts and science are different.

**Theory/Aural skills Course Changes:** Proposing that the nine credits required of aural skills be spread out so that two credit per term would be completed freshman year and one credit per term sophomore year. This being because it is a skills course and the students may need more time to develop their skills. Also proposing that aural diverges from theory so that it is not a lab but its own course. The classes will get separate numbers and student would have four years to complete the two different sequences. Also requesting that Orchestra be renumbered for convenience of advising and that students are required to take two out of the three terms of conducting. Music 471/571, 472/572 will now become part of a regular rotation and will be electives so there are upper division electives in rotation. Special topics in music theory and special topics in music history are being offered as three credit courses. Will be third item of old business on Feb 8th. (see article d.)

**Biology Department Course Changes:** The proposal is not requesting the addition of any new courses but only to change a few prerequisites due to the growth in biology in the past year. Requesting that Bio 102 be offered every term because it is a pre-req for nursing and requesting that Bio 102 be dropped as a pre-req for 103. Human anatomy and physiology is also required for pre-nursing, with a passing grade in Bio 102 and math 111. Want to change the passing grade to a minimum grade of a C-. Want to add a winter lagging sequence in Bio 211-213 in order to allow students to take Bio 102 in the fall. Bio 211 would still be a pre-req for Bio 213 but not Bio 212. Bio 314 Genetics, Bio 315 Cell biology and Bio 316 Evolution are requiring Bio 211 and math 111as prerequisites. Need students to take 211-213 and 314 and Chem 221 for class of Bio 315. For Bio 331 are proposing the same pre-reqs but would like Cell biology to be taken before Microbiology. Bio 357 Ecology is requiring Bio 211-213 and math 111. It is a common theme that math is being avoided until as late as possible. The chemistry sequence requires math 111 so the department feels that the biology sequence should too. Will be fourth item of new business on Feb 8th. (see article e.)

Question raised about what the required prerequisites for Chem. 221 are.

Answer: The pre-reqs are high school chemistry and math 111.

**Visual Communications Design Program:** Proposing to add another major in the art department that parallels the current major. It would allow students to focus on graphic design and the preparation of students for the visual communication field. Department wants students to be aware of the research, the skills and the preparation that would be required. The foundational courses will still be taken by everyone in the art department, including graphic design students. This would also require the addition of a course in digital motion. The introductory courses would use the same approach as other courses. A slight alteration that is being made to the existing art major is the changing of a few course numbers in a sequence. There is no entry into the art department by portfolio, as of now. Will be 5th item of new business on Feb. 8th. (see article f.)

Question raised about when a student would have to decide what their major focus will be.

Answer: They would have to make a decision by the end of their sophomore year to the beginning of their junior year.

Question raised about if students are required to have a minor.

Answer: Yes.

Question raised about if any discussions were had with the computer science department.

Answer: Yes many discussions were had. It might be recommended that some declare their minor in computer science or that some of the LACC options be computer science courses.

**VI. Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Report**

None.

**VII. Committee Review**

None.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**