**Faculty Senate Meeting 2/8/11**

**I: Roll Call: Present**

Zenon Zygmont, Michael Freeman, Tad Shannon, Scott Grim, Susan Daniel, Henry Hughes, Jason Waite, Cheryl Beaver, Mike LeMaster, Pete Poston, Terry Gingerich, David Doellinger, Bob Hautala, Gay Timken, Amanda Smith, Mark Girod, Tracy Smiles, Maria Dantas-Whitney, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon

**II. Call for Corrections to Minutes**

No corrections to minutes.

**Action:** Minutes approved.

**III. President’s Reports**

**Gavin Keulks, Faculty Senate –**

The Executive committee met on Thursday (2/3). Thirty curriculum proposals were approved in committee. All changes that were approved were minor, including changes to the number of credits and pre-reqs, etc. If anyone has an interest to see the list of approved courses, Gavin has it. The proposals are making their way through the portal now. Would like to thank the Curriculum Committee for setting up extra meetings to handle the flood of proposals trying to get approved in time to make it into the catalog. There will be more meetings approaching because of the catalog deadline. Gavin will be running the smart room today. Cheryl is home with a sick relative.

**John Minahan, Western Oregon University –**

Is spending the day at the state capital to appear before the House sub-committee to discuss issues concerning OUS. What was previously directed to the presidents has been changed in many different directions. The passage of Senate Bill 242 would change the Oregon university system to cease its agency status. This is a principle item on upcoming agendas. Western’s numbers are continuing to look good. Application rates and admissions interest continue to go up. Saw an uptake after championship game.

**Lisa Catto, Staff Senate –**

Not present.

**Yasmin Ibarra, ASWOU –**

Not present.

**Kent Neely, Provosts’ Council –**

Two degree proposals; Masters in Interpreting Studies and Gerontology, are coming to Provost Council. They will come before the other committees on 2/24. Are looking very good. Departments looking for new degree proposal should keep in mind that new degrees are considered a large change and that bodies will be notified in advance of this change. Want to bring attention to academic planning to revise the existing planning calendar. However, the two proposals already in place will get compensation in timing. A proposal is in the works for interpreting studies. The Northwest forms will be ready to go out on the 2/24. This process would not apply to new certificates or minor programs, only to new degree programs or majors.

Question raised about if degree proposals already in process will have to go back and go through this step.

Answer: No.

**IV. Old Business**

**World Literature Course Changes:** Department requests changes to four courses and the creation of three new courses to provide better diversity offerings for U.S. minorities and other world literatures. There were no questions because it warranted no problems. (See article b. on Senate website)

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Changes will be made in portal.

**Study Abroad Diversity Credit:** Minimal explanation states that the International Service Committee wants students who study abroad or participate in international internships through Western to receive diversity credits. (See article c. on website)

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Change will be made in portal.

**Theory/Aural Skills Course Changes:** Proposal is requesting to reorganize the aural skills/theory course so that aural skills would be its own track of study and not a lab attached with music theory. The proposal is also requesting that Orchestra be renumbered for convenience of advising and that students would be 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. (See article d. on website)

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Change will be made in portal.

**Biology department:** Proposing two sets of changes, one for non-majors and one for majors. The changes to the non-major series concern the pre-reqs of mainly of math 111 and bio 102, with a minimum grade requirement of a C-. This will affect Health and Physical Education and Nursing. The changes for the biology majors would be to create a lagging sequence of the 200 level course sequence. To do this, a lot of the pre-reqs required freshman and sophomore year would have to be changed in order for students to finish their degree track in four years. (See article e. on website)

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Changes will be made in portal.

**Visual Communication Design Program:** Proposing to add a new major that would parallel the current art major in order for students to have a better focus on graphic design. The foundational courses would be taken by every student in the art department, including student with this new major. The addition of the course titled Digital Motion would be necessary. This would be a specific section with its own portfolio, etc. Also proposing to change a few of the existing courses numbers. (See article f. on website)

Question raised about the classrooms available to house these courses.

Answer: As of now, ITC 210 and one other room. Neither presently have computers but there are budgetary plans in the works.

**Action:** Motion made to approve. Motion seconded and approved. Changes will be made in portal.

**V. New Business**

**Crime Analysis Certificate:** The Criminal Justice department is trying to keep ahead of the profession because technology is advancing so rapidly. This means that companies cannot find employees that are trained to use the necessary technology. Four years ago, the FBI stated that two-thirds of positions available in this field were unfilled because there were not enough people adequately trained to use the software. All agencies in emergency management use this technology and there is no university, presently, in Oregon that is teaching students how to use this software. Students in this program would be required to take the normal criminal justice courses, as well as minor in computer science. It would be a rigorous program containing series of sequential classes. Four new classes geared toward geographic science are also being proposed. (See article b. on Senate website)

Will be first item of old business on February 22nd.

Question raised about why the Intro to Geog 341 course is being designated as a criminal justice course. Why couldn’t the students just take the normal Intro to Geog class?

Answer: The typical Intro to Geog course is only offered once every other year. As of right now, there is not an instructor available to teach this course every year. Are working toward this.

Question raised about if the students in this certificate program would be required to be criminal justice majors.

Answer: In order to get the certificate, the student must major in criminal justice. They could take the required courses, minor in computer science but major in something besides criminal justice and still be able to get a job. They just wouldn’t be able to earn the certificate.

Question raised about if the university would have to purchase any new software in order to teach this course.

Answer: Instructor Steve Taylor in the earth science department currently has all of the necessary software so nothing would have to be purchased.

Question raised if a new instructor would need to be hired.

Answer: Yes. However, a possible candidate is believed to be found.

Question raised about if this program would primarily be geared toward students majoring in criminal justice.

Answer: A student could major in anything, minor in computer science and still take the courses in this program. They just would not be eligible for the certificate unless their major was criminal justice. It would still be beneficial to take these courses even if one was not working toward the certificate.

Question raised about if students who obtained a criminal justice degree at another university could transfer and enter into this degree program.

Answer: Yes. The department would have no problems accepting these students.

**Fire Science Optional Minor:** Is proposing to eliminate the minor requirement from the fire science department. These changes are being proposed because this degree track is primarily pursued by non-traditional, off-campus and transfer students. Having a minor requirement means that students have to go elsewhere to fulfill it and once they discover that they are going to have to go somewhere else anyways they often go elsewhere first. Western is losing students due to this. If the minor was made optional, students would have to take at least 8 courses and credits would range from 24 to 40. In many cases student would be advised to follow the minor track, especially if they are a traditional student who lives on campus. Also, if a student wanted to complete a minor they could. This same proposal was proposed last year and was rejected. The three main concerns from last year are that this would be setting a precedent that is unwanted, that minors are a part of Western’s history, and that the presentation was not articulated well enough in what the requirements in the major would be if the minor was erased. In regards to this change setting a precedent, this is not a bad thing. Bettering a program could help the institution’s retention rates. The fact that minors have been part of Western’s history is that it is “history.” There are programs currently on campus that do not require minors at all. The Fire Service Administration at Western is the only one of seven schools that offers this program that requires a minor. On a global scale, Western is the only college in the OUS that has this requirement. Out of the 121 colleges, Western is only one of few with this requirement. Most of the programs have minors available but they are optional. As a blanket program, less that 10% of the programs have this requirement. Another disadvantage of a minor is that if a student is not admitted to the school where they need to get a minor they cannot do anything with their degree from Western. (See article c.)

Will be second item of old business February 22nd.

Questions raised about how obtaining the pre-reqs for the required three-hundred level chemistry/math would be possible because many are year-long courses.

Answer: Any pre-reqs for the upper division courses would still hold true.

Question raised about the number of students Western is losing because of the minor requirement.

Answer: The known number over the last two years is 20 students, which is about 15% but this is not considering the possible students that have decided to go somewhere else before they came to WOU.

Question raised about if these 20 students have been replaced.

Answer: Enrollment is down. They have not been able to replace all of the students but have picked up four or five.

Question raised about availability of online courses, whether there are commitments from these departments.

Answer: No, there is not a commitment to online courses. Once a student is admitted they recommend that a student takes as many courses as possible at Western. Are hoping that as the program grows online courses will also grow.

Question raised about the word optional. Once something becomes optional what would convince a student to pursue it. Why not just raise major requirements.

Answer: Students would still have to take the same amount of credits with or without completing a minor. It would be an 86 credit major, with a minimum of 48 credits. Raising the major requirements is unfair to transfer students.

Question raised about the possibility of raising the number credits for the major and putting those extra credits into an elective slot where you could pull from. The transfer credits could work by being put into the elective slot.

Answer: This would mean completely eliminating the minor instead of just making it optional.

**MUP American Vernacular Studies**: Proposing to add a sequence of MUP (music performance) courses numbered 170, 270, 370, 470, and 670 to create an MUP number for students privately studying American Vernacular Studies. Proposal states that about 10% of music students are studying this but under a special course number. There would be a set of courses that students can sign up for when they are studying a certain track. This could include jazz, spirituals, vernacular music of the Americas. This is to give music outside the Western European track a course number. WOU is known for their studies of contemporary music.

Question raised about what studying privately actually means.

Answer: This essentially means private lessons with a professor. All music students are required to take private lessons but other private lessons are assigned a course number.

Question raised about how 10% of students are studying this if there are no courses or numbers in existence.

Answer: Students are signing up under a generic or multipurpose number.

Question raised about the title of the course. It implies that the course ranges into an area of culture outside of music.

Answer: This is a question to be raised with the department. They are not teaching outside of music so a change could be made to the title.

Question raised about why this was not approved in the Faculty Executive Committee.

Answer: The FEC felt that the Senate should here this proposal.

Question raised about if the proposed courses are new courses.

Answer: Yes.

**VI. Informational Presentation**

**Frats/Sororities:**  This is an informational presentation and is not a voting item. It was felt that this is a very important issue that the faculty should be aware of. Students have approached appropriate individauls about what the process would be to bring fraternities and sororities to Western. This has happened in the past but it has never gone anywhere. The furthest anyone has come, as of now is the interest stage. However, this time students have a lot of momentum and a framework may need to be put in place if the students work to get the process started. The students have to secure this idea with a national organization and each national organization has its own requirements. However, if the national organization recognized them, Western would have to do the same. Are trying to figure out what would make the most sense for Western. For example, what would be the policies/guidelines/rush/etc? The frats/sororities would not be part of the university but would be a partner due to liabilities. Multicultural frats and sororities are where the interest seems to be focused. It is not anticipated that students would have a house for up to ten years. A committee connected to WOU would be created to oversee the frats/sororities. The officers would be required to go through leadership training etc. All members would be required to have at least a 2.25 GPA and attend at least half time. A chapter GPA would also be a requirement. There are strong no hazing rules and alcohol awareness education would also be a large issue.

\*PowerPoint is available on Senate website.

\*Suggestion made to contact Yasmin Ibarra of ASWOU and discuss this issue with her.

Question raised about if the interest level is at the same status as that of a club.

Answer: Yes. They would be treated as a club but it is not likely they would get similar funding due to ASWOU rules and regulations.

Question raised about if Western could say that they are not interested in bringing the frats/sororities to campus.

Answer: So far the approach has been taken that if students have taken an interest in this it is best to be prepared. WOU has not previously denied a student organization.

Question raised about if having a Greek system would increase retention rates.

Answer: Prefer not to delve into all of this unless the students are completely serious.

Question raised about if conversations with the city have been had.

Answer: If this got to that point many conversations would be had with the city, the fire departments, housing, etc.

Question raised about if the frats/sororities being at the national level puts more pressure on Western.

Answer: No because WOU’s relationship with the national level is specifically communication based. Western would only get involved for problem solving.

Question about if WOU would be providing rooms for these organizations.

Answer: This would be a question for housing. It would depend on their interest for themed housing but this is at least 2-3 years away.

Question raised about if any potential momentum is being seen.

Answer: Do see international/multicultural frats making it to the chapter level over the social clubs. Once one club gets to the chapter level, other clubs might be encouraged to too. There most likely wouldn’t be more than 6-7 chapters at a time for a while.

Question raised about if Western’s requirements are similar to other universities’.

Answer: Yes. Tried to meet in the middle of universities with and universities without Greek systems.

Question raised about the financial end of these clubs.

Answer: This area has not been largely discussed yet. Costs would most likely be from the students to the national chapters. The natural consequence would be that more affluent students would be more likely to join do to the necessity of personal funding in the beginning.

Question raised about the level of faculty support.

Answer: Some faculty believe that this could be beneficial to western. Students tend to have better grades and a closer tie to the school, as well as give more back to the university. Some faculty also do not believe in turning away a student organization, while some faculty do not support this idea at all.

**VII. Interinstitutional Faculty Senate Report**

None.

**VIII. Committee Review**

None.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned**