

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 26, 2019

Willamette Room, WUC

Primarily paperless, wou.edu/facultysenate

3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering, optional)

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

1. Call to order: 03:31

2. Call of the roll (by circulation of sign-in sheet)

3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. February 12th Meeting

- No changes; approved as written.

4. Institutional Reports

4.1. Faculty Senate President's Report (Adele Schepige)

- See report posted on the Faculty Senate website, including a call to consider running for an officer position in Faculty Senate executive next fiscal year.

4.2. University President's Report (Rex Fuller)

- Northwest report due Friday, March 1st, was submitted. Special thanks to Sue Monahan and Katherine Schmidt. There will be a visit to campus April 4th and 5th, and the accreditation team will want to meet with faculty. They are reviewing our year 1 report and our mid-cycle report.
- We have a full complement for UDIAC. It will be convened by Gary Dukes. The committee will start its work in the next week or so.
- UBAC is in phase two of its proposal review: Down to 15 from 76. The university has moved ahead with some other proposals, as well. The cabinet is sitting with UBAC as they review proposals. Hearings for the proposals are scheduled for March 14th and 15th; those who submitted proposals have received notice.
- The budget is also being decided, and the president is looking forward to the first full year of this new budget process.
- Clarifications and questions related to TRI and faculty research support.
 - The president handed around the university org chart (link) to show where TRI is currently housed.
 - The university produces more grant dollars than its peers according to IPEDS. TRI generates around \$9 million a year.
 - TRI currently reports through Linda Stonecipher, who has taken on an interim role as TRI director.
 - An additional staff member, Eric Dickie, has been hired to bring the university the ability to 'pre-award' dollars to faculty by finding outside grants and deciding what categories they go into. There is also a new hire, Emily Diamond, who will handle post-award management, communicating with the PI for a grant for the life of the award.
 - It is currently unclear where TRI will report next year. The university is committed to supporting faculty and staff research.
- **Question:** The pre- and post-award staff are not TRI folks, is that correct?
 - We had an outside audit, and decided that there needs to be a centralized office to manage grants activity. It's not certain whether or not TRI will subsume these staff members in the future or not, as they have in the past.
- **Question:** If I want to add an external reviewer, that would still need to go through TRI, correct?
 - Correct. We are also looking at our indirect cost recovery formulas, which are unique to this university and could be improved. (e.g. incentives for faculty to get involved in research)

4.3. Office of Academic Affairs' Report (Rob Winningham)

- Provost Winningham further introduced Eric Dickie and Emily Diamond,

and further discussed indirect cost recovery and faculty research. One hope is to push indirect costs from grants back down to departments, divisions, and colleges. Hopefully this will allow the university to free up faculty time for grant-writing. The provost also expressed that failed grant proposals do matter and that, in his opinion, they should count towards tenure and promotion.

- See full report on the faculty senate website regarding recent university closures in Oregon, and an update on team teaching.
- Willamette Promise continues to be a success. 18 of our faculty regularly participate in teaching communities. We have saved over 8 million dollars in the cost of tuition for students with this program. We have nearly 40,000 credits earned with the program. We are also reaching under-represented students with this program. 60% of the credits are earned from students who identify as female, and 36% from students who identify as hispanic. 41% of students come from economically disadvantaged homes.
- **Question:** We have been contacting Hillary for intents to submit a proposal. Is that still the current process?
 - It should be Eric.
- **Question:** In CoE, there are a lot of professional grants which provide tuition for our students. Are those valued as well as research grants?
 - Absolutely. A lot of TRI's grants are also service-oriented. Any externally-funded research is valued the same.
- **Question:** Thanks for going to the capital. I went for education lobby day and a lot of people there were K-12. When I met with senators and representatives about higher ed funding, I briefly mentioned the proposal that community colleges will offer four-year programs. Both of these will affect us enormously. I don't want to be negative about Willamette Promise, but I would like to know your sense of whether either of those were discussed when you were at the capital.
 - Provost Winningham: A.B.s at the community college level did come up. I understand that the impact of this will be very limited. They aren't getting additional state money, so they will have to fund it completely. They also have to go through HECC before offering bachelor's degrees, so duplication of programs means they are likely to be mostly highly technical degrees.
 - President Fuller: One thing that's not spoken to in the bill is that it's unclear what the criteria are that HECC considers these programs by. We also have advantages that allow students to effectively navigate from 2- to 4-year institutions, as well as our course offerings in Salem. Based on my experience in

Washington, the A.B. degrees offered are usually those highly technical fields which are not likely to be impactful on universities. The intent of the bill is to target those who have been traditionally disadvantaged. The governor's recommended budget hasn't changed. We are now in the legislative process, and it's probably too early for there to have been changes there. There will be a revenue forecast in 10 days, and then joint committees will begin work on a budget. There will be a TRU day on May 14th in the capital.

4.4. IFS Report (Leanne Merrill / Thaddeus Shannon)

- Senate Bill 3 (which allows community colleges to offer A.B. degrees) is out of Senate and is now in the House. This is the first education-related bill to move anywhere, so it seems likely to happen. There are opportunities for universities. Given the lack of budget increase and there being no funding tied to the bill, it seems unlikely that anything will happen in the near term. Looking more long-term, this calls out on faculty to reach out and engage with each other across institutions and look for mutually beneficial overlap. One of the best ways for a community college to offer a 4-year degree might be for them to partner with a 4-year institution. Cross-institutional partnerships are good opportunities for students as well as university faculty. Senate Bill 4 allows community colleges and universities to merge or somehow cooperate in new ways. This one has not been moved from Senate.
- Even if faculty reaching out across institutions doesn't result in new A.B. degrees, it gives us the opportunity to better serve students.
- Legislators want to hear positive messages about how faculty are confronting the challenges that students have, and this is an effective way to change legislators' minds about the importance of university funding and other things.
- **Comment:** I think it's a great goal for us to be cooperative. The legislators have not funded us, and are encouraging us to be competitors. Since community colleges get their funding from enrollment just as we do, I'm concerned about the effects this current legislative process will have on us.
 - It definitely is a challenge, but given that community colleges don't currently have the funds to start A.B. degrees, one positive way out is for us to be part of the solution. As faculty, we are here because we want to serve students, so if we hold onto that and consider that we can serve more students we can treat this as a potential opportunity as well as a negative.
- **Comment:** If our state funding doesn't increase, we won't be able to

attract new students because our tuition will go up. We really need to engage our legislators to increase that revenue for higher ed.

- **Comment from Leanne:** By showing legislators that we're interested in working cooperatively with other institutions, we are more likely to convince them that we are worth funding. There is an IFS meeting this weekend, so if you have comments you'd like to have shared you can e-mail them to me or to Tad.

4.5. General Education Committee Report (Erin Baumgartner)

- Erin shared some draft advising resources on the Gen Ed website at <http://www.wou.edu/gened/faculty-resources/for-advisors/>
- Niki Weight and Erin are planning advising workshops in March and April. Details are posted on the website above.
- If you have suggestions about any of the draft materials, please let Erin know.

5. Consideration of Old Business

5.1. International Education Committee Change

- Motion to Approve; Seconded
 - Approve: 21
 - Reject: 0
- **Motion passes**

6. Consideration of New Business

6.1. Early Childhood Education Certificate (Cindy Ryan)

- This certificate is something we would love to add. We have merged the early childhood and elementary licensure programs. As we did that, we lost some specialized early childhood coursework, and we want to be able to offer that through this certificate.
- The certificate is 24-27 credits, but only an additional 15-18 for students already getting licensed. Students could also do this as a specialization through TSCB (it is currently in the process of being approved there).

6.1. Interpreting Studies Reflective Practice Certificate (Elisa Maroney)

- This certificate fulfills national certification requirements for professional development. It's a 15 credit program.

7. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports

7.1. Program Review (Erin Baumgartner)

- See report posted to the faculty senate website.
- **Comment:** I love the focus on one learning outcome per year.

Meeting adjourned: 04:41

04:41 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)