

Faculty Senate Minutes

April 23, 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: 03:30 p.m.**
- 2. Call of the roll (by circulation of sign-in sheet)**
- 3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting**
 - 3.1. April 9th Meeting**
 - Approved as posted
- 4. Institutional Reports**
 - 4.1. Faculty Senate President's Report (Adele Schepige)**
 - Report posted on Faculty Senate website.
 - 4.2. President's Report (Sue Monahan)**
 - Report posted on Faculty Senate website

- **Question:** WOU is pursuing a professional doctorate but not the other, where does Interpreting Studies stand? Will they change or go a different route?
 - In order to offer research doctorates, we have to demonstrate to NWCCU that we are prepared as an institution to offer research doctorates. We are currently demonstrating that we are prepared for offering professional doctorates.
 - Now that OUS has dissolved, The Oregon Council of Presidents and Provost Council meet and deliberate about new programs to determine whether they make sense or duplicate things. DPT is unique in not being well-served in public universities in Oregon, and is not primary mission of doctoral-granting institutions. If we were to aim for research doctorates, we might have a harder time getting approved. This is still in development as a process.
- **Question:** Given our status in teaching interpreting and the uniqueness of this program in the United States, can we make an argument that the Interpreting EdD speaks to a strength of WOU, and that it plays to our strengths as a university, but that we are not trying to prepare EdDs or PhDs in general?
 - We're open to further conversations, but we also have to pay attention to NWCCU standards. We had a meeting today to start that conversation to explore if there are possibilities that make sense. We need to look at sustainability and other factors, as well as being a historic center for excellence in this area. The scaffolding we're building gives us momentum around the DPT, and we hope that after the statute limiting regional universities to Master's programs has been lifted we will have more opportunities to explore other specific programs.
- **Question:** comment and question: It's important to say that it was clear to us the the interpreting studies degree in important, I really support Karen's comment. Can you help us understand why a professional doctorate is a "first degree"? Is there a degree that comes after that?
 - It is an entry level degree, to practice physical therapy.
 - Nothing. They are different. It is similar to an MD, an MD is a first-degree, and entry level degree to practice medicine.
- **Question:** Interpreting studies seems like an even bigger gap. Are there other ways we could think about offering this? Does it have to be research that ends up in a dissertation, or could it be more of a professional project?
 - That's part of the conversation that we are having. We are thinking about other ways to approach it.
- **Question:** The argument could be made that both are related to health and wellness as a mission. I'm concerned about this as someone who has worked here for thirty years, when there were discussions about what

could be offered. I understand the priorities but wonder if there are ways we can encourage this project to fit within this model.

- I think it's clear that we have an excellent interpreting program. If we had a doctoral, it could increase and support undergraduates. We saw that with the Nursing Program, a bump in bio majors. I think the key issues is, I don't think anyone here realized an EdD in Interpreting would be considered a research doctorate. It's possible we can rethink and revise the EdD as a professional doctorate, but we don't know yet. A huge thank you to Sue, for helping with this.
- **Question:** What will happen to the Interpreting program?
 - As of right now, we don't know.

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

- Report posted on Faculty Senate website.
- Collected responses about student absence reporting changes are posted on the faculty senate website under the FS President's report.
- **Question:** What do we do right now for student absences?
 - It's the same as we have been doing, students can still submit notifications. I am not 100% sure if Student Success and Advising is currently collecting any medical documentation, at this moment, but I don't think so. A faculty member shared that OSU apparently⁷ allows students to show their faculty member a note, yet the member does not keep it. I am not saying that that is the best way moving forward, but there might be options
 - I don't know at they are, once you do, you are at legal risk for storing it.
 - For the cleanest, it would be best if we did not have medical documentation sitting on people's desks or in their bags. When you have information that may seem nebulous, providers are becoming more and more transparent, with a lot of irrelevant medical information and insurance information on these notes as well. That being available anywhere is a potential problem. We scan, upload, store in a third-party secure location and then destroy it after 7 years. There are also concerns about medical decision-making.
 - I don't think we can violate HIPPA in the meantime, one way to do this before a permanent solution, is a note or form of verification.
- **Question:** What does it mean when we get that "verification"? One of the problems is that there is uncertainty whether we need to give students accommodation based on the verified absence.
 - It is always up to faculty on what to do and how to handle that. For the most part I don't think it has changed very much, it has always

been and is still up to faculty as to how to respond to a student absence.

- **Question:** What is a partial withdrawal? Long-term disability?
 - Withdrawing from some classes, Long-term disability is rare, if someone had a severe injury, a good example is a concussion.
- **Question:** Do long- or short-term disabilities count as disabilities for ADA?
 - If you're unsure, you can send to Office of Disabilities. Generally, if it's longer than 6 months they are eligible.
 - Once you make an accommodation, the university is expected to make that reasonable accommodation going forward, even if it's mid-term. Longer-term disabilities that are not permanent can expire or be extended depending on updated documentation, but this always happens at the end of a term and not mid-way through.
- **Question:** I have a legal question regarding syllabi, I understand our syllabi are our contracts with our students, For our statements: "you can be excused for these reasons... and with proper documentation" Are we just going to pretend that they have the documentation even if we can't get that documentation for the time being?
 - That's what we will have to do for now, yes.
- Pregnancy and parenting are recognized absences under Title IX, as an extension of something that was written for high school students. They are on a case-by-case situation but they are covered by Title IX. Students with these absences should see Judy Vandenberg(?) rather than ODS.
- **Question:** About the EDNW report, I think it is great that we are being recognized for graduating so many transfer students, yet those numbers are still not very high. It is great, but there is still a lot of work to be done
 - Yes, absolutely. On time graduation, retention from year to year, and graduating with fewer credits. We are hoping that some of our efforts like nudges will improve retention further, as well as our continued increase in programs to help raise these numbers. Our low tuition rate increase will hopefully also be helpful.

4.4. IFS Report (Leanne Merrill, Thaddeus Shannon)

- No report

4.5. General Education Committee Report (Breeann Flesch)

- No report

5. Executive Committee Business

5.1 Executive Committee Officer Elections

- Nominations from the floor:
 - No nominations from the floor.
- Paper ballots circulated.
 - President: Kristin Latham-Scott
 - Vice-President: Melanie Landon-Hays
 - Secretary: Stewart Baker

6. Consideration of Old Business

- No old business

7. Consideration of New Business

7.1. Committee on Committees Proposal (Stewart Baker)

- Proposal and Report on Faculty Senate website
- **Question:** I wondered if you would consider a recommendation of 2-4, faculty senate is already a pretty big group, around 8-9. It's like getting blood from a rock to get people to volunteer. It has been relatively hard to get senators.
 - Part of our thinking was that more people on the committee might mean less work for individuals. They can also be designated to do other things by the vice-president.
 - I think adding a few at-large senators can provide the opportunity to build a capacity for more people interested in committee service.
 - I think Executive committee will be more appealing once we start doing more work and more interesting work. More voices at the table is a great thing
- We have the potential to decrease the size of smaller committees, this can cause more stress on the individual parts.

7.2. Information Systems proposal for Salem location (Tad Shannon)

- Proposal posted on Faculty Senate website.
- We need accreditation approval in order to do this
- **Question:** Who is teaching the courses? WOU faculty or Chemeketa faculty?
 - Existing delivery on campus involves Tad Shannon as only permanent faculty member and NTTs, some of whom already teach at Chemeketa. To deliver additional sections, we would have some issues but are hoping to hire an additional faculty

member next year. Mostly NTT faculty would deliver it. Only the junior level courses would be offered to start.

- **Question:** Applaud you for the success in this. The [AAS] is a terminal degree in the field, so having an AB for that to lead into is great. Who have we talked to at Chemeketa and what do we need to do to get an MOU with them?
 - At the dean level, we have some buy in. They are waiting for us to get ready.
 - We are in the process of renewing the MOU, it has been signed by Chemeketa and we are waiting for our copy to be sent to us. Our current approval will not cover this explicitly.
- After getting accreditor approval to offer the program at a new location, we will be making a UBAC proposal to fully support the program.
- **Comment:** I have also talked with Sue and we have the resources and plan. It should just be a minor change so far as NW is concerned.
- **Question:** Do you have a ballpark idea of what the budget request might be? Would we have to pay rent on the classrooms or anything like that?
 - We're not sure yet.

Proposal to extend meeting time until 5:15; seconded

Proposal passed

7.3. General Education Committee Proposal (Breann Flesch)

- Proposal posted on Faculty Senate website.
- The category-to-category alignment is what is being voted on. A WICHE representative will be here at the next Faculty Senate meeting. If you have questions, e-mail Breann so she can pass them along.

8. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports

8.1. Kognito, Veterans on Campus (Colin Haines)

- Presenter absent; no presentation given.

8.2. Honors Program (Kent Neely)

- PDF available on the faculty senate website
- Asks for feedback on the new Honors General Curriculum: to Kent, Gavin, or any honors committee member

- Please discuss the proposal at your upcoming division meetings, as our goal is to get the revision approved during the May senate meetings.
- **Question:** Does this require a catalog revision?
 - Yes, we hope to build the airplane next year and to launch the plane in Fall 2020

8.3. Student Athlete Priority Registration (Toni Gowen, Randi Lydum)

- Powerpoint available on senate faculty website
- **Question:** Do you know how many student athletes we have?
 - 325
- **Question:** What does it take to change priority registration?
 - This is with the office of the registrar. Several groups already have priority registration, such as those with disabilities, veterans, honors students, and seniors. We are suggesting that student athletes go in with honors students.
- **Question:** Are you seeking an endorsement from faculty senate?
 - Yes.
- We can bring this to our divisions and then take an endorsement vote at our next meeting. The Executive Committee has been talking about ways to handle endorsements.

Meeting adjourned: 5:11 p.m.

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)