Faculty Senate Minutes

October 27, 2020

**Virtual Meeting**

*Primarily paperless, wou.edu/facultysenate*

# 3:15 - 3:30 p.m.

*Better Know a Colleague* (informal gathering, optional)

# 3:30 – 5 p.m.

# *Business Meeting*

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# 1. Call to order

# 2. Call of the roll (by typing your name into the chat)

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# 3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting (see website)

* Minutes approved as posted

# 4. Institutional Reports

# 4.1. Faculty Senate President

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website

# 4.2. University President

* Report will be posted on Faculty Senate website
* Overview of enrollment data (4th week comparison across years): We are 7.5% down in FTE, higher at UG level than Grad level; UG students are taking the same load (full loads), so the big difference is that head counts have dropped. Male students are down more than female students. There is a big drop in international students. Residents have dropped by 7%. One bright spot is that there is less run-off in terms of Hispanic population; the Hispanic census continues to rise. The HECC scorecard has WOU at 26% Hispanic/Latinx (including Willamette Promise students).
* CARES Act funding: $2.1 Million – we have been distributing these monies over the year. By the end of this calendar year it will be spent. Institutional aid has also been used to support students.
* **Question**: With respect to these drops, do we know how we compare to other institutions?
* **President Fuller**: There is no single source to compare, though other institutions seem to be down as well. We have not seen TRU campuses reports. Community colleges tend to be down 8-12% based on location.

# 4.3. University Provost

* Report will be posted on Faculty Senate website
* Shout out to Hilary Holman-Kidd who will be leaving; Bev West will be assuming her role (Director of Academic Resources and Services).
* Advising holds on yesterday (10-26-2020). There are links in the report to advising resources/trainings. We need to continue to work on retention.
* We now have Canvas in several hundred courses. It is an expensive product so we need to evaluate how well it fits our needs. It is currently in the pilot phase. We want good feedback to inform whether we want to stick with Canvas moving forward.
* OER - stipends available.
* Plagiarism - TurnItIn no longer being used. Now using “Unicheck.” Available to faculty any day now.
* **Question**: In the same vein as plagiarism, we were wondering if there are any updates on the remote proctoring for students.
* **Provost Winningham**: We have had some meetings, it is getting legal review, we have cleared final hurdles and hope to see this soon. “Wise” is the company; it is affordable; 15 or 30 dollars covers it for the term, and students can get a waiver for financial need. So, we are close to having e-proctoring.
* **Question**: Regarding scheduling for this coming term, Division Chairs and Department Heads in LAS were asked to look at schedules and put in changes, then last week we heard that we need to cut sections by today. Can you talk to why this was done so suddenly?
* **Provost Winningham**: About 2 weeks ago we learned that LAS is over budget by $0.5 million in NTT budget. College of Ed faculty are all rostered (built into budget) and LAS has not functioned this way. Programs have proposed over a $0.5 million more than what we budget for. We want to try to get this fixed for next fiscal. We are trying to modernize the university’s budget processes and create course schedules that fit within the budget.
* **Comment:** We have never gotten input about a budget within which to schedule. We have only used the previous year as a basis. I think it may be better if we get some guidance in budgeting specific departments.
* **Provost Winningham**: We have to create a new system for this. We can’t just use the schedule we used last year, especially when we have declining enrollment. We need to be creating a budget moving forward and programs need to plan based on that budget.
* **Question**: What about when we reduce sections and get waitlisted students?
* **Provost Winningham**: The budget needs to be appropriate to start with. There is a lot of nuance to how we do this; we don’t want to inconvenience students, and we may be able to open up more sections, but we may need to have students on waitlist and take a course the following term. Will need to look at this.

# 5. Consideration of Old Business:

# 5.1. German Studies Major – proposal to drop (Paula Baldwin)

* **Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion passes.**

# 5.2. Theatre Education – new concentration (Michael Phillips)

* **Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion passes.**

# 5.3. Creative Productions Major – New (Dirk Freymuth)

* **Motion to approve. Seconded. Motion passes.**

# 6. Consideration of New Business: None

* **New business from the floor (will be Old Business at next meeting) – Vivian Djokotoe**: New Masters and two graduate certificates in Criminal Justice. This is time sensitive, needs to be approved by HECC. This would be a new Master of Science in Justice Studies, a collaboration between CJ and Social Sciences (to add to existing Masters) with an advocacy, policy, and research focus. This is timely because of the events of 2020 and there has been a call put out by Academy of Criminal Justice Studies. Interdisciplinary with focus on advocacy and policy; current program about applied areas; responding to the needs of our community, what people in our field want to see from our graduates, employ methods in research and strategies to affect change. The 2 new grad certificates are: one in advanced CJ, and one in Social Justice. Both are meant to provide specific additional skills required for the field and use existing courses to boost enrollment. No additional FTE or resources needed.

# 7. Discussion items: None

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# 8. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports:

# 8.1 Faculty Sustainability Committee (Mark Perlman & David Janovick)

* Full report and one-page summary available on the Faculty Senate website
* Summary read by David Janovick
* **Mark Perlman:** Part of the problem was that the timeline was too short (and coincided with beginning of term), and the size and complexity of the academic world made it impossible to do this in that amount of time. The committee saw the Deans’ reports was impressed with how they went about doing this. Given the care and good judgment of Deans’ reports, there was no way the committee could do a better job of that, other than possibly reinforcing the recommendations (e.g., judicious cuts that still retain character of university and academic mission). Another issue the committee had was that the data available to were not sufficient to do the task. Certain details are needed to do a correct assessment, which were not available in the data given. So it was difficult to make good judgments.
* **Question:** Could you just reiterate the conclusions?
* **David Janovick:** Repeated future actions (4 total).
* **Comment:** I want to publicly thank the members of this committee.
* **Faculty Senate President**: Put on your radar that we would like to have a permanent sustainability committee that would have a variety of charges/lots of different tasks (beyond Article 15); we know that our bandwidth as faculty is decreasing, but at a future meeting we would like to discuss interest in building a new permanent committee. Please take this back to your divisions.

# 8.2 Retention Committee (Niki Weight)

* Retention Committee charge and membership list available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Niki Weight**: We have an upgraded WCS system (Navigate) with new tools that we can use to partner with Institutional Research data. The WCS tools gives access to overall student population snapshots, drilling into data on GPA trends, course performances, and to do intervention assessment. It’s a good way to shine a spotlight on areas we need to focus efforts for retention. The committee will bring together reps from all over campus to discuss these matters and it aligns with the recommendations of the Faculty Sustainability Task Force to bring together a group to focus on this issue. This will be a permanent committee so we don't have any requirements for term length/limits. We plan to meet a couple times a term and any faculty (NTT/tenure track) is welcome to join with the support of their supervisor.
* **Question**: I think the committee is a great idea and it directly aligns with the advising taskforce created last year. Do you see this morphing into something else or what do you see for the future?
* **Niki Weight:** Before the pandemic, we created an advising taskforce which was much more expansive so we put it on pause when the pandemic hit. When we are able to go back to a time where we can have that many people working on this, that will be a direct drive into the retention committee.  Would be great to have taskforce member volunteer to be on this new retention committee.
* **Question**: Retention, enrollment, recruitment are all together in the university mission; is recruitment part of this work or would it be in the future?
* **Niki Weight:** Strategic enrollment management committee already exists and we would work with them. This committee’s work should help inform their work and theirs will inform ours. We can’t really separate out retention from enrollment and recruitment. This committee could almost be seen as a student success committee.

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# 9. Announcements: None

## Motion to adjourn at 4:35. Seconded. No objections. Motion passes.

# 5 – 5:15 p.m.

*Better Know a Colleague* (informal gathering continued, optional)