Faculty Senate Minutes

November 10, 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
* Public acknowledgement/thank you to NTTs

# 4.2. University President

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Question**: I was informed that today we would have an update on the Article 15 action plan; is that going to occur today?
* **President Fuller**: We are a couple days behind but intend to have it out by Friday. It will go to the union and FSEC for feedback. The report can be shared, debated, discussed. Written comments will be weighed and then a written plan will be finalized.
* **Question (in chat):** In a follow up question from last faculty senate, we had a question raised at our last division meeting regarding the freshmen enrollment data. We were wondering how much of the 7.6% drop in enrollment was due to loss in freshmen enrollment vs. other class levels? i.e. is the loss of freshmen enrollment actually higher than 7.6%, and is being buffered by higher levels of returning students? or did we have a large graduating class that wasn’t replaced by incoming students? or is the student loss distributed equally across student levels?
* **Provost Winningham**: I am pulling up the Fall 2020 enrollment report. The enrollment reports are also available on the institutional research website: <https://wou.edu/institutionalresearch/enrollment/>
* **President Fuller:** New freshmen are right at an 8% drop. We have been doing the “nudges” to maintain continuing students - we are seeing students take a term off so we are trying intervening efforts. You all play a role in retention, encouraging students to continue to enroll. Student success is something we talk about a lot. We also look at credit hours per student - what students are actually taking - and they are taking the same load. They are behaving in ways that are very similar to pre-COVID.

# 4.3. University Provost

* Report available on the Faculty Senate website
* **Question**: Can you go back to the chart about Salem Center enrollment? How many students are new WOU students and how many are those who shifted from Monmouth to Salem?
* **Provost Winningham**: There is no way to know for sure. Most WOU Salem courses are hybrid synchronous; the pandemic confounds the analysis, but we do believe there is a large untapped market of students who can’t come to campus during the day. The Organizational Leadership students would presumably be new to WOU.
* **Question:** We often hear that Salem is why grad programs are thriving. Where do we get access to that data to know more information about that claim?
* **Provost Winningham:** Grad enrollment overall is holding steady. Many grad programs have seen an increase in enrollment that are not involved in WOU Salem. I suppose the Org Leadership increase is what the President referred to regarding Salem.
* **President Fuller:** The addition of OL has been a stimulus for graduate enrollment; a positive development. The numbers have grown beyond expectations. We started offering classes there, but now have the Masters at WOU Salem. There is quite a bit of demand and interest and it is a good example of meeting statewide needs. And the numbers are students that are part-time.
* **Provost Winningham**: I can share data that I included in my report to President Fuller, in preparation for the next Board of Trustees meeting. This will also appear in the president’s report to the Board.

Comparing graduate student enrollment from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020, we’ve seen considerable growth in over half of our graduate programs. The largest increases include:

* + 66.7% increase in the M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling program
  + 66.7% increase in the M.A. in Organizational Leadership program
  + 34.7% increase in M.S. in Education
  + 34.5% increase in M.A. in Teaching program
  + 30.8% increase in the M.A. in Interpreting Studies program

Those numbers were given to me by Dean Fouts, and she is working closely with the Graduate Committee. Also a clarification from earlier: e-proctoring will be ready for winter and spring.

**No IFS report.**

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# 5. Consideration of Old Business:

# 5.1. Graduate Certificate in Social Justice — New (Taryn VanderPyl)

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

# 5.2. Graduate Certificate in Advanced Juvenile Justice Studies — New (Taryn

# VanderPyl)

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

# 5.3. Master of Science in Social Justice Major — New (Taryn VanderPyl)

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

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# 6. Consideration of New Business: General Education: Incomplete AAOTs & Other Transfer Degrees (Erin Baumgartner)

* Report available on the FS website

# 7. Discussion items: None

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# 8. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports:

# 8.1 Student Interest in S/NC Grades (Elizabeth Braatz)

* Report available on the FS website
* **Many expressions of praise/commendation toward Elizabeth followed. Questions/comments included the following:**
  + I think the sooner, the better for the S/NC option. There are students dropping each week because of the stress and lack of this option.
  + I think we would have to be very careful with this option, so if were to go through with it, we need to contact advisors about required classes that need a letter grade.
  + There are two elements to this: (1) can you use this class for the (degree/major?) requirements and (2) when do you need the requirement?
  + Comment in chat: Elizabeth, Thank you! This was an excellent presentation! I could not agree with this more. About 1/3 of my students right now are dealing with major life challenges & struggles due to the pandemic that are negatively impacting their ability complete their education. I also want what is best for students and to help with student retention. We NEED to put our heads together and figure out how to achieve this.
  + First, thank u. I’m from CS and one thing we have going on is that we require a C or better in order to move onto the next class as a student success model. What about the idea of not just S/NC but also NS/NC (not satisfactory, no credit)?
  + We are all concerned about our students and the current political/social environment we are in.
  + A good first step would be to check in with divisions and take the temp of colleagues about returning to this policy. Need to know the nuance of the needs for different divisions.
* **Provost Winningham**: What we did for Spring term, it was voted on by Faculty Senate. I did mention this option at the beginning of the year, but there didn’t seem to be motivation for this option to go through for Fall 2020 term. Amy Clark was able to log on. I also reached out to the PSU Provost, who is also the chair of statewide Provost Council, when I saw in the chat that PSU has a S/NC exception for F20 and W21. It is my understanding that other universities are not doing this S/NC option. Amy, can you give your thoughts?
* **Amy Clark**: I do know other institutions are doing various things, some reverted back to normal grading. It would be too late to implement now and logistically is a lot of tech to enable, test, turn on this grading system. Even if we did this it would be inconsistent with what we did in the spring in terms of students being able to choose this or not. So it is too late to do this for Fall if there is interest at all.
* **Question**: In addition to very specific programs, are there concerns if no one else is doing it - transfer problems (like in Gen Ed)? What’s the perception of transferability of Gen Ed classes without grades?
* **Erin Baumgartner**: I don’t have a definitive answer. I would like to confirm with Kristin Mauro to see if she has thoughts. From conversations with other colleagues, the Gen Ed committee usually looks at courses with unusual grades. They usually look to see they meet the spirit of the requirements but every university’s Gen Ed is a little bit different. I would want to confirm with Kristin.
* **Amy Clark**: We do need to acknowledge that we have no control over what institutions will do with classes with no grades. We can be hopeful during this time but can make no guarantees. Clarification that the current \*S/NC being discussed is the emergency option from Spring 2020.
* **Faculty Senate President**: With that, you should take this back to your divisions and take their temperature on this idea of the S/NC grade option. Also look for an email later in the week when I receive the draft plan from President Fuller; we will want feedback/thoughts /alternatives and will work to synthesize them into a response.

# 9. Announcements: None

**Motion to adjourn at 4:43. Seconded. No objections. Motion passes.**

# 5 – 5:15 p.m.

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