

Faculty Senate Minutes

December 8, 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

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Call of the roll (by typing your name into the chat)**
- 3. Corrections to and approval of minutes from previous meeting (see website)**
 - Motion to approve-seconded
 - **Minutes approved as posted**
- 4. Institutional Reports**
 - 4.1. Faculty Senate President**
 - Report available on the Faculty Senate website
 - 4.2. University President**
 - Report available on the Faculty Senate website; unable to attend
 - 4.3. University Provost**
 - Report available on the Faculty Senate website
 - **Question:** This is more for President Fuller, though maybe you would be willing to comment or pass the question along. I love teaching at WOU and have felt my ideas/opinions mattered, and shared governance was valued, with the development of the strategic plan being the high-water mark. A chart was shared in the chat that compares the processes of the strategic plan and Article 15, which really illustrates the shift that has occurred, highlighted in Article 15 process. Where you see WOU headed in terms of shared governance? Is this a new model for decision making? (See Appendix A)

- **Provost Wunningham:** I agree that there are some areas where shared governance has not been as strong as in the past, but I hope we continue to preserve shared governance as it is important at institutions like Western. Please let me know if there are areas that need to be addressed.
- **Question:** Can you clarify the IFC fee issue stated in the report? Is the desire to have that fully charged coming from the students?
- **Provost Wunningham:** My understanding is that current student leadership is pushing for this fee to be charged to all students, regardless of delivery modality, and I'm not sure how much student involvement has occurred beyond student government. They seem to see value in the services WOU offers and how it impacts student success (which makes us different from a community college, for example). There seems to be a motivation to preserve the funding for services, as well as staff. Administration has been fairly agnostic about this issue as it is primarily a student decision. But we also are mindful that we don't want to push students away due to increased fees.
- **Question:** Looking ahead toward Winter enrollment, we keep hearing that there are 1,000 students who have not registered for classes, but we also know there is a cap of 12 students per class, so how will decisions work regarding class cut-offs given low enrollment?
- **Provost Wunningham:** I'm not sure exactly where the 1,000 number came from, but we know that 11% of students enrolled fall term haven't registered for winter, which is not too far off from normal. Hopefully the nudges to register will help. Course caps are set at 12, but we can make decisions at the Dean level in certain circumstances.

4.4. IFS Report

- Report available on the Faculty Senate website

Motion: Request to re-order business and put New Business before Old Business due to conflict with Board of Trustees meeting at 4:30pm.

- Motion to approve-seconded
- **Motion passes with 27 YES votes and 1 NO vote**

5. Consideration of New Business: Proposed Changes to AUMP Proposal (David Foster)

- Report available on the FS website

6. Consideration of Old Business: SR 6.21 - Support for S/NC Grading (Stewart Baker; Liz Marquez Gutierrez, NJ Johnson, Elizabeth Braatz)

- Report available on the FS website

- **Motion:** Amend this proposal to include an opt-out option for courses so they would not be included as courses for which students can take a S*/NC grade.
- Motion to approve-seconded
- **Discussion:**
- **Comment:** I was asked to share this from Humanities, though I know the Registrar says it would be very difficult: *The S/NC option should be available for students to choose after they see their final course grades. Each department will designate courses for which S/NC are not available. Such courses will inform students of this non-S/NC status on the syllabus.*
- **Amy Clark (Registrar):** Yes, this possibility would be very logistically difficult. It is very inconsistent with what we did in Spring, but also from a logistics standpoint there is no way to do this through WolfWeb. It would have to be manual, with a form. No way we would have time for that to get grades turned around in time. These would be individual grade changes.
- **Question:** Another general question about time frame this option would be in place?
- **Faculty Senate President:** Just for remainder of 2020-2021 while we are predominantly delivering courses online due to the pandemic.
- **Amy Clark:** Just a reminder that this is a special “S*/NC” option. Not the normal S/NC option.
- **Question:** If this motion that was put on the floor for opt-out were passed, how would this occur operationally - department by department, per the Deans’ decisions, etc?
- **Faculty Senate President:** This is a tough timeline so we need to know by Dec 11th which courses need to opt out. If this passes, we will be getting a form out to each program to compile a list of courses and get this ready to go for Winter. The form will be sent right away following the meeting.
- **Comment:** Behavioral Sciences would just like to support this motion with or without the amendment, because we believe that if we want to be student-centered, we need to do something to show them we have their backs. 778 students have not registered for Winter (per our APA’s report from earlier today) and some of this is likely due to student having a difficult Fall term.
- **Comment:** I accept the first part of the HUM proposal is not feasible, but I think the syllabi should note if a course is not eligible. Students may feel they are doing worse in classes than they really are, so if students are more informed about how they are doing, they may feel more relieved.
- **Amy Clark:** Just a clarification that students can petition to change their grade option on an individual basis. Regardless of the grading option, the more transparent we can be/communicative about where

they stand, that can make them feel better. It alleviates anxiety when they have information they need.

- **Comment:** Computer Science also had this discussion and would like to note that if this motion doesn't have the opt-out amendment, it will really disadvantage the students and will not be student centered.
- **Comment:** We in Natural Science are about 60/40, generally supportive, but we really value the opt-out option because we have to provide students with grades in many departments.
- **Question:** Several want to know if there is a possibility of a 3-tiered level (e.g., S+, S, S-?) and want to make sure we have a clear answer.
- **Amy Clark:** We would have to create new grades, new tiers. I am not sure how we define and differentiate them. Beyond the logistics, with trying to modify WolfWeb, especially for certain courses, we just don't have the time or resources.
- **Motion (amendment) passes with 24 YES votes and 1 NO vote**
- Text for next motion: As requested by the ASWOU Senate, WOU Faculty senate approves continuing to offer students the Satisfactory*/No Credit grading option for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year (winter and spring terms). However, programs will have the ability to opt out specific courses from this policy, making them exempt from the S*/NC grading option. This ability can be used for courses in sequences where admission into future courses is dependent upon receiving a specific letter grade, or in other similar situations where a student's future academic career may be significantly jeopardized by receiving an S*/NC grade rather than a letter grade. Note that exempting a course will exempt all sections of that course from the policy, not just a specific instance of a course offered by a specific professor. Programs which wish to exempt specific courses from the S*/NC that need to be exempted must deliver them to Amy Clark by December 11th, 2020. These courses must be entered into a spreadsheet that will be delivered to division chairs and APAs if this vote passes. Such courses will inform students of this non-S*/NC status on the syllabus.
- **Motion:** Do you approve offering Satisfactory / No Credit grading as an option for Winter and Spring terms 2021, as requested by the ASWOU Senate Resolution 6.21 with the amendments approved during the December 8th faculty senate meeting?
- **Question:** Are we also voting as to whether courses include a syllabus statement if they opt-out?
- **Faculty Senate President:** Yes, we need to be as communicative as possible.
- Motion to approve-seconded
- **Motion passes with 23 YES votes and 1 NO vote**

7. Discussion items: None

8. Informational Presentations and Committee Reports:

8.1 Fall 2021 Recruitment (Gary Dukes, Rob Findtner)

- Report available on the FS website
- **Question:** I was wondering if departments can help with recruiting in any way, such as leveraging the Willamette Promise?
- **Rob Findtner:** This is a great recommendation, especially with Willamette Promise. Targeted emails informing students that they have credit and are on the path to a degree, and there is a scholarship particular to Willamette Promise students as well. It helps to be spreading the word about the waived application fee, self-reporting GPA. For departments, there could be opportunities for departments to host events/send targeted emails. Students hearing directly from, for example, dance, teacher education, or philosophy may make more of a connection (by talking to faculty vs admissions staff).
- **Question:** There is a limitation on the amount of remission money can be accessed for a scholarship. Previously the cap was higher, and now it's at \$6,000/year. For students that get multiple scholarships, they can't accept them because it exceeds the limit. What's the rationale behind that lower cap, and will it continue?
- **Gary Dukes:** It will continue for rest of year. Remission money is essentially discounted tuition money, and the driver to lower the cap was to lower the remission budget. We do know it will take some time to see the impact (i.e., if it affects admission since scholarships bring students).

8.2 SHCC Services (Beth Scroggins)

- Moved to January due to our time conflict. Thank you to Beth.

9. Announcements: None

4:45 motion to adjourn

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Better Know a Colleague (informal gathering continued, optional)

WOU Mission

Western Oregon University creates lasting opportunities for student success through transformative education and personalized support.

WOU Vision

To become Oregon's campus of choice for students, faculty and staff who seek a student-centered learning community.

Western Oregon University will achieve this vision by:

- Cultivating student success through personalized attention, mentoring and degree attainment.
- Raising awareness of our strengths, successes and contributions to the community through increased public outreach.
- Adapting to the changing world through continuous institutional improvement, evolving pedagogies and expertise, sustained scholarly and creative activities, and delivery of critical and innovative programs.
- Aspiring to standards of excellence in all programs.
- Challenging students, faculty and staff to grow profoundly through inspiring, thought-provoking educational experiences.
- Connecting students with communities through engagement in service, experiential learning, creative problem-solving opportunities and co-curricular collaborations.
- Supporting the inclusion of, respect for, and appreciation of all communities of students, faculty and staff.
- Promoting the well-being of students, employees and the environment.

WOU Values

Our practices are guided by our values:

- **Accessibility**
Programs, resources, media and structures that support the needs of our community members; affordable cost of attendance; personalized support; welcoming, efficient and user-friendly systems.
- **Accountability**
Evidence-based decision making, integrity and ethical transparency.
- **Collaboration**
Effective communication; cooperative exploration, problem solving, and teamwork; shared governance; dialogue.
- **Community**
Trustworthy, caring, safe environment for the cultivation of peace, civility and social justice; connections extending beyond the classroom, across campus and into our local and global communities.
- **Diversity and Respect**
Equity and inclusion; a fundamental basis in human diversity; appreciation for the complexity of the world; strength drawn from our variety of backgrounds, abilities, cultural experiences, identities, knowledge domains and means of expression.
- **Empowerment**
Knowledge, skills, pathways, technologies and resources for all community members to effectively identify and utilize opportunities; student success in degree attainment; critical thinking.
- **Excellence**
High standards for teaching, learning, scholarship and service; co-curricular activities; advancement of knowledge, analytical skills, creativity and innovation.
- **Sustainability and Stewardship**
Leadership in service of the public good; action to improve the health of our planet; responsibility for preserving and enhancing the natural, structural, financial, intellectual, and human resources entrusted to us.

Strategic Plan Membership	Article 15 Implementation Membership
<p>WOU administrators (1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President 	<p>WOU administrators (9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean, Library and Academic Innovation • Dean, CALS • Dean, COE • Dean of Graduate Studies and Research • VP and General Counsel • VP Finance and Administration • Associate Provost for Program Development • Provost and VP for Academic Affairs • President
<p>WOU faculty (10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and Economics • Behavioral Sciences • Creative Arts • Education and Leadership (2) • Health & Exercise Science • Library • Natural Science & Mathematics (2) • Social Science 	<p>WOU faculty (0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>WOU students (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASWOU student representatives 	<p>WOU students (0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>WOU staff (7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletic Compliance director • Enrollment Management associate provost • Student Engagement director • Student Enrichment Program assistant director • Graduate Programs director • Service Learning & Career Development director • The Research Institute director 	<p>WOU staff members (0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Community members (4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOU Board trustees (2) • Alumni Board member • WOU Foundation Board member 	<p>Community members (0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Strategic Plan Creation & Sharing wou.edu/planning	Article 15 Implementation Creation & Sharing
<p>Campus Town Hall – SWOT Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, May 20, 2016; two sessions open to the entire WOU campus community • Members of the SPC present to discuss the results of its work thus far, describe the planning process, and answer questions. <p>Campus Town Hall – Strategic Plan Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 3, 2016; two sessions open to the entire WOU campus community • Members of the SPC present to present draft and answer questions <p>ASWOU Town Hall – Strategic Plan Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 15, 2016; open to all students • Hosted by co-chairs Burton, and Fuller <p>Community Town Hall – Strategic Plan Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 16, 2016; open to all community members • Hosted by many SPC members <p>Campus Town Hall – Strategic Plan Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 29, 2016; open to the entire WOU campus community • November 28, 2016, Strategic Plan Draft Shared with campus <p>Campus Town Hall – Strategic Plan Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 19, 2017; open to the entire WOU campus community • January 17, 2017, Final Draft Shared with campus <p>Faculty and staff work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative creation by smaller working groups and the whole strategic planning membership group. • The plan, in its many stages was shared with faculty divisions and all campus units, feedback from this sharing and all of the open campus events was gathered and included in the writing and decision making process <p>Town hall process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters, feedback forms, conversations, online publications; a truly collaborative, open and inclusive process 	<p>Campus announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuller campus emails sent May, 2020 – December, 2020 • No feedback options given • No option for open conversations <p>Campus “town halls”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several live stream events are held May, 2020 – December, 2020 • Questions can be emailed and some were answered during events • No option for open conversations <p>Faculty feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty Senate Executive Committee ask questions about Interdisciplinary programs, Data and conclusions, Retention and student success, our Mission, Diversity, and more. • WOUFT details out the recommended pathway through program changes, especially using, as stated by administration but not actually following Dickson’s <i>Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services: Reallocating Resources to Achieve Strategic Balance</i> (2010) as a primary resource for program changes • The Faculty Senate Sustainability Taskforce was given insufficient time, only three weeks, to comment. That report recommended actions by described in the two academic dean’s reports, all of which are cost-saving and efficiency-designed, none of which call for cutting programs without depth of review.