OFFICIAL MINUTES
Faculty Senate Meeting, 30 September 2013

Call to order: Senate President Johann Neem called Senators to order at 4:00 pm, welcoming a total of 34 attendees (roster attached).

Minutes: Senators accepted the Senate minutes of 3 June 2013 with one grammatical correction to the resolution thanking Past President Karen Stout and two area corrections to the roster.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Neem’s Report:
• The Faculty Senate welcomes a new Administrative Assistant, Lizzy Ramhorst.
• Major Senate topics for the 2013-14 academic year are anticipated to include:
  - Potential changes to the University Planning and Resources Council (UPRC), which may become a more central body within University planning processes and deliberation;
  - Possible GUR reform. A motion is expected through the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) proposing a task force and study examining the desirability and feasibility of GUR reform;
  - Ways in which the faculty and the Senate can contribute toward an effective response to the six questions put forth by President Shepard at convocation on September 18th.
• Senators are invited to review documents on:
  - The revised Women Studies Program. Vicki Hsueh would like to encourage broad faculty engagement with the revised program and curriculum.
  - The possibility of transitioning to electronic course evaluations. A committee convened by the Senate last year recommended in favor of a move to electronic course evaluations, though an extensive list of pros and cons was noted. Senators are to prepare for discussion of this topic at the October 14 Senate meeting.

University President Bruce Shepard:
• Provost Carbajal presented on President Shepard’s behalf, offering a brief appraisal of what action the President would like to see taken this academic year on the six questions he presented to the University community at Convocation on 18 September 2013. The President expects to convene a coordinating committee to address these questions, with a formal response expected by the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

Provost Brent Carbajal:
• Western welcomes 30 new tenure-track professors to campus this fall. The hiring of new faculty has increased from the level seen three years ago and is expected to remain steady in the coming year.

Chuck Lambert, UFWW President:
• The UFWW is seeking ways to address and clarify policies regarding the use of University resources. Any action would require legislative approval.
• Discussions continue regarding the role of non-tenure-track faculty at Western and the way in which they are addressed in the union’s collective bargaining agreement. A task force will be assembled to examine these issues.

Josie Ellison, ASVP for Academic Affairs:
• Ninety new student staffers have recently completed AS training.
• AS would like to see future discussion on the possibility of adding questions about classroom climate and diversity issues to course evaluations.
PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The Student Success Collaborative: Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, reported on a pilot of the Student Success Collaborative, a program intended to use student academic data to inform student advising services. Student Outreach Services, Academic Advising, CFPA, Huxley College, and CBE are currently participating in the pilot. Senators responded with both questions and concerns regarding the appropriateness of the methodology of the program, the application of data drawn from it, and whether the program could be expected to have any impact upon resource availability. Some senators pressed for a more community-oriented approach to retaining under-represented minorities on campus.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE MINUTES
Texts of MOTIONS can be found in the Motion Log on the Senate website: http://www.wwu.edu/facultysenate/

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<th>Committee</th>
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<td>Academic Coordinating Commission</td>
<td>28 May 2013</td>
<td>MOTION to approve the Calendar Guidelines submitted by the Calendar Committee APPROVED with recommendations returned to ACC for future consideration1; full Minutes to be reviewed at 14 October 2013 Senate meeting.</td>
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1 Moved by Kathleen Saunders and seconded by Sean Murphy. Motion approved with all votes in favor.

ACTION ITEMS

Move to e-dossiers for faculty evaluation, tenure, and promotion:
Senators discussed a 14 June 2013 memo announcing recommendations for a pilot, assessment, and timeline for implementing e-dossiers as part of faculty evaluation processes.

1) Discussion: Senators discussed the decision to begin with probationary faculty, the scale of the pilot, and whether individuals should be able to opt out of the program.

2) Amendment: An amendment to the motion stating that the recommendations of the 14 June 2013 memo be amended to include only second-year probationary faculty in the pilot was forwarded by Senator Sara Weir and seconded by Amites Sarkar. Senators voted not to approve the amendment (4 votes in favor, 13 opposed, 4 abstentions).

3) Motion: Senators voted to approve the recommendations of the 14 June 2013 memo announcing a pilot, assessment, and timeline for implementing e-dossiers as a part of faculty evaluation processes (15 votes in favor, 2 opposed, 4 abstentions).

Resolution thanking Rose Marie Norton-Nader:
Senate President Neem presented a Resolution thanking Rose Marie Norton-Nader for her years of service to the Senate office, as follows:

Resolved, The Faculty Senate thanks Rose Marie Norton-Nader for her dedication to the Senate office and to ensuring a strong faculty voice on campus.

Senators voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS – Amites Sarkar, Appointments Officer

Elected by the Faculty Senate:
To Faculty Senate: Kathy Lundeen, English, for Allison Giffen, Fall
To Senate Executive Council: Amites Sarkar, Appointments & Elections
To Academic Coordinating Commission: Jay Teachman, Sociology, for Ron Helms, Fall
To University Planning & Resources Council: Dan Larner, Fairhaven
As Senate Representative to UPRC: Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Chemistry, Area A

Vacancies on Senate and Standing Committees:
Senate: 1 faculty from Area A (CST), replacing Clint Spiegel
UPRC: 1 faculty from CBE, replacing Hart Hodges, who serves at-large as UPRC chair
ACC: 1 faculty from Woodring, replacing Tracy Thorndike-Christ, Fall & Winter
Academic Technology Committee: 1 faculty from Fairhaven
CONSTITUENT CONCERNS

Senators voiced concerns regarding the impact of disruptions produced by construction projects and leaf-blowing during final exams. A desire to see the University coordinate more extensively with the City of Bellingham on the timing of road construction projects was expressed.

Senators adjourned at 5:57 pm.
Minutes submitted by Lizzy Ramhorst, Recorder, 9 October 2013