Call to order: Senate President Molly Ware called Senators to order at 4:00 pm, welcoming a total of 27 attendees (roster attached).

Minutes: Senators approved Senate minutes of 28 September 2015 as written.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Molly Ware:
- Lizzy Ramhorst has been appointed to the position of Shared Governance Operations Manager and will serve in this capacity as university parliamentarian; Kylee Swift is the new Administrative Assistant to the Faculty Senate.
- Due to the time sensitive nature of finalizing nominations to the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, all other reports and review of standing committee minutes will be postponed until the meeting of 26 October 2015.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Amanda Eurich, Appointments and Elections Officer, presented nominations to Senate standing committees. Senators voted unanimously to approve a motion from the Executive Council to confirm the following appointments:

To Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC):
- Senate Representative: John Lund, Engineering & Design
- Area E, CBE: Phil Thompson, Economics

To Academic Technology Committee (ATC):
- Area D, CFPA: Bruce Hamilton, Music
- Area E, CBE: TJ Olney, Finance & Marketing
- Area G, Huxley: James Helfield, Environmental Sciences
- Area H, Woodring: Don Burgess, SMATE

Senate Library Committee (SLC):
- Area C, CHSS: Sean Murphy, Liberal Studies (appointment withdrawn after meeting)

To Senate Extended Education Committee (SEEC):
- Senate Representative: Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Chemistry

ACTION ITEMS

Review of General Education Task Force Charge: Senate President Molly Ware presented the General Education Task Force charge and membership to the Faculty Senate. Mark Kuntz, ACC Chair, provided background on the formation of the task force.

The Task Force is charged with defining three broad options for Western’s general education program to be presented back to the campus community for discussion. Senators expressed concern that the Task Force members were selected by the Ad Hoc Committee rather than elected in an open election process. Kuntz reported that the Ad Hoc committee was sensitive to this issue and despite time and schedule constraints, endeavored to ensure broad representation on the task force.

Senators voted unanimously in favor of a motion (forwarded by Sean Murphy and seconded) to approve the charge and membership for the General Education Task Force (see Appendix A).
Faculty Nominations to Presidential Search Advisory Committee: Ware presented the list of Presidential Search Advisory Committee nominees to the Senate.

Sean Murphy rose to a point of order regarding a violation of due process and forwarded a motion (seconded) to strike from the list of nominees for consideration anyone whose materials were not submitted by the deadline of Monday, October 5th at 12:00 pm. An amendment (forwarded by Jeanne Armstrong and seconded) stipulating that Senators first consider the names of candidates who met the 10/5 deadline and consider additional candidates only if Senators felt there was not sufficiently diverse representation within this pool carried with 13 in favor, six opposed and two abstentions.

After reviewing the first group of candidates, Senators voted to consider candidates who submitted materials after the 10/5 deadline (12 in favor, six opposed, and three abstentions).

A motion (forwarded by Allison Giffen and seconded) to nominate the Faculty Senate’s top six candidates passed with a friendly amendment (forwarded by Sara Singleton and seconded) to identify the top three candidates among those six (see Appendix B).

Senators adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Trula Nicholas, Senate Secretary 2015-16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senators</th>
<th>Ex Officio attendees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molly Ware, Senate President</td>
<td>At Lg – Secondary Ed P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristen Larson, President-Elect</td>
<td>A ~ Physics &amp; Astronomy P</td>
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<td>Trula Nicholas, Secretary</td>
<td>H ~ Human Services --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Eurich, A&amp;F Officer</td>
<td>C ~ History P</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Lund, Exec At Lg</td>
<td>A ~ Engineering P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chuck Lambert, UFWW President</td>
<td>H ~ Special Education P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allison Giffen</td>
<td>C ~ English --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clint Spiegel</td>
<td>A ~ Chemistry P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Moyer</td>
<td>A ~ Biology --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daphne Sluys</td>
<td>A ~ Mathematics P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hud Hudson</td>
<td>C ~ Philosophy --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Caplan-Auerbach</td>
<td>A ~ Geology P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Kanov</td>
<td>E ~ Management --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanne Armstrong</td>
<td>I ~ Libraries P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Graham</td>
<td>B ~ Psychology P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Stevenson</td>
<td>B ~ Anthropology P</td>
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<tr>
<td>John McLaughlin</td>
<td>G ~ Environmental Sciences P</td>
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<td>John Tuxill for B. Akinrinade</td>
<td>F ~ Fairhaven P</td>
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<td>Karen Bradley</td>
<td>B ~ Sociology P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Wayne</td>
<td>H ~ Elementary Education --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milica Jelaca Jovanovic</td>
<td>D ~ Music P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neal Tognazzini</td>
<td>C ~ Philosophy P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Buckley</td>
<td>G ~ Environmental Studies P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pierre Gour</td>
<td>D ~ Art P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rich Brown</td>
<td>D ~ Theatre &amp; Dance P</td>
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<td>Seniors present 22</td>
<td>Other regular required attendees 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Webb</td>
<td>C ~ Journalism --</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stella Hua</td>
<td>E ~ Decision Science P</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Henson</td>
<td>E ~ Economics P</td>
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Appendix A – General Education Task Force Charge and Membership

Preamble

The following statement was adopted by ACC and CUE to reflect the values of the Western community and our vision for general education:

Western believes that liberal education enables people to lead fuller and more interesting lives, to perceive and to understand more of the world around and within themselves, and to participate more intelligently, sensitively, and deliberately in shaping that world. This belief reflects a long tradition in American higher education. In this tradition, the bachelor's degree includes specialized study, the major, together with study over a range of human inquiry, expression and accomplishment. Broadly, the liberal education component of a bachelor's degree deals with issues of truth and falsity, with expressions of what is possible for humans to do and be, with things that bear on choices that we make about what in life we consider important. This broader study helps people gain perspective on who they are and what they do in the world.

The CUE concluded in 2012 that (1) the revisions to Western’s general education curriculum implemented in fall 2005 “had limited impact on clarifying the connection between the GURs and a liberal arts and sciences education or on creating more coherence across the GURs,”¹ and (2) it was unclear if the curriculum was either fulfilling the vision for liberal education articulated above or meeting the goals that faculty had previously established for the GUR program.

These conclusions led to the creation of the WSGE Task Force, which the ACC and Faculty Senate approved. The Task Force was charged with exploring and gauging the desire of various Western constituents to engage in structural reform of the GUR program.

From the extensive information-gathering and discussion that followed, a significant plurality of faculty members expressed their reluctance, even unwillingness, to decide whether structural reform was desirable, absent specific proposals to consider. Hence, the Faculty Senate has now recommended creating a new task force charged to develop proposals to improve Western’s GUR program.

Task Force Charge

The Task Force will provide for the university community’s consideration three options for improving the GUR program. One of the options will involve minimal adjustments to the structure and goals of the current GUR program.

Deadline and meeting schedule

The Task Force shall complete its task by the end of winter quarter 2016. Its meetings, scheduled for Wednesdays from 4-5:30 pm, shall begin as soon as possible.

Task Force Membership

The Task Force will include faculty representing the following colleges and disciplines:

- (2) Natural Sciences and Engineering
- (1) Social Sciences
- (1) Humanities
- (1) Fine and Performing Arts
- (1) Business and Economics
- (1) Environment
- (1) Education
- (1) Libraries
- (1) Fairhaven

The Task Force will include five students.

The Task Force shall include at least one faculty (preferably from the list above) representing:

ACC
CUE
Faculty Senate

The Task Force shall include faculty (preferably from the list above) representing:
   (2) NTT faculty who teach GURs
   (1) Pedagogical expertise in Higher Education

The Task Force shall include the following (non-voting) Advisory Members:
   Brent Carbajal, Provost
   Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
   John Purdie, Director of Residence Life
   One representative from the Registrar’s Office
   UFWW representative

Associated Considerations

The Task Force should note that, although its study and discussion of improving the GUR program may implicate the associated issues below to consider, its charge does not include settling any of these issues:

- Implementation of any of the options to improve the GUR program
- Resources needed to implement any of the options
- Assessment of any of the options
- Timeline of any implementation
- Process by which the university community will choose an option
- How the information will be delivered to the campus community
- Accreditation of any college or of the university as a whole
- Issues involving specific “bottleneck“ courses
- Issues involving the university’s Writing Proficiency requirement
- Issues involving academic advising

The ACC and Faculty Senate assume ultimate responsibility for the above list of considerations. The Task Force shall focus on identifying options to improve the GUR program that reflect the values of the Western community and make liberal arts and sciences education an integral part of the Western experience.

Attachments

Statements published in WWU documents that communicate the value of liberal arts and sciences education and GURs
Comparisons of GUR programs at peer universities
WSGE Task Force Final Report
Faculty Senate Summary of WSGE Report
GUR Competencies
LEAP Resources and Outcomes
GENERAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

Voting Members:
- CSE: Emily Borda, Chemistry
- CSE/NTT: Georgianne Connell, Biology
- CHSS/Faculty Senate: Karen Bradley, Sociology
- CHSS/CUE: Robert Stoops, Liberal Studies
- CFPA: Dipu Gupta, Theatre & Dance
- CBE: Brandon Dupont, Economics
- Fairhaven: TBD
- Huxley: TBD
- Woodring/Higher Ed: Angela Harwood, Secondary Education
- Libraries/ACC: Elizabeth Stephan, Libraries

Five (5) students named by the Associated Students

Additional vacancies (dual representation possible and encouraged):
- NTT faculty member

Advisory Members (non-voting):
- Brent Carbajal, Provost
- Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
- John Purdie, Associate Director of Residence Life
- Carolyn Swinburne, Registrar’s Office representative
- TBD, UFWW Representative
Appendix B – List of Presidential Search Advisory Committee Nominees

Dear colleagues,

The Faculty Senate has concluded its process of identifying faculty members for the Board of Trustees to choose from in constituting the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. We wanted to keep you apprised of this process.

Thirteen faculty members submitted nomination materials to be reviewed by the Senate and six names were sent forward to the Board of Trustees on October 15. The Board is currently completing their selection process and will notify the campus shortly regarding the constitution of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. The Senate would like to publicly thank all faculty who submitted their materials. We had a very strong pool of nominees and recognize that significant time and effort went into the nomination process. The six faculty whose names were sent forward to the Board of Trustees were:

- Spencer Anthony-Cahill
- John Bower
- Jim Graham
- Kevin Leonard
- Jeff Newcomer
- Trula Nicholas

We believe that each of these faculty, should they be selected by the Board, will do an outstanding job of listening to the campus community, representing faculty perspectives, bringing a deep knowledge of university-wide issues, and working across roles in the search process.

We encourage you to participate in the upcoming listening sessions hosted by the Board of Trustees along with providing feedback online. Thank you, in advance, for helping to envision next steps for our campus through your involvement in these important ways.

Thank you all for the ways in which you contributed to the process of selecting faculty to serve on the Presidential Search. Please be in touch if you have questions about the process.

With respect,
Molly Ware

Molly Ware, Ph.D.
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Bellingham, WA  98225