Call to order: Faculty Senate President Kristen Larson called Senators to order at 4:02 pm, welcoming a total of 35 attendees (roster attached).

Minutes: Senators approved minutes of 9 January 2017 as written.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Lambert, UFWW President:

• Reported that the UFWW has initiated a committee in partnership with the administration to explore the mutual impacts of summer session planning and revenue and non-tenure-track (NTT) faculty hiring. All department chairs have been invited to meet with the union to discuss this topic, and office hours are available for any faculty member who has questions about topics of union concern. Senate President Kristen Larson stated that Senate Extended Education Committee leadership would also be invited to come to the next Senate meeting to talk about this issue and others related to it.
• Addressed questions about changes in the timing of summer benefit deductions from faculty paychecks and about faculty being paid over the course of nine months rather than twelve months, reporting that state law impacts the university’s handling of both issues.

Sara Singleton, Faculty Legislative Representative:

• Provided a report and overview of recent legislative activity in Olympia.
• The deadline for nominations for the 2017 Rep. Timm Ormsby Award for Faculty Citizenship is March 3rd, and nominations should be sent to Faculty.Senate@wwu.edu.

Erick Yanzon, Associated Students VP for Academic Affairs:

• Students advocated at Viking Lobby Day for freezing tuition rather than allowing a 2.1% increase.
• The AS recently passed a resolution declaring that the Associated Students is a sanctuary organization for undocumented students.
• The Student Technology Fee Committee will begin meeting this Thursday to review proposals.

REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senators voted unanimously in favor of motions to approve Senate Extended Education Committee (SEEC) minutes of 1 November 2016 (motion to approve SEEC minutes forwarded by Jim Graham and seconded) and Social Justice and Equity Committee (SJEC) minutes of 2 December 2016 (motion to approve SJEC minutes forwarded by Sean Murphy and seconded).

ACTION ITEMS

ACC Report on Recommended Improvements to General Education:

ACC Chair Sean Murphy presented the Academic Coordinating Commission’s Report on Recommended Improvements to General Education, as conveyed in ACC Minutes of 22 November 2016.

Senators inquired about ACC’s rationale for presenting such recommendations and doing so without consulting the Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE) in light of the fact that the 2016 General Education Task Force was charged for the purpose of initiating and stimulating campuswide discussion as opposed to seeking consensus or a decisive vote on possible general education models. Senators also asked
about the process through which recommendations might be implemented and assessed, and representatives of both ACC and CUE stated that many details would still need to be worked out over a significant period of time and that CUE’s involvement would be expected in this process. Senators commented that ACC’s recommendations appeared oriented to outcome attainment and remarked that effective assessment would be essential to such an approach. Questions arose about the possibility of assigning proposed “diversity-equity-justice” (DEJ) designations to courses with attributes other than HUM and SSC.

Senators agreed that they would need more time to consult with constituents prior to taking action upon ACC’s recommendations and sought to discuss what steps and questions would be necessary for the purpose of adequately considering ACC’s report. Senators were encouraged to circulate ACC’s report to their constituents and seek their consultation and feedback. Consideration of the report will resume at the next Senate meeting.

Senators adjourned at 5:57 pm.