Call to order: Following a roll call of the 2017-18 Faculty Senate, Senate President Kristen Larson called Senators to order at 4:05 pm, welcoming a total of 45 attendees (roster attached).

Minutes: Senators approved minutes of 1 May 2017 and 15 May 2017 as written.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate President Kristen Larson:
- Encouraged faculty to provide feedback on Western’s 2016-17 Strategic Plan.

President Sabah Randhawa:
- Emphasized the importance of faculty feedback on Western’s 2016-17 Strategic Plan.
- Thanked faculty for acquainting him with Western and its campus culture.

Provost Brent Carbajal:
- Announced that Western will have two new Vice Presidents in the 2017-18 academic year: Eileen Coughlin is retiring from the position of Vice President of Enrollment & Student Services and Steve Swan is retiring from the position of Vice President of University Relations & Community Development.
- Gautam Pillay has accepted the position of Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School and is expected to begin August 28, 2017.

UFWW President Chuck Lambert:

Sara Singleton, Faculty Legislative Representative:
- Washington Legislature has convened a special session to continue negotiations of the 2017-19 Operating Budget.
- Roger Anderson, Biology, is the 2017-18 Faculty Legislative Representative.

Erick Yanzon, Associated Students VP for Academic Affairs:
- The Associated Students (AS) Board recently passed a resolution regarding shared governance in connection with the proposed AS restructure.

AWARD PRESENTATION

2017 Timm Ormsby Award for Faculty Citizenship: Verónica Vélez, Secondary Education, was presented with the 2017 Timm Ormsby Award to acclamation. The award recognizes Vélez’s exemplary commitment to promoting and ensuring access by historically underrepresented students to four-year education in the State of Washington.

Vélez encouraged Senators to consider what it means to be a citizen and what it means to be civically engaged, and expressed hope that work will continue to progress in the area of social justice and civic engagement. Vélez thanked the Education and Social Justice (ESJ) program staff, students, and affiliated faculty for their work and encouraged Senators to consider how faculty can engage more deeply with social justice issues on campus.
ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Election of 2017-18 Officers: Senate Vice President and President-Elect Allison Giffen conducted the election of the 2017-18 Faculty Senate Officers.

A motion (forwarded by Holly Folk and seconded) to conduct election of 2017-18 Faculty Senate Officers via voice vote instead of secret ballot passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate McNeel Jantzen to the position of Vice President and President-Elect (forwarded by Allison Giffen and seconded) passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate Jeff Young to the position of Secretary (forwarded by Yvonne Durham and seconded) passed unanimously.

A motion to nominate John Lund to the position of Appointments and Elections Officer (forwarded by Jackie Caplan-Auerbach and seconded) passed unanimously.

Giffen thanked the faculty members who forwarded their names for consideration and asked Senators to consider nominations to the 2017-18 At-Large position, which will remain open until filled.

RESOLUTION HONORING SENATE PRESIDENT KRISTEN LARSON

A resolution forwarded and read by Vice President and President-Elect Allison Giffen honoring Senate President Kristen Larson passed by acclamation. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, Kristen Larson has served as Western Washington University's Faculty Senate President during the 2016-17 academic year;

WHEREAS, Kristen Larson has proven to be an effective and judicious leader, has served the University with dedication, integrity, and humor, and has shown courage and vision directing the Senate’s deliberations on crucial issues throughout her tenure;

WHEREAS, Kristen Larson has demonstrated a deep respect for all members of the campus community, a commitment to inclusion, and a devotion to student success;

WHEREAS, the members of the Faculty Senate of Western Washington University are grateful to Kristen Larson for her commitment to shared governance, to broadening faculty participation in meaningful decision making throughout the University, and to making the Faculty Senate of Western Washington University a force for effective faculty governance;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate of Western Washington University, at its regular meeting of May 30, 2017, that Kristen Larson is hereby HONORED for her outstanding service as Faculty Senate President from June 21, 2016 to June 25, 2017.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Fall 2017 Roll-Out of New Academic Honesty Policy: Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, Western Coalition for Integrity Chair, updated Senators on Western’s new Academic Honesty Policy (AHP) in Appendix D of the Catalog and on the work of the Western Coalition for Integrity (WCI). The revised AHP policy was approved in spring quarter 2016 and will be implemented during the 2017-18 academic year. The WCI website provides more information and resources regarding the revised AHP. Members of the WCI are also available to answer questions. Caplan-Auerbach asked Senators to share this information with their constituents and requested examples of text regarding the revised AHP that can be included in syllabi.

Senators discussed the importance of reporting every breach of academic honesty in order to ensure consistency, transparency, allow students an opportunity to appeal a decision, and provide faculty with an opportunity to educate students about academic integrity. Caplan-Auerbach noted that an e-form to report academic honesty violations can be found online and clarified that Western does not keep a permanent record of student AHP violations. Caplan-Auerbach also clarified that the WCI is a different body than the Academic Honesty Board. Senators inquired about data themes regarding instances of academic dishonesty. Caplan-Auerbach stated that the Provost’s Office could better speak to this. Senators raised concerns regarding students buying essays, Teaching Assistants and junior faculty not feeling supported in reporting incidences, the need to protect student privacy and rights, and hesitancy in reporting violations that do not
seem egregious or because students lack an understanding of what constitutes plagiarism. Caplan-Auerbach
drew attention to Western’s plagiarism detection software, Vericite. Discussion of this topic is expected to
continue in fall quarter.

**REVIEW OF STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Lizzy Ramhorst, *Shared Governance Operations Manager*, clarified that ACC’s Rationale for a Revised Policy on
Credit Hours was approved separate from the actual policy. Action on the revised credit hours policy is
expected to take place at ACC’s meeting of 23 May 2017.

Senators voted unanimously in favor of a motion (forwarded by Rich Brown and seconded) to approve
Senate Library Committee (SLC) minutes of 22 February 2017, summary of 8 March 2017, and minutes of 5
April 2017; Academic Technology Committee (ATC) minutes of 6 April 2017, 20 April 2017, and 27 April
2017; Senate Extended Education Committee (SEEC) minutes of 25 April 2017 with exception of
Appendix A: 2017 SEEC Report to Faculty Senate; Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) minutes of
9 May 2017; Social Justice & Equity Committee (SJEC) minutes of 9 May 2017; and University Planning &
Resources Council (UPRC) minutes of 26 April 2017 and 10 May 2017.

**ACTION ITEM**

**Year-End Reports from Senate and Standing Committees:** Senators noted that the year-end reports
function as an index of committee accomplishments and are useful to reference at the beginning of the
academic year. See Appendix A for year-end reports.

A motion to file the Senate and Senate Standing Committee year-end reports and the 2017 SEEC Report to
Faculty Senate (forwarded by Amanda Eurich and seconded) passed.

**ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

- Lizzy Ramhorst, *Shared Governance Operations Manager*, informed Senators that a 2017-18 preliminary
  meeting schedule for the Faculty Senate and Senate standing committees is now available.
- Faculty Senate is expected to discuss a report on the Student Success Collaborative in fall quarter.
- A Senator expressed a desire for Faculty Senate to discuss SharePoint during the next academic year.

Senators adjourned at 5:32 pm.

______________________________
Trula Nicholas, *Senate Secretary 2016-17*
## FACULTY SENATE – ROSTER 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outgoing Senators with terms ending in 2017</th>
<th>Ex Officio attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>1  Babafemi Akinrinade</td>
<td>41 Sabah Randhawa, University President</td>
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<td>2  Bidisha Biswas for Vicki Hsueh</td>
<td>42 Brent Carbajal, Provost</td>
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<td>3  Amanda Eurch</td>
<td>43 Johanna Sleeve, ASVP for Academics</td>
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<td>4  Jim Graham</td>
<td>44 Erick Yanzon, ASVP for Academics</td>
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<td>5  Chuck Lambert, UFWW Pres</td>
<td>45 Melissa Bollinger, AASP for Academics</td>
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<td>6  Kristen Larson, 2016-17 Pres</td>
<td>46 Lizzy Ramhorst, Shared Gov Ops Mgr</td>
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<td>7  Seán Murphy</td>
<td>47 Kylee Swift, Recorder</td>
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<td>8  Trula Nicholas, Secretary</td>
<td>48 James Carr, Associate Dean Lib</td>
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<td>9  Daphne Scott</td>
<td>49 Andrea Peterson, Associate Dean Lib</td>
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<td>10 Neal Tognazzini</td>
<td>50 Veronica Velez, Secondary Education</td>
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<td>51 Elaine Mehary, ESJ Prog Coordinator</td>
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<td>52 Anthony Longoria, ESJ</td>
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<td>53 Sydney Erikson, ESJ</td>
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<td>54 Eldred Vidal, ESJ</td>
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<th>Other regular required attendees</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 Jackie Caplan-Auerbach</td>
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<td>12 Kristin Denham</td>
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<td>13 Yvonne Durham for Craig Dunn</td>
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<td>14 Allison Giffen, 2017-18 Pres</td>
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<td>15 Filip Jagodzinski</td>
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<td>16 Milica Jelaca Jovanovic</td>
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<td>17 Jason Kanov</td>
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<td>18 John Lund, At-Lg</td>
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<td>19 John McLaughlin</td>
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<td>20 Amanda Murphy</td>
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<td>21 Jenny Oleen</td>
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<td>22 Aaron Perzigian</td>
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<td>23 Jun San Juan</td>
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<td>24 Joan Stevenson</td>
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<td>25 Jeff Young</td>
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<th>New and Returning Senators with terms ending in 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>26 Regina Barber DeGraaff</td>
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<td>27 Rich Brown, E&amp;A Officer</td>
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<td>28 Patrick Buckley</td>
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<td>29 Marsha Riddle Buly</td>
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<td>30 Devyani Chandran</td>
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<td>31 David Evans</td>
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<td>32 Holly Folk</td>
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<td>33 Hugo Garcia</td>
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<td>34 Pierre Gour</td>
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<td>35 Stella Hua</td>
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<td>36 McNeel Jantzen</td>
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<td>37 Rand Jimerson</td>
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<td>38 Hilary Schwandt</td>
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<td>39 Sheila Webb</td>
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<td>40 Jianying Zhang</td>
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<th>Guests</th>
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<td>10 Neal Tognazzini</td>
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TOTAL ATTENDEES 45

Prepared by Kylee Swift, 14 June 2017
Faculty Senate End of Year Report
AY 2016-2017
Submitted by Kristen Larson, Senate President

Priorities Identified by Senate Executive Council at the beginning of the year:
  a. GUR Revision
  b. Campus Climate
  c. Extended Education
  d. Non-Tenure-Track Faculty
  e. Access to Majors

Accomplishments, with corresponding priorities noted:
  • Secured faculty representation in strategic planning, created and implemented process to select faculty members for the Strategic Planning Committee (a,c,d,e)
  • Increased communication through Faculty Senate President Blog and weekly email updates (b)
  • Passed motion urging of sanctuary for undocumented students (b)
  • Explored available resources and disseminated information about undocumented students to the faculty community (b)
  • Engaged in process to review and approve new Student Conduct Code, with senators’ comments read into the record at public hearing (b)
  • Endorsed key priorities for GUR revision and charged ACC with further development (a)
  • Participated in University accreditation self-report and successful visit (a,c)
  • Gathered chairs of college faculty governance councils for discussion and organizing
  • Developed criteria and implemented process for compensation for NTT service (d)
  • Served in search process for VP ESS and other administrative positions; review of Vice Provosts for Extended Education and Equal Opportunity
  • Charged standing committees of Senate to examine questions around Extended Education next year (c)
  • Filled all Senate seats for upcoming academic year

Issues for the coming year:
  o Continue to work with faculty governance at the college level, build sustainability into the governance structures at the university level, rethink the org chart and “handbook” (b)
  o Get a complete picture of all credit-bearing courses that exist outside of departmental structures: what is taught, how and when is it taught, who decides who teaches it, why are students taking it (d)
  o Work on issues regarding retention, access, and student success by participating in changes in the Division of Enrollment & Student Services and empowering Senate standing committees SJEC and UPRC (e)
2016-17 Report of the Academic Coordinating Commission

Chair: Professor Seán Murphy, Liberal Studies
Vice Chair: Professor Phil Thompson, Economics

Mandate:
The Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC) of Western Washington University has purview over all aspects of academic policy.

Accomplishments:
(1) Reviewed, discussed, and acted upon 95 sets of Curriculum Minutes, totaling 696 pages.
(2) General Education:
   (a) Reviewed, analyzed, and discussed the 2014 Western Study of General Education (WSGE) Task Force Report, including input, compiled in the appendices, from faculty and student surveys and forums; the 2016 General Education Task Force Report; the 2016 General Education Data Summary; faculty and student responses to the 2016 Report in both their original forms and thematically organized forms; data from the 2016 Student referendum on possible changes to general education; and academic unit responses to the 2016 Report.
   (b) Issued “Report to the Faculty Senate: Recommended Improvements to General Education,” which identifies four priority areas: writing, diversity, coherence, and faculty-student engagement.
   (c) Charged the Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE) with the further development of the first priority area (writing).
   (d) Initiated discussion on revising the GUR competencies—one of the main items in the third priority area (coherence).
(3) Approved the university’s first Graduate Faculty Membership Policy.
(4) Approved a new Course Title Policy.
(5) Terminated the International Programs Advisory Committee’s charge from the ACC and its status as a standing committee of the ACC.
(6) Approved a formal statement requiring that departments allow students enrolled in a program scheduled for elimination or suspension to complete their program within three years of the change to the program.
(7) Approved a revised Credit Hour Policy and a Rationale for a revised Credit Hour Policy.
(8) Approved a College in the High School (CHS) pilot program offered by Huxley College of the Environment. (This is Western’s first CHS offering.)
(9) Participated in Western’s Year Seven accreditation review by the NWCCU.
(10) Participated in the initial development and implementation of the new Curriculog course management system.
(11) Initiated a discussion of the BAS (Bachelor of Applied Science) degree, including possible ways in which a BAS will be evaluated when a student with the degree applies for admission to Western as an undergraduate transfer student or graduate student.
Priorities for 2017-18:
(1) General Education: further development of recommended improvements within each of the four priority areas.
(2) Revision of the ACC Handbook.
(3) Implementation of the Curriculog course management system.
(4) Development of a University policy on the BAS.
(5) Review and evaluation of Western’s first College in the High School pilot program.
(6) Review and possible revision of the CUE charge.
(7) Discussion and possible development of University guidelines for academic credit for internships.

ACC-Faculty Senate Relations:
(1) The ACC will have to work closely with the University Planning and Resource Council (UPRC) of the Faculty Senate, as the ACC and CUE develop the ACC’s recommendations for improvements to General Education, especially those recommendations that will require new resources or the re-allocation of existing resources.
(2) The discussion of a possible University policy on the BAS will include coordination between ACC, the Graduate Council, and the Recruitment, Admissions, and Support Committee (RASC) of the Faculty Senate.
(3) The ACC will continue to communicate its priorities to the Faculty Senate through the Chair’s participation in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, as well as the participation of Senate representatives to the ACC in the deliberations of both bodies.
FLR: Faculty Legislative Representative Report 2016-17

Sara Singleton, Political Science Department, sara.singleton@wwu.edu

The Faculty Legislative Representative represents the Faculty of Western Washington University in relations with the Washington State Legislature and sits on the Council of Faculty Representatives (CFR). During the 2017 legislative session I:

Attended the legislative session from mid-January until the end of March; continued to monitor legislative activity through subsequent special sessions. Advocated for the CFR legislative agenda. The CFR agenda for 2017 (attached) included the following:

- Support levels of compensation that allow universities to attract and retain quality faculty
- Support fully funding the state need grant for all eligible students
- Maintain high educational quality by rebalancing the ratio between tenured and part-time, non-tenured faculty
- Work to establish a faculty position on institutional boards of regents or trustees

At this point the legislature is in its second special session, and the final outcome of the first three items remains uncertain. The fourth item---faculty on boards of regents and trustees—is dead for the session, but could/should be taken up in the future. Advocacy activities in support of this agenda and other issues of importance to Western’s faculty included the following:

Testimony before House and Senate Higher Ed. Committees on these and other relevant policy and revenue bills.

Meetings with legislators regarding bills.

In an attempt to bring greater awareness of faculty research at Western to legislators, I worked with Western’s government relations team to create a two-page handout on faculty-student research. This was distributed to all members of Senate and House Higher Education Committees.

Met regularly with allied policy organizations, e.g. Council of Presidents, United Faculty of Washington, Washington Student Association.

Met weekly with Council of Faculty Representatives (CFR is composed of FLRs from UW, WSU, EWU, CWU, TESC and WWU) for work sessions at least every Wednesday during the regular session and participated in weekly conference calls thereafter.

Met weekly in Olympia with WWU Legislative Group (student representatives and WWU government relations staff). Participated in a weekly conference calls that included representatives of Western’s administration, staff and students.

Monitored meetings of the Higher Education Advisory Committee to the Washington State Student Achievement Council, which is the agency charged with initiating, implementing and assessing education policy in the state.

Worked with faculty senate organizing the 3rd annual Tim Ormsby Achievement Faculty Awards. The Ormsby Award is given in recognition of faculty contributions to public service.
Faculty Senate Social Justice & Equity Committee (SJEC)
2016-17 Report Submitted: May, 2017

Significant Accomplishments

- Worked in collaboration with the Provost’s Office and the Shared Governance Operations Manager to move the oversight of the SJEC budget to the Faculty Senate Office. This will take effect at the end of the current fiscal year.
- Worked to establish a transparent budget process with SJEC members reviewing revenues and expenditures on a regular basis.
- Awards [grants]: A total of 7 proposals were submitted by WWU faculty for the teaching/research awards. Two awards were granted. Adjustments in the proposal process included allowing applicants to combine teaching and research in one proposal and to award one course release during the academic year or summer pay for one course based on the awardee’s preference. A process for review of proposals, notification of Senate, and awardee payment processes was developed.
- Faculty Learning Labs: 2015/2016 awardees attended a total of 6 faculty learning labs during the academic year. Faculty engaged in cross-disciplinary discussions on the transformational impact their work is having on our campus.
- Campus-Wide Dialogues: Two campus-wide dialogues were held. Whatcom county community members were invited to participate this year. 30 faculty/staff/students/community members received training on how to facilitate difficult conversations. Approximately 150 faculty/student/staff/community members participated in the dialogues [80 winter quarter; 70 spring quarter]. Participant exit surveys indicated that a majority of participants found the experience valuable.
- Joined with groups across campus to cosponsored three events related to social justice and equity.

Opportunities/Challenges

- A continuing challenge is trying to build a firm foundation for this newly formed committee while simultaneously engaging in the work of the committee.
- Multiple faculty from across the campus have expressed interest in being a part of this committee’s work in some way. We need to develop strategies on how to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Develop a way to actively contribute to WWU’s institutional transformation into a social justice and equitable campus in a way that does not posit SJEC as the ‘expert’ but more of a powerful traveling companion as we continue this journey.
- Continue to find way to engage and partner with community members throughout Bellingham and Whatcom County as we all strive to create a socially justice and equitable communities.

Next year’s agenda/connections with other faculty governance bodies at WWU

- Strengthening our foundation in a way that allows us to stay true to our mission [charge].
- Deepening our work with the faculty learning labs and campus-wide dialogues.
- Work on the following charge: The Faculty Senate charges its standing committees on Academic Technology, the Library, and Social Justice and Equity with investigating and recommending ways to ensure equitable support of and resources for the students and faculty at all of Western’s locations.
- Continue to find formal and informal ways to connect with other faculty governance bodies at WWU.

Prepared by Kylee Swift, 14 June 2017
Academic Technology Committee (ATC) End-of-Year Report, AY2016-17
Submitted by Andy Klein, Chair of ATC

Significant Accomplishments:

ATC oversaw numerous informational and technology changes and reviewed policy issues relating to the academic technology and security of the university. ATC’s activities for the AY2016-17 included:

- Conducted a thorough review of all Student Technology Fee (STF) Tech Initiatives proposals which were submitted. Delivered a recommendation to the STF Committee, along with detailed comments on each proposal.

- Participated in the permanent CIO search, primarily through the appointment of one ATC member to the CIO search committee.

- Continued role as watchdog over the transition to digital phones.

- Continued ATC’s role as a bidirectional conduit for information and policy concerns relating to technology and cybersecurity issues for the faculty and staff.

- Evaluated numerous proposed policy changes from ATUS, and made recommendations on issues including audience response systems and plagiarism detection software.

Opportunities and Challenges:

- ATC continues to play a purely advisory role, and Western lacks an institution-wide technology governance body that is more than just an advisory group.

Issues that might benefit from consideration by other committees:

- The Student Technology Fee (STF) Committee (comprised of faculty, staff, and students) is responsible for annually reviewing Tech Initiatives proposals and recommending funding allocations. Historically, it has been standard practice for ATC to also review these STF proposals, and to subsequently make funding recommendations to the STF Committee. Thus, ATC makes a recommendation to the STF Committee to make a recommendation to the University President and Associated Students President. This activity is typically the largest single endeavor by ATC each year, often requiring extra meetings to meet the proposal review deadlines. If there’s already a committee with broad representation dedicated to the job of recommending STF allocations (i.e., the STF Committee), is it necessary to add another layer of recommendation (i.e., by ATC)?
Annual Report of the Senate Library Committee (SLC)  
Fall, 2016-Spring 2017

**Charge of SLC:** The main function of the Senate Library Committee (SLC) is to advise and make recommendations to the Dean of the Libraries and serve as liaison between the faculty and the Dean of Libraries. The advice ‘concerns policies and procedures relating to the library’s development and maintenance of collections, services, facilities and budget so that faculty, students, and staff can effectively and efficiently use the library.’

**The backstory:** In the 2015-2016 academic year, Western had to engage in the difficult task of reducing spending on library journals. Accumulating inflation without sufficient budget increases made it impossible for the Libraries to pay for the university's journal subscriptions at the time, and it became necessary to cut titles.

The SLC constituted a Task Force comprised of faculty and librarians to develop criteria for making the necessary cuts. High cost relative to journal use emerged as the most important criterion that could be objectively applied. Over the 2015-2016 academic year, Western Libraries worked with faculty to reduce spending by $225,000 on journal titles from several publishers (Sage, Oxford, Taylor & Francis, and Springer).

In spring 2016, the SLC and Western Libraries sought faculty feedback to identify journals worthy of retention despite their relatively high cost-per-use (CPU) ratio. The small amount of money available to retain requested titles ($47,000) meant that many of the 579 journals on the retention list could not be protected from the cuts.

**Summary of SLC proceedings over the 2016-2017 academic year**

We began the year on a dismal note, preparing to evaluate journal subscriptions for yet more reductions. However, early in 2017, the Provost’s Office presented a permanent solution to pay for annual inflation on library subscriptions. Provost Carbajal made a commitment to locating resources to pay for the inflationary costs of journal subscriptions, and he asked that the Libraries and SLC not reduce spending on library subscriptions any further.

The good news was heartening not only because it protected journal holdings from further hemorrhage, but also because predictable annual funding for inflation on library subscriptions dramatically improves the university's ability to negotiate more favorable pricing with vendors.

With the good news in hand, Western Libraries has begun re-negotiating journal package license agreements to seek those that are to the university's best advantage. In several SLC meetings over this academic year, Dean of Libraries, Mark Greenberg, explained the recently concluded and ongoing discussions with vendors. For example, negotiations with Taylor & Francis and Springer resulted in savings that led to the retention of an additional 269 of the 579 titles identified by faculty last spring.

The expiring journal package licensed by Wiley and Elsevier are currently being negotiated. Elsevier has indicated drastic changes to its pricing and access models for 2018, with increases of as much as 23 percent if Western wants to continue to subscribe to all of its current titles. Clearly, the university cannot sustain a price increase at this level and will be working with Elsevier and partner universities in the Orbis Cascade Alliance on a solution that reduces the final cost increase and minimizes any loss of content.

The Library's package with Cambridge is up for renegotiation in 2017-18, and most of the holdings that will be discussed at that time are in the humanities and social sciences. The SLC and Western Libraries will engage with faculty as these complex, ongoing discussions progress.

Communicating more effectively with faculty was identified by the SLC as a major goal this year. Toward that end, we crafted a memo that went out to 30 department chairs and program directors, with a request to share the data with their faculty. The memo summarized the reason for and magnitude of last year’s journal cuts. Attached to the email message was a customized spreadsheet that listed the titles requested for retention last spring by that department, together with a list of the titles that were successfully retained by April, 2017.
In the fall of 2016, the SLC designed a Qualtrics survey to solicit feedback from faculty about the subscription review and reduction process undertaken in the 2015-2016 academic year. There were 191 respondents, representing approximately 21% of WWU’s faculty in AY 2015-16. Of the 191 respondents, 69 expressed satisfaction with the reduction process, 54 expressed clear dissatisfaction with the process, 59 were uncertain, and 9 did not respond. About half the respondents from the College of Science and Engineering (mainly from the Mathematics Department) strenuously objected to the cuts and described them as debilitating to their abilities to conduct research and to recruit new faculty.

In terms of how the cuts were made, many faculty expressed concern over the use of CPU (“cost-per-use”) as the primary criterion. Eleven respondents were not happy with the way CPU was calculated. On the question of which defensible criteria are the most useful when considering subscription reductions, the responses varied widely. The most common were “central for teaching and research” (18) and “core to discipline” (15), however the basis upon which these would be determined was not clear. At least twelve (29%) respondents suggested improvements to the defensible criteria, such as: flagship journals should be protected; the quality of journal should be main criterion rather than cost. A majority of the respondents (88%) believe that the university should increase the subscription budget in order to keep up with inflation.

**SLC recognizes outstanding service by the Dean and staff of Western Libraries**

Many members of the SLC have expressed appreciation and admiration for the hard work and dedication of the Dean of Libraries, Mark Greenberg, and his excellent staff. The SLC has found them approachable, easy to work with, and transparent in their workings. Their passion for the pivotal role of the Libraries in scholarship on this campus, and their strenuous efforts to protect library holdings against impossible odds are nothing short of heroic. They have used creative approaches in negotiating with journal publishers to obtain fiscally responsible outcomes for the Libraries, and those efforts continue. The librarians strive continually to communicate more effectively with all stakeholders (newly-enhanced, highly informative webpages, is just one example), and have collaborated with several academic units to make the libraries a welcoming hub of learning.

**Going forward**

In the upcoming academic year, the SLC will need to remain engaged in subscription package negotiations and to respond creatively to any unfavorable outcomes. Because the survey revealed some dissatisfaction with criteria used for subscription reductions in the past, this issue should be explored and more equitable protocols developed. The special circumstances of smaller departments and others with unique needs should be examined. However, the committee does not believe that CPU should be discarded as the primary criterion. The use of defensible criteria will be important also in making decisions about the addition of new library resources. Greater involvement by college leadership groups in setting retention priorities and in identifying new subscriptions may aid in more effective decision making in the future. The committee should seek more effective strategies to communicate budget realities to departments and colleges and to develop objective protocols for the reduction or addition of subscriptions in partnership with all stakeholders.

Prepared by Kylee Swift, 14 June 2017