

CFR Minutes
7 December 2018
9:30 – 11:30 am in VDEN 129

Present: Mike Berger, Nicole Campbell, Dene Grigar, Ed Hagen, Pam Stover, and Stephen Solovitz, George Newman, Michael Curry, Michael Dunn, Sara Waters

Absent: Susan Finley, Bala Krishnamoorthy

I. Announcements

A. Budget

Fall semester enrollment was down slightly, with only 30 of the 90 FTEs needed in order to break even for the semester. In studying this issue, the university learned that Undergraduate (UG) enrollment was up but Graduate enrollment was down. One factor driving the loss of Graduate FTEs is the decrease in tuition paying graduate students in programs once offered by the Colleges of Business and Education. This amounted to a loss of 50 FTEs. Another contributing factor was the overall decrease in transfer students. Faculty were reminded that WSUV saw a large increase in transfer students in April 2018, but enrollment dropped off by June. Faculty were assured that the shortfall in tuition dollars will be shored up from WSUV's reserves.

Michael Berger (MB) responded to the question, "How are additional funds spent when tuition rises above the 90 FTE benchmark?," by saying that some of the funding goes to faculty raises that occur with Tenure and Promotion and general inflation costs.

Faculty were also reminded that the budget freeze is "effectively savings." After the freeze is over, we will still need to keep reserves; the Chancellor is working on determining how much the campus needs to keep in reserves.

It was a general consensus among faculty attending the meeting that more transparency in relation to the budget is needed. We need to know what the budget is and participate in how we allocate funds from it.

B. Provost is Stepping down

Faculty were reminded that Provost Dan Bernardo is stepping down from his office. In regard to graduate education—the theme for today's meeting—Bernardo, Alex Dimitrov said, supports it on our campus but has not provided funding for it. In responding to a question about the Data Analytics degree, MB told faculty that Bernardo is a champion of it, but enrollment—while growing on the Pullman and Vancouver campuses—has not done well in Everett, where the unit's Director resides. Currently there are 15 majors at WSUV, two-thirds of which are declared in "business."

Faculty also learned that Dave Cillay, WSU's Vice President for Academic Outreach and Innovation, is chair of the search committee, but that no one has yet been selected for the committee.

C. Catalog Subcommittee

CFR is looking for nominations for Catalog Subcommittee. Michael reminded faculty that the committee is a gateway to getting courses through the system.

II. New Business

A. Steve Bollens (Faculty Senate Legislative Representative) visited from 9:30 – 9:45 am

Bollens explained his role in this position. Faculty learned that every four-year institution has a representative at the legislature and that he will be spending the next year in Olympia promoting the university and representing the Faculty Senate. He mentioned Chris Mulick, Director of State Relations in the WSU Government Relations Office (See <https://governmentrelations.wsu.edu>), will represent WSU's interest full time in Olympia, beginning January 26.

Bollens moved to a discussion about the budget. He reminded faculty that it is presented biennially. The governor will be putting his suggested budget forward in the next few weeks. The final budget will be announced in May or June. WSU's capital requests include 1) the Health Science building, 2) the expansion of the medical school, 3) 4% raises for faculty, staff, and grad students, and 4) operations for new buildings and other areas. Bollens will work with legislatures about the need for these resources.

Bollens will also respond to other people's ideas for requests. One of these is the "dual credit" issue. He reminded faculty that all four-year institutions give credit for International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) students. The question is generally *how to count the score* students earn in these two programs. There is movement afoot for state universities to align treatment of dual credit, but with the different enrollment policies, such alignment is difficult.

Asked about the expense for medical school, Bollens responded that he could not speak to this issue since he is not involved in the budget decision. He did say that President Schulz has agreed to put a faculty member on the budget committee.

Bollens also said that while there will be a pay raise, it may not be the 4% the university asking for. When asked how Bollens will use his role to communicate faculty needs, particularly about a raise for faculty, Bollens said that he sees his role as to "educate" legislators. He plans to build relationships with them and with their staffers. He reiterated that is there to represent faculty.

In the discussion about the current political environment in Olympia, Bollens mentioned that Democrats control the government and that WA State's economy is strong. This means we can expect new initiatives to come forward and that it is a "reasonably good time to make some things happen." He cautioned faculty that while the McLeary verdict may be seen as support for education, the governor is not supportive of higher education; it has not been not a major initiative for him in the past.

Asked about the "PDX Plan," Bollens said that he was not aware of any movement on this in terms of legislation in the works.

In regard to getting faculty on Board of Regents, Bollens said there may be a push for this this year. Currently, Judi McDonald (Math, WSU Pullman) sits on the Board of Regents as an *ex officio* member.

Bollens ended his presentation by emphasizing that if we have any concerns to contact our representatives in the Faculty Senate.

B. Increase participation in doctoral education on the Vancouver campus

ii. Overview

MB gave an overview of doctoral education on the WSUV campus. He reminded faculty that CFR has been working on this issue for two years. In the summer 2018 Michael met with Christine Portfors, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Education, to brainstorm with her about it.

He reminded faculty that CFR is focused on *doctoral* and not *graduate* education because the former is easier to tackle than the latter. Second, doctoral education is part of the “Drive to 25” campaign. Third, because CFR is trying to complete the project in one year, limiting scope makes this goal achievable.

The focus has been to tease out the “formal” and “informal” challenges to doctoral education. Once this step is completed, CFR will then be able to address the “low hanging fruit.” We are not only interested in what is *not* working but also what *is* working. CFR is also looking for the best way to share this information and adopt successes. MB reminded us there is still no funding in the horizon for doctoral education, which means that we need to figure out how to address this limitation. He ended this overview by saying that both Chancellor Mel Netzhammer and VP Academic Affairs Renny Christopher are supportive of doctoral education and are open to thinking about new streams of revenue.

ii. Access to graduate courses

Access to teaching doctoral courses differs among the units. In some cases, some faculty don’t want to teach via AMS. MB reminded faculty that Infrastructure for online teaching is not as robust in Pullman as it is in Vancouver. In terms of general resistance to allowing non Pullman faculty to teach doctoral courses or making courses available to Vancouver students, MB reminded faculty that the Provost is willing to “twist arms” to get basic issues resolved.

A lively discussion ensued about how to fund doctoral students. It was pointed out that tuition waivers cost the university money. Faculty also learned that Pullman handles accounting for tuition waivers differently in that it doesn’t track the funds that are taken out of the pool allocated for doctoral education as WSU Vancouver does.

MB mentioned that CFR worked with Elias Cohen, Campus Director for Institutional Effectiveness, to pull together information about graduate course delivery and transmission on the WSUV campus, but the data collected does not add to our understanding of the issue.

iii. Formal and informal barriers to doctoral education

CFR collect anecdotal information among faculty in its various colleges and organized this data in a spreadsheet (See attached) MB pointed to common threads contained in the data: 1) lack of TA ships, 2) registering for courses especially in light that most of the resources are located on the Pullman campus, etc. As shown on the spreadsheet, most barriers are not formal ones. The question for faculty on our campus to consider is, “How to get our WSU Pullman colleagues interested in us participating more fully in doctoral education and advocating for us so that we can grow our graduate programs?”

iii. Funding: new revenue and reallocation

MB mentioned that the Chancellor is very open about having a conversation with faculty about funding doctoral education. Potential funding stream include: 1) the Global Campus, 2) Industrial partnerships and research partnerships, 3) Increasing UG enrollment, 4) Intuit, the international program, and 5) Reallocation of funds though it is a fixed amount of money

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dene Grigar, Recoding Secretary

2018-19 Meeting Schedule:

Spring 2019 (Fridays, 9:30 -11:30)

- 18 January
- 1 February (Renny 10:30 – 11:30)
- 15 February
- 1 March
- 22 March
- 5 April (Mel 10:30 - 11:30)
- 19 April (Renny 10:30 – 11:30)
- 3 May