

Council of Faculty Representatives Approved Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 15, 2023

Present: Praveen Sekhar (chair), Paul Bonamy, Laurie Drapela, Dene Grigar, Susan He, Kristin Lesseig, Sam Lohmann, Kelsey Pascoe, Samantha Reisz, Aaron Whelchel.

Recorder: Lohmann.

Agenda Items

1. Committee reports
 - a. No report from Chancellor's Advisory Council or Research Advisory Council.
 - b. Senate Steering Committee (Grigar): Athletic budget deficit is estimated at around \$4M. Discussion of PAC-12 situation. Discussion of changes to curricular change process. There is now a "Course Challenge Site" (<https://facsen.wsu.edu/course-challenge-page/#September2023>) where there is a 14-day window when curricular changes can be challenged. This is a significant modification in the process, and it is not yet clear how all details will be handled. Steering committee members from non-Pullman campuses have a plan to gather and discuss "branch campus" concerns.
 - c. Accessibility Council (Drapela and Lohmann). Accessibility Council will be seeking new members later this year. Subcommittees are being formed to look at (1) Universal Design for Learning and supporting faculty in course accessibility; (2) physical accessibility of campus; and (3) mission, organization, and long-term goals of the Council.
 - d. Meetings are upcoming for Salary and Institutional Climate subcommittees of President's Commission on the Status of Women (Drapela).
2. Updates and responses to constituent concerns.
 - a. Chair notes that university resources, including university email, should not be used in any efforts towards unionization. The announcement of the American Association of University Professionals (AAUP) meeting, which mentioned unionization, was sent out in error. The chair apologizes to the administration and constituents for this unintentional error.
 - b. Amendment: Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Christopher informed chair that carry-forwards are still with the units, but units need to make a request to the budget council to use them. The statement in the previous minutes was incorrect in stating that carry-forward was "wiped out." CFR members feel that such a budget process creates a barrier for units and reduces the incentive to save funds internally.
 - c. Students' Canvas access: After course end date, students need to request access from IT Academic Services in order to view the course in Canvas.
3. Gather concerns/responses: Faculty Senate Representatives visit to the Vancouver campus
 - a. The Faculty Senate is holding its first meeting of the year on the Vancouver campus this Thursday (09/21). There is a mixer at the Heathman's Lodge in the evening.

4. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging on campus. (Research and proposal)
 - a. This is a concern for a faculty member with a disability who needs to park in the MMC ADA lot and plug in an electric vehicle. There is electricity in the lot, but it is not permitted to be used for vehicle charging.
The faculty member was asked to park at Parking Services to charge EV and get a ride to MMC. There is a [working document](#) for a proposal to install more EV charging stations.
 - b. Discussion of implications for accessibility and sustainability and of the possibility of state or federal grant funding.
5. Faculty assembly planning
 - a. Discussion of format for faculty assembly.
 - b. A possible topic is the discussion on unit funding model. This includes some of the undesired impact of the use of carry-forward and central control by budget council, which seems to have minor downstream effects such as CAS budgeting for office supplies.
 - c. Discussion of concerns about transparency and communication about budget, and evaluation of administrators.
 - d. October 27 date is proposed for faculty assembly, with both in-person and zoom options. Chair will identify possible times to minimize conflict with class schedules.
 - e. Assembly is planned as an open discussion with no administrators present and no minutes taken.
6. Discussion of Chancellor's Campus Welcome address.
 - a. There is a general concern that Chancellor sees compensation as the only serious faculty morale issue, and did not discuss treatment of career track faculty, administrative review, food on campus, etc.
 - b. Career track faculty have concerns related to tenure track/tenured faculty being the lead on internal grant funding for research (Interdisciplinary Collaborative Grant). Please see the addendum for Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education (VCRGE) response.
 - c. Many career track faculty concerns are unit- and department-specific. Consideration of a meeting for career-track faculty to discuss concerns. Sekhar proposes inviting all career-track faculty to a CFR meeting.
 - d. High cost of free food events for recruitment in summer is noted. Vice Chancellor of Finance and Operations (VCFO) Chambers-Taube has said that expanded food service is unlikely unless there is a student union and/or student housing. However, the VCFO will continue to work with Canteen to improve options and customer service. In addition, the VCFO is working with Clark College on opening a coffee shop in their building.
 - e. Concerns about library hours, especially closure on Saturdays.
7. Solicitation for vice-chair
 - a. Grigar will be the Vice-chair of CFR after approval from the CFR members. She will become CFR chair from Fall 2024.

Action items:

1. Chair:
 - a. Look into timing for faculty assembly; space options for in-person meeting with Zoom option; budget for food and coffee.
 - b. Put meeting for career-track faculty on agenda for upcoming meeting on September 29th, 9:30-10:30.
 - c. Connect Bonamy to ASWSUV (student body) president regarding food service. (Done)

- d. Invite ASWSUV representatives to future CFR meeting.(Done)
- 2. Other members:
 - a. Grigar will talk with branch campus group about visiting CFR.(Done)
 - b. Lesseig will check with Christine Portfors about career track grant issue.(Done)

Addendum (VCRGE Response)

The initial rationale was that the major outcome of this opportunity is to submit a large external grant proposal and these large proposals are most frequently submitted by tenure-line faculty. But if a career-track faculty member wants to submit to this internal opportunity and can demonstrate that they have the research time to submit (and conduct if funded) a large grant, then that is great, and I want to encourage that. The below table indicates all the opportunities that faculty have on our campus for support/programs etc. regardless of whether they are tenure or career-track faculty.

WSU V Support	TT eligible	CT eligible
Research minigrants	Yes	Yes
Publication support	Yes	Yes
Flash talks	Yes	Yes
Grants team access	Yes	Yes
ResearchNow stories	Yes	Yes
Mentoring meetings	Yes	Yes
PI on the 2023 one-time collaborative proposals	Yes	Yes
Grant writing workshops	Yes	Yes
Chancellor's Research Excellence award	Yes	Yes
Research Showcase judge	Yes	Yes