

Council of Faculty Representatives DRAFT meeting minutes (11/17 and 12/1)

Friday, November 17, 2023

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

Absent: Kristin Lesseig.

Recorder: Lohmann

Agenda Items

1. Committee reports
 - a. Accessibility Council (Lohmann)
 - i. Question about availability of data on the number of students and employees with disabilities.
 - ii. Lohmann will ask for updates on EV charging. The Chancellor noted at the town hall that there was a possible funding source.
 - iii. Faculty in some departments have received an “unofficial hard no” on any kind of Zoom interaction in class. CFR members asked about the basis for this and whether students can request to join in-person classes by Zoom as a disability or medical accommodation.
2. Budget Deficit Mitigation Ideas
 - a. Discussion of differentiation between revenue-generating, retention-supporting, and other positions.
 - b. Pullman has a large staff working on enrollment and retention, visiting schools for direct recruitment. They are not partnering with Vancouver admissions staff. Registration fee has been incorporated into financial aid.
 - c. There are study abroad options with scholarship support that are not well advertised in Vancouver.
 - d. Chancellor’s task force on enrollment: CFR wants to know who is on it, what they are doing, and what the results are.
 - e. CFR members recommend an external audit.
3. Bylaws Discussion
 - a. Subcommittee is working on document formatting.
 - b. Chair Emeritus is a better term than Ex Officio for the role of the non-voting past chair.
4. Adhoc Committee Formation, 10:00 to 10:25 AM
 - a. Campus Impact Committee will document the ways that areas of concern impact the campus. This charge is derived from the faculty assembly meeting. The goal is to identify and document the effect of campus actions (such as leaving positions unfilled and restricting adjunct hiring) on the faculty and the campus. Data will be collected

such as how many faculty are affected, which units are affected, what are the primary and secondary impacts, etc. It is going to be a 3-member committee as it might require substantial work. One Education faculty member is interested; CFR is looking for two additional members.

5. Constituent concern: A faculty member going up for third-year review at another campus said there have been no meetings of faculty in their college this year. There was a complaint from upper administration saying the faculty member should not have brought this up. This type of thing should be documented in third year review.
 - a. Discussion of structure for system-wide faculty meetings.
 - b. Discussion of mentoring guidelines by department.

Action Items:

Grigar—Ask about mentoring guidelines across colleges and departments.

Sekhar—Ask about Vancouver’s inclusion in Pullman enrollment efforts. Ask about Chancellor’s Enrollment Task Force membership and results (Response from VCAA in January 2024 Minutes).

Lohmann—Bring questions to Accessibility Council.

Friday, December 1, 2023

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

Discussion Items

1. Committee reports
 - a. Steering Committee (Grigar)—there was a notice about a BPPM temporary hire document which was not part of the agenda. It appeared to be intended to allow the university to hire if employees go on strike. Steering Committee was asked to provide feedback, not to vote on the document.
 - b. Ad Hoc Salary Step Committee (Drapela)—met on November 14th. Looking at other institutions, it appears that they have devoted more time to gathering information and giving recommendations on salary issues. Melissa DiNoto from HR has been invited to a meeting. She was responsible for putting together the salary step process for Administrative Professionals. The committee is pursuing the possibility of formalizing a similar process for TT and CT faculty.
 - c. Research Advisory Council (Lesseig)—meeting was postponed.
 - i. Graduate student union bargaining continues.
 - ii. Research Showcase is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9.
 - iii. All research support options are open to all faculty, and open to pedagogical research. The mini-grant program is a good opportunity for pedagogical research support.
 - d. Academic Affairs Committee (Grigar)—Recent undergraduate bulletins have removed UCORE humanities electives for Data Analytics majors. The rationale given for this is that Philosophy 450 fills the requirement, but this course is only offered through Global once a year, and not offered in Vancouver. Grigar is following up on this issue. There may be options for offering this course in Vancouver.
2. Bylaws Final Discussion and Voting
 - a. Discussion of proposed revisions.
 - b. Discussion of role of recorder and who is responsible for working with Marketing on the CFR website and “publishing” meeting summaries (minutes).
 - c. Discussion of summer responsibilities, if any, for CFR members, most of whom are on 9-month contracts.
 - d. Minor revisions were discussed and made during meeting.
 - e. CFR passes the motion to approve the revised bylaws.
3. Constituent concern: CFR members note that there is inconsistency across colleges and campuses on whether faculty are permitted to go up for promotion early. This is an area where a system provost could potentially help.

4. Campus Impact Committee (CIC). David Slavit has expressed interest in the Ad Hoc Campus Impact Committee, which will gather information and evidence on the impact of campus decisions. Two additional members are still being sought for this committee.
5. Spring Priorities
 - a. CFR members would like to continue working on:
 - i. Career track issues;
 - ii. Formal relationship and communication with Faculty Senate, including structural issues of campus representation.