

CFR Meeting Minutes
6 December 2024
VCLS 14 & Zoom
9:15 – 10:45AM

Representatives Attending:

Bonamy, Drapela, Fortin, Grigar (Chair), He, Olson, Pascoe, Reisz, Schimelpfenig, Welchel

Ex-officio members in attendance:

Dimitrov (Senator, TT), Sekhar (Past Chair), Solovitz (Senator, TT)

Guest: Renny Christopher, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

The meeting began *a conversation with Renny Christopher, WSUV Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*. Discussion included:

- As announced by Provost Riley-Tillman, Christopher has agreed to serve on the Academic Affairs Program Optimization (AAPO) Steering Committee, which will begin meeting in January. *Xe is interested to know what the Provost intends to measure – e.g. are we looking at a department system-wide or a department on a specific campus – and to what end we are examining what we measure.* Xe reports that the Provost is “extraordinarily performance oriented” at the individual faculty level. This appears to be specifically tenure-track faculty’s research productivity, with no mention of teaching.
- *Christopher is primarily interested in metrics in three areas for our campus: student data, including number of majors and FTE; research productivity; and service to, or fit in, the region*, all of which she sees to interact. For example, a program that only has teaching-track faculty would not be expected to be measured for the research output while one with tenure-track faculty would. Likewise, if a program is unique and valuable in the region, a lack of students or research output shouldn’t trigger the closing of the program but rather create the need to support it better.
- *The Steering Committee’s first meeting will be in January.* At that point they’ll be given more information about exactly what they’ll be doing in terms of inventing metrics. They will not be applying metrics this academic year. Instead, the likely first time for the metrics to be used is the annual review period of 2026.
- It seems that some faculty members don’t have academic reviews on file. It’s not entirely clear how this happens, though at least some of it seems to have occurred during COVID. It’s also unclear whether annual reviews are supposed to be included in tenure and promotion portfolios. There is disagreement at the Dean level on this issue, which will hopefully be brought into alignment with Provost guidelines.

- Interestingly, the AAPO process currently only applies to the non-health-sciences colleges. The relationship between the Vice President for Health Sciences and Provost is unclear at present.
- There have been questions raised about why there are no ‘in the trenches’ faculty on the AAPO steering committee. The Faculty Senate has been apprised of the issue and are the right people to raise it further.
- *In order to conduct a faculty hire at this time, a program must have high enrollment, be searching for a career-track faculty member, and be filling an existing seat rather than creating a new one.* At present there are two exceptions, both of which have dedicated funding from the Legislature for the bachelor’s degree in public health. One is tenure-track; the other, career-track— and both are new hires. These are being permitted because they have dedicated external funding.
- The Associate VCAA search is going quite well. Christopher interviewed the two finalists this week, with a goal of selecting someone and sending an offer next week. If all goes well, *an announcement of the new AVCAA will hopefully happen by the end of the week of December 9th.* They’ll be switching to a 12-month appointment and taking on an 80% load as AVCAA, with the remaining 20% remaining with their unit. The initial appointment will last for two years.
- The committee for the Chancellor search will be meeting in early December, possibly the week of the 9th. They’ll be reviewing CVs of potential candidates and will then be inviting potential candidates to submit an actual application. Review of applications can then take place in January, with on-campus interviews in February or early March. *Both the President and Chancellor searches are on track for the President to be in place to help with final selection of the Chancellor in the spring.*

Following the discussion with VCAA Christopher, the 8 November minutes were discussed. A few small typographical errors were identified, after which *the minutes were unanimously approved.*

The meeting then turned to announcements and reports:

The Faculty Senate is forming a planning committee for a new International Committee. The planning committee is tasked with figuring out a mission and guidelines for an International Committee which will oversee curricula and teaching at international campuses. This is in response to a new WSU campus in Nairobi. It’s unclear how it will relate to Global Campus. Grigar is serving on the planning committee.

Zoom enhancements are in progress in the Faculty Office. This may be finished this semester and should be available in the spring. It will hopefully allow for much improved hybrid experiences.

The Senate has reached an agreement about Academic Policy 60. *AP 60 will be extended to January 31, 2025.* Senate Steering is working with the President to develop a Memo of

Understanding (MOU) that will address vaccination requirements on non-residential campuses. The MOU may include issues like the language provided on university websites about vaccination requirements, information advisors will be given for assisting students, and so forth. At present, it's unclear what will happen for summer semester.

The ad-hoc subcommittee on the event planning guide has met and performed an initial markup on the guide. A major change is replacing all instances of "client" with "event organizer". They are also looking at replacing "food cart" language with more general "vender" language, to cover a broader range of options. There are questions about how internal and external organizers interact with scheduling (e.g. who uses Live25?), what the actual restrictions should be on who can pay for space (e.g. why couldn't an outside entity sponsor a club's rental of a space?), and the extended timelines for scheduling academic events. It was generally agreed that 10 or 21 business days is far too long if one just needs to schedule a classroom. The subcommittee has also located UW's version of the food service language and found it to be clearer generally and explicit about things like potlucks and identified concerns around risk management and handling violations of the policy.

Discussion of the bylaws was postponed until the December 13th meeting.

The proposed schedule for the Spring 2025 semester is included in the agenda for this meeting. It is open to suggestions and feedback.

The Senate's Compensation Committee planning committee has its first meeting December 10th. At this point it's the committee lay out the structure and processes for staffing the committee and setting its charge. Faculty who served on last year's ad-hoc Senate committee, such as Laurie Drapela, are serving on this planning committee

There are some open questions about how the academic units are funded and whether there are models that would be better for the colleges. *College-level budget models could be a good topic for discussion with Jenny Chambers-Taube* (VC for Finance and Operations) in the spring.

The President of the Associated Students of WSU Vancouver will be joining us for the first part of the December 13th meeting, after which we'll work on updates to the bylaws.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bonamy, Recording Secretary