

CFR Meeting Minutes
28 February 2025
Zoom & VCLS 14
9:15 – 10:45AM

Representatives Attending:

Bonamy, Drapela, Grigar (Chair), He, Olson, Pascoe, Reisz, Lohmann, Whelchel

Ex-officio members in attendance:

Dimitrov (Senator, TT), Sekhar (Past Chair), Barber (Senator, CT)

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

Recorder's Note: Grigar was attending the Workload Policy Task Force (WPT) meeting until 10AM, as a result of which Drapela and Olsen ran the meeting until she could join.

Second note: This meeting was originally scheduled to include Dr. Obie Ford III, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, but Dr. Ford was not able to attend.

The meeting opened with a brief discussion of whose Zoom meeting is used for CFR meetings, and therefore to whose account the recording is saved. *The current CFR zoom meetings were scheduled by Diane Laya (Assistant to the VCAA) who therefore has access to and primary control of the recordings.* What, if anything, should be done about this is left for discussion at a future meeting. It is important to note that all previous meetings that were recorded had been handled in this manner.

The meeting then moved on to review of the minutes. The 31 January minutes were approved as amended (with Sekhar motioning and Reisz seconding.) Further discussion of the inclusion of adjuncts in CFR is left for discussion at a future meeting. The 14 February minutes were also approved. (Again, with Sekhar motioning and Reisz seconding.)

Related to the 14 February meeting, there is a note that the on-campus childcare facilities did not have heat during the winter holiday. At present, the plan is for Reisz and Grigar to meet about this and figure out a course of action. The issue may return to CFR if needed.

There followed some discussion of the Know Your University (KYU) series. *These are considered valuable but also seem to have been sparsely attended.* Laptop Lunches in the fall were generally better attended than the KYU series has been, and there's a suspicion that this is a direct result of people having less bandwidth available during spring semester. More planning and discussion are merited at a future meeting.

The Enrollment Management Council (EMC) has been reestablished, CFR was invited to identify a faculty member to include, and Wendy Olson has agreed to serve on it. This is part of placing enrollment under the purview of the VC for Finance and Operations and

generally focuses on finding ways to improve enrollment for the campus. The first meeting of the Council will focus on establishing a foundation, looking at enrollment trends, and brainstorming strategies and possible future topics. Initial ideas include hosting a running start program, implementing an employee dependent tuition discount, and possibly adjusting GPA requirements. CFR members suggest that it may be valuable to include student voices on the EMC. It was also noted that previous incarnations of the EMC (and other committees) did not produce meeting minutes or similar. It would be beneficial for the Council to publish information about meetings so the faculty and others can be better informed.

Related to the EMC, information presented to Faculty Senate indicates that *undergraduate enrollment seems to be improving system-wide*. This appears to be at least in part due to a change that allows students to pay enrollment fees out of their financial aid rather than up-front. This finding is mirrored in reports from the Student Success Council, highlighting the effects of removing the up-front fee. However, there is reason for caution as the fee changes might affect the relationship between students applying for admission and being accepted, and students who actually show up on campus.

Discussion of changes to GPA requirements for enrollment brought up some concerns. Significant changes could affect how prepared students are for their coursework, prompting a desire for faculty to be involved in that decision making. Any changes would likely be small and only affect automatic acceptance. It is, and will remain, possible for prospective students who do not meet the automatic threshold to request admission review. It is important, though, that if any changes are made that will require additional support for incoming students, the support be in place before the students arrive, not as a tacked-on addition after the fact.

Sam Lohmann has agreed to represent CFR at a Town Hall meeting being held by the Council on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on March 6th.

There followed a discussion about the purpose of meetings or groups on campus which are not open to the entire campus community. A concern was raised that some events are advertised as only be open to certain groups. This was paired with a question of whether there is evidence that these groups are facing systematic oppression at WSUV, and, if so, whether the broader campus community should be aware of this so it can be addressed. This was countered by two observations: first, there's no particular reason to assume that campus would be free of systematic issues found elsewhere in society. Second, why wouldn't we want to host groups who address the realities of professional, personal, or social life in the wider world?

Faculty Senate will be meeting from WSUV on March 20th. Chair Tracy Klein and Chair-Elect Ken Roberts will be physically here Thursday through Friday night, with a number of events scheduled. There will be a meeting with Klein and Roberts open to all WSUV faculty, followed by the Senate meeting itself. Klein and Roberts will also be joining CFR for the

meeting on the 21st. There are also dinners planned for the 20th (CFR reps and Senators) and the 21st (open to the faculty at large).

The Chancellor Search is holding meeting with the candidates March 17th through 26th. Faculty meetings are scheduled for 9 – 9:45am on the mornings of the 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th. These meetings will be open to faculty only, and will not be recorded. There are additional times on those days for meetings with staff and students. At present those meetings are also open to faculty, though there is a concern from a CFR Representative that it is problematic for faculty to have a special session and also be able to show up to decided meetings for other groups.

CFR suggested an open forum for 4-5pm on March 26th for faculty to discuss the candidates. The search committee, however, did not want the forum to be held.

Grigar will be sending messages to all faculty announcing the meetings with the candidates and requesting that they RSVP. At present the faculty sessions are scheduled for VDEN 110, but there is some concern that we won't give the best impression if the room is largely empty. Hopefully RSVPs will allow us to place the meetings in appropriately sized spaces. CFR will also be drafting a few questions that we want to make sure all of the candidates are asked.

Related to making a good impression on chancellor candidates, *members have noted that some spaces on campus are visibly dirty or in ill-repair.* Anyone touring the campus, be they prospective hire or student, is likely to notice, and it does not reflect well on the campus.

The FacSen *Faculty Compensation Committee work group met on the 18th of February* and is trying to figure out ex officio membership. At present the list includes, at least, a VP for Finance and Administration or designee, a VP for Human Resources or designee, the Director of Institutional Research or designee. There's also a strong desire to include a Vice Chancellor for Finance from a non-Pullman campus, especially one with a separate budget. There are open questions about leaving the committee enough space to adapt as needed to Federal changes and to be sure salary negotiations are being handled appropriately when hiring is happening outside of Pullman.

The planning committee for the International Committee plans to be finished by the end of the semester, so the committee can be staffed for the fall.

The report from the Faculty Senators included the following:

- There is an “extraordinary talent committee” charged with providing admission opportunities to potential students with extraordinary abilities that can fall outside of academics. Two new students have been accepted by this program, primarily for athletics. Since 2022, 123 were admitted, 45 of whom have finished their degrees, 12 are still enrolled, and the remainder left.

- Fall numbers have good news for undergraduate enrollment. 26,500 applications have been received for the system for fall of 2025, of which 21,800 have already been admitted. This is a 23.6% increase in confirmed applications across the system.
- Graduate admissions across the system are down. There are only 131 graduate admissions for the fall so far.
- The Athletics budget for next year has already been released. It is “balanced” largely due to internal institutional support of about \$4 million.
- It sounds like the statewide budget deficit is a major concern in Olympia. It’s not at all clear what’s going to happen, but there has been talk of a 3-6% budget cut. There is also talk of a one-day-a-month furlough for all state employees, but there are no details on how that would work, as yet.

Summary of discussion topics for future meetings:

- Should there be internal recordings of CFR meetings, and, if so, who should maintain them?
- In what capacity should adjunct representation be added to CFR?
- Potential update on campus childcare facilities
- Planning around scheduling of future Laptop Lunch / Know Your University activities

Respectfully submitted by Paul Bonamy, Recording Secretary