

CFR Meeting Minutes
21 March 2025
Zoom & VCLS 14
9:15 – 10:45AM

Representatives Attending:

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

Ex-officio members in attendance:

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

Guests in attendance:

Shameem Rakha, (Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs), Tracy Klein (Current FacSen Chair), Ken Roberts (Incoming FacSen Chair), Stephen Solovitz (Senator, TT)

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

The meeting opened with discussion of the minutes for 2-28-25. Olson provided some small editorial changes that have been incorporated. *The minutes were approved after a motion by Drapela, seconded by Olson.*

There followed two brief announcements:

- There will be a short dinner / drink meet and greet with Roberts this evening (21 March) at 5:30PM at Niche Wine Bar in downtown Vancouver. This will be the last opportunity to meet him in person before he flies home.
- Administrative review surveys have gone out for VCAA Christopher, VCDEI Ford, VCFOE Chambers-Taube, VCRGE Portfors, and Campus CIO Stamper. It is unclear whose feedback was requested and how that determination was made.

The meeting then turned to a conversation with Shameem Rakha, the new Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (AVCAA). Rakha started in that role in January of this year with an 80% appointment for the next two years. She is also chair of the Council on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (CEDI) and a member of the faculty of the College of Education, where she is program coordinator for the BA in Elementary Education.

The first major topic of discussion was academic advisors, and the ways in which advisors are being supported. Rakha has been making a point to work with the advisors, sit in on their meetings when possible, and attending some advising sessions. Advising is handled differently between campuses, and even across colleges. Advisors throughout the system have been looking at ways to improve the process, and Rakha is hoping to help on that front.

In working with the academic advisors, Rakha has repeatedly heard *that the reinstatement process is causing trouble*. This process allows students who have been found to be academically deficient to rejoin the university, and the feeling among advisors is that it is not effective. First, students must pay a \$50 fee to go through the process. (This money is used to fund supplemental instruction.) Then, students are required to enroll in UNIV 150, which is very much structured from a deficit perspective. 'Students didn't succeed the first time around, so clearly there's something missing.' Rather than relying on one generic course, it could well make more sense to tailor reinstatement to the students' individual needs. E.g. a student who failed out because of a medical emergency probably needs different support from one who hasn't developed the necessary foundational or study skills.

At present, *Rakha is focused on learning how processes work* so she can work with advisors to improve the situation, rather than just making changes without that foundation.

Following the conversation with AVCAA Rakha, discussion changed focus to the Faculty Senate and the relationship between FacSen and the campus faculty governance organizations like CFR.

Discussion began with a brief overview of the Senate's structure. Senate leadership operates on a three-year cycle, including the Chair (Klein, right now), the Chair Elect (Roberts), and the immediately past Chair who form an executive team. The Senate itself is composed of Senators elected to represent the Tenure- and Career-Track faculty in each college, and at each campus. The Senate, as a whole, is the legally designed faculty shared governance body for the WSU system, whose meeting are live streamed and public. There is also a smaller Senate Steering Committee that sets the agenda for the Senate and otherwise makes recommendations to, but not decisions for, the Senate. Senate Steering consists of the chairs of the Senate's committees, along with a subset of campus representatives.

Not all campuses have their own faculty governance organizations, and it's not entirely clear how those organizations relate to the Senate. Vancouver, of course, has had one for many years, an organization now called the Council of Faculty Representatives (CFR). Spokane has formed a similar group based on CFR's bylaws, though it is not fully functional yet. It's an open question whether Pullman will adopt its own campus-level organization separate from the Senate. Prior to COVID, CFR was fairly involved with shared governance here in Vancouver, but that has notably diminished since then, to the point of being informed by local administrators that the Senate is the only shared governance body, and any concerns we have should be forwarded to them. It would be helpful if the campus-level organizations were formally recognized for shared governance, but this leaves open the problem of how Senate authority would interact with campus authority.

Two of the WSUV Senators (Dimitrov and Barber) are reaching the end of their terms this year, which prompts a procedural question. Both serve on the Senate Steering Committee

in addition to being Senators, because they were elected to Senate when the campus was apportioned to have two senators and two seats on Steering. *Now that Vancouver has a total of five senators, it is unclear how to select which serve on Steering.* Options include: CFR votes, the campus votes, the senators themselves make a decision.

The meeting wrapped up with discussion of the forthcoming Faculty Assembly, scheduled for 18th April. Proposed topics include: AAPO, workload policy, and academic program review. Assuming the Chancellor search has concluded by then, it is also a potential topic.

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