

CFR Meeting Minutes – Summary of the Spring Faculty Assembly meeting
27 February 2026
Zoom & VNET 14
9:15 – 10:45AM

Members attending: Bonamy, Dimitrov, Drapela, Fortin, Grigar (Chair), He, LoSavio, Olson, Reisz, Spradlin

Senators in attendance: Phelps (TT), Thrush (CT)

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

The meeting opened with two brief announcements: WSU President Cantwell will be on hosting a listening session on Wednesday, March 4 at 10AM for faculty. There is also a system-wide “Global Summit” scheduled for March 12-13.

Olson reports that Interim Chancellor Haynes confirmed on January 14th that Obie Ford, Vice Chancellor for Community and Collaboration, is currently on leave.

There followed reports from campus committees:

A survey about hot food on campus has been distributed to the campus community, including faculty, staff, and students. The survey is a joint effort between CFR Rep Spradlin and Eric Scott, Senior Director for Engagement and Well-being. As of meeting time, 274 responses have been recorded, all of which support having hot food on campus. The survey will be open until Friday, March 13. Efforts are underway to further advertise the survey, including building a slide for faculty to present in class and efforts to get in touch with ASWSUV so they can also distribute information.

The Chancellor’s Advisory Council met and received a presentation about the budget. CAC members are concerned about shrinking state funds. It doesn’t matter how much we grow if state funding continues to fall off. The ASWSUV president was also on hand to talk about student perspectives on the job market.

There was nothing particular notable at the Faculty Senate this week.

There are two items of CFR business approaching:

CFR elections are rapidly approaching. The next CFR meeting will include figuring out who is currently up for renewal, so we can finalize ballots. We will also include ratification of the bylaw updates in the election. This will require finished language on which to vote, along with a decision of how to present the changes. It has been suggested that the changes could be presented with explanatory commentary. Elections will hopefully take place shortly after spring break.

The FacSen chair and incoming chair will be visiting campus March 31. This will include an open meeting with the Faculty Assembly Tuesday the 31st at 2pm in the Faculty Office (VNET 14), an information gathering Tuesday night on the waterfront from 6-8pm, location TBD, and a meeting with the CFR Wednesday the 1st from 12-1:30. Discussion with the FacSen should include our desire that system-level design activities not take place over the summer when faculty are off contract.

Finally, the meeting turned to open discussion.

The upshot of the system forum appears to be that the President wants control under a central person. Damien Sinnott, Interim Chancellor for Finance and Operations, has been pretty clear that the WSUV budget passes through Pullman on its way to us. The President indicates that there is some level of separation of budgetary issues, so it may be that the goal is to build a single, coherent budget model with central authority.

The Vancouver budget forum on February 19th primarily reaffirmed what we already know. The current planning exercise is modeling cuts at 3, 5, and 10 percent. A 10% cut would almost certainly result in the loss of 24 employees.

President Cantwell has been pushing for quick decision making around Federal mandates, especially where DEI is concerned. The unforced abandonment of DEI language last summer seems to be an example of this, which is especially troublesome now that the Department of Education has been forced to roll back their rules. Thankfully, some campus initiatives are coming back. BaCE will be running sessions again this summer and is not being required to censor them as they were last summer. The Queer Student Alliance has also been revived. CFR could invite campus leaders involved in DEI to a discussion and help elevate their voices to (campus) administration. Spradlin and Thrush are going to reach out to relevant stakeholders.

There was an incident at the Strive NW Early Learning Center at WSUV which has raised significant concerns about how the center is being managed. In short, an incident was reported during which a teacher pushed a student under their care with enough force to make the student hit their head. Twice. When formally reported, the subsequent external investigation was improperly handled both by the investigators and by employees of the preschool, who did nothing to protect students from the potentially dangerous teacher. It was also found that the preschool lacks cameras in classrooms, which could aid in investigations and protect both students and teachers. Reisz is preparing an open letter that lays out the situation in detail and asks that the campus take action to install cameras, require better training for preschool staff, ensure that the site has a full-time, properly qualified director, and require the preschool to pursue national accreditation which they currently lack even though the preschool door has a sticker indicating it is an accredited facility. The full letter is available at here: [link to letter](#).

The meeting closed with a brief note that *FacSen committees are being repopulated soon*. Multiple committees have openings, including the Academic Affairs Committee (4 openings), which reviews and makes recommendations on educational policies and programs, and the Faculty Affairs committee (4 openings), which oversees the Faculty Manual.