

CFR Meeting Minutes
27 March 2026
Zoom & VNET 14
9:15 – 10:45AM

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

Senators in attendance: Phelps (TT), Solovitz (TT)

Guests:

- Christine Portfors, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Research and Graduate Education
- Jessica Fales., Associate Professor, Psychology and Public Health; Renee Magnum, Professor, Psychology and Public Health

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

The meeting was primarily taken up with discussion with Christine Portfors, focusing on two topics:

What is being done to address WSU Vancouver's reliance on adjunct faculty?

Approximately 35% of WSUV classes are taught by adjunct faculty, which is significantly higher than for other campuses. Overreliance on adjuncts has a major impact on our ability to provide a consistent education for our students. It is worth noting that our use of adjuncts, while different from other campuses, is not unknown in upper administration. For example, the Dean of CAS has to sign off on lecturers teaching CAS courses here.

Budget requests for lecturers are lower for next year than they were in the past. Some of this shift can be attributed to taking a second look at course releases and carefully combining sections where appropriate.

There are also three hiring efforts happening. Engineering and Nursing are in the process of hiring one career track faculty member each. There is also an effort to hire a new Math position, currently planned to start at lecturer level and then upgrade to career-track when the time comes.

News of hiring more CT faculty prompted additional questions about *whether these efforts can also be used to add more security to CT appointments*, which should be possible. Additionally, right now there are very few CT faculty on one-year contracts, and there are more on continuous contracts than short-term ones. There are opportunities to make the process of going from fixed-term to continuous more transparent and automatic.

The other major discussion topic was the *loss of post-award support and its impact on faculty research*. Diane Rathbun used to coordinate post-award activities on campus, before departing WSU Vancouver in March. Since her departure, PIs have been mostly left to complete their post-award requirements on their own or with little support, which increases stress and, in some cases, nearly caused mandatory reports to miss deadlines. While it is theoretically possible for PIs to do all of the necessary data gathering themselves, this approach is not how the process was handled in the past. Expecting people with ongoing awards to switch with minimal warning is problematic. Additionally, the person in charge of pre-award support will be out on parental leave over the summer.

Per Portfors, due to budget constraints *it is not possible to hire someone new for Rathbun's position without letting someone else go*. It is not clear why this should be the case given that we were successfully paying for Rathbun. Post-award support seems like a natural application of F&A funding, which shouldn't be affected by reductions in state allocations and can't be redirected away from research. Responsibilities are being spilt between someone in the business office and the existing pre-award person. There is also some discussion of bringing in a person who can do post-award support across multiple campuses. Portfors indicates that going forward support will continue to exist, but at a reduced level 'like going from a Mercedes Benz to a Honda Civic'. Portfors told CFR that she will share a plan with faculty once it is developed.

Following the discussion with Portfors, *Reisz presented an updated on the campus preschool*. Reisz met with Interim Chancellor Haynes and Interim VCFO Sinnott on March 24 to discuss her letter, the overall incident, and actions going forward. [Reporters note: See the Feb 27 minutes for more details.] There are some open questions about how much authority the campus has within the current agreements with Strive NW, since the preschool has a lease-based contract and a second agreement stipulating that they will collaborate with faculty. It is not clear the steps will be taken to address concerns. Leadership at the preschool seems to be focused on business as usual rather than safety concerns. Haynes and Sinnott have promised a timely response.

For announcements:

- FacSen committees have been filled, and the names will be announced soon
- FacSen leadership will be visiting March 31th through April 2nd, with these meetings:
 - Tuesday, March 31, 4-5pm: Open meeting with the FA in the Faculty Office
 - March 31, 6-8pm: Information gathering with CFR at the waterfront
 - Wednesday, April 1, 9-10am: formal meeting with CFR in the Faculty Office
- CFR elections are coming up, hopefully between April 3rd and 10th

The minutes for the February 27th meeting were approved unanimously.