

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

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

Senators in attendance: Solovitz (TT)

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

The meeting began with reports on various ongoing topics.

CFR elections appear to be progressing well. We were not able to find a candidate for the College of Education, Sports, and Human Science's seat, so an election will be needed in the fall to attempt to fill the seat.

Gunjan Gakhar is stepping down from her seat on Faculty Senate. We will need to locate a CT faculty member to fill her seat, which entails going to Senate meetings and attending CFR meetings when possible. The seat is open to any CT faculty member in Vancouver.

Grigar reported on her regular meeting with the Haynes and Portfors. They are working on a new process for research support.

The entire campus executive committee was off-campus during the FacSen visit March 31 and April 1. We would like to know how that happened and what changes are being made to prevent it in the future. Minimally, there should be a formal order of authority document stipulating who 'runs' campus, so leadership is clear when individual leaders are away. This document should be maintained and available locally, and the system should have a copy as well.

The FacSen executive committee has been briefed about changes to campus and system-wide leadership. Our interim chancellor has been re-titled Executive Vice President for Statewide Campuses, with responsibility for Everett, Tri-Cities, and Vancouver. (This increases the number of campuses she oversees from two to three.) The people currently serving WSUV as interim VCFO, MARCOM director, and chief of staff are also moving into "statewide campuses" roles. At present our interim VCAA remains focused on WSUV only. It is unclear how these changes interact with the ongoing system redesign – there has been no indication of whether they are a temporary measure until the redesign is complete or a preview of the new structure.

Grigar received direct answers from Haynes about the title and responsibility changes.

These are available on the CFR website.

Commented [W01]: Just a note, DG: need to post to the CFR blog or we can summarize here.

There are reports that the University president is using AI to make decisions. We have very little information about details, and would like the following information: which AI system or systems? How is it being prompted? What data is used?

Reisz provided a follow up on the situation with the on-campus preschool. Sinnott and Haynes have met with leadership of the preschool. The following day, preschool leadership sent a message to parents indicating that they had met with WSUV leadership who want some changes. The current contract with the preschool expires in the summer of 2028.

Regarding requested items: the accreditation sticker that predates the current preschool is being removed from the door, and the preschool is seeking certification under a different program. Additional training for current staff should be attainable, and cameras in classrooms remain an open issue, which will need coordination between the current preschool and the university. Hiring in a dedicated director is probably the hardest request of the ones made.

The meeting then turned to open discussion and constituent concerns.

Questions were raised concerning CAS's interpretation of university rules about volunteers. Psych students are required to take a 1 credit lab course for research experience. Faculty are being required to track student hours as though they are volunteering in the lab 'for insurance purposes', even though they are enrolled in a for-credit class. While some lab environments are dangerous, others are essentially office environments with no special safety needs. It is unclear why faculty are being asked to provide information normally required for volunteers in for-credit contexts, especially in labs which are basically safe.

It's possibility that the issue may stem from the way lab access is managed. Perhaps students are being granted access to labs as though they are volunteers, rather than through a student-focused mechanism. That might create a 'volunteer' paper trail that has to be followed up on. It's also known that lab access restrictions aren't being maintained as well as they could or should be. For example, students do not necessarily automatically lose access when they should. Additionally, it appears that while access should be granted only for a specific room it is often granted for a group of rooms, such as a building floor or wing. Grigar will follow-up to gather more information.

It looks like workload policy documents might roll out on Monday the 13th. Some units have heard that their chair will be getting the letters from the dean / provost's office and passing them along. It does not appear to be the case that chairs or campus-level leadership got much or any say. We would like to hear from Portfors whether there was any adjustment made for Vancouver programs or faculty, or for any non-Pullman campus.

Minutes for March 27th were unanimously approved.