

CFR Meeting Minutes
4 September 2026
Zoom & VNET 14
9:00 – 1:00PM

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

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

Guests: Sandra Haynes (Executive Vice President WSU Statewide Campuses) and Christine Portfors (Associate Vice President and Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs)

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

Recorders Note: this meeting was structured as a retreat, featuring coffee and morning snacks at the beginning, and lunch at the end.

The meeting began with a discussion (via Zoom) with Sandra Haynes.

There is an ongoing effort to get the statewide campuses more coordinated when it comes to research. This includes organizing efforts and sharing resources on the campuses and getting more information about our research to the system. The Office of Research is hiring a new Director for Statewide Campuses Research Advancement who will work with the existing grant support personnel in Tri-Cities and Vancouver and will hopefully be physically located in one of those cities. (Rep. Note: See the email from the Office of Research on 8 September with the subject line “Research Support at Statewide Campuses”).

A question was raised about travel. *There is currently no pause on travel for faculty.* However, Haynes needs to review and approve travel expenditures. This is a continuation of a budget decision made under Chancellor Netzhammer.

Susan He then raised a concern about apparently changes in the business model for Global Campus. Historically, Global returned a portion of their revenue to the unit that taught the course. The College of Business reports that they have not been compensated by Global for the last two years, despite being owed \$200k for last year alone. *Haynes confirms that Global’s revenue model for the Vancouver campus recently changed and that Global continues to work on their budget model but has not yet shared their new model for feedback.* Later in the meeting, Christine Portfors confirmed that WSUV is changing its policy on assigning Global courses. *Beginning in Spring 2027, we will not hire adjuncts to teach Global-only courses, and full-time faculty may only teach Global courses if they are blended (providing seats for Vancouver students) and any courses that would otherwise be taught by the faculty member are not backfilled by adjunct faculty.*

Following the discussion with Haynes, discussion turned to other business, beginning with brief announcements.

The CFR website was ported to the new website backend over the summer. We don't currently have access to update it, so Olson is working with Josh Koitzsch (our Web Communication Manager) to get the website updated. We also lost the minutes and agendas which had previously been available on the website, but Josh was able to recover them. *Both membership updates and the return of minutes and agendas will hopefully happen soon.* Grigar has also suggested that meeting agendas and minutes be archived on a hard drive stored somewhere safe and accessible to CFR members.

The Association for Faculty Women is holding a "Midday Mingle" Wednesday, September 16 from 12 – 1:30.

The next Faculty Assembly meeting will be Friday, October 18, from 9-10:30AM, location TBD.

Moving on to updates on CFR membership:

Bonamy was elected recording secretary.

We need representatives for the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences and College of Nursing. Once we have candidates, we can hold special elections in those colleges. We are also short a CT Faculty Senate representative.

There followed committee reports:

- Spradlin compiled a ~30-page report regarding hot food on campus, including results of his survey. It was provided to CFR leadership over the summer, and campus leadership once we were back on contract. The report includes recommendations at various time horizons (immediate, soon, etc.). Spradlin has a meeting scheduled with Damien Sinnott (Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Operations) to discuss the report on 9/11.
- Senate Steering hasn't met yet, but there is interest in pulling together a formal list of concerns to bring to Steering or the Senate as a whole. Current items include:
 - Career Track faculty and job security given cuts,
 - Global campus' relationship to the rest of us,
 - IT concerns,
 - Commencement scheduling.
- The Committee on Committees has met and has a few items already. The CoC is not part of the Constitution or Bylaws, but does appear on the Senate website, so there is a desire formalize its existence. The Faculty Compensation Committee is up and running, but there are questions about how it interacts with other committees, most

especially Faculty Affairs. There are questions about how ex-officio seats from the statewide campuses should be handled. Historically, each chancellor got a seat, but it's not clear if seats should remain per-campus or switch to one for the office of the EVP for Statewide Campuses.

- The Campus Council met in early August, and includes Academic Directors, members of the Executive Vice Presidents of Statewide Campuses Vancouver Cabinet (Ailling, Bassett, Bennett, Haynes, Portfors, Sinnott, and Vanthom), Student Affairs and Enrollment reps (Rea and Scott), the ASWSUV President (Lindsey Heather), the CFR Chair (Olson), and, new this year, Glynda Becker-Fender, Vice Preseident of External Affairs and Government Relations. This particular meeting was mostly in preparation for the transition report and campus townhall.

Looking forward, *we discussed guests for future CFR meetings*. There's a desire to leave some meetings free for CFR work, but we would also like to meet with admissions, advising, and other campus offices. It was also suggested that we invite Provost Riley-Tillman to a meeting at some point.

We would still like to make improvements to the CFR bylaws. Last year, we could not get enough participation to pass our proposed changes. This prompts questions about whether it would be a good idea to reduce the threshold for successful amendment from requiring a fraction of all faculty to a fraction of votes cast. Another possibility is including an explicit option to abstain from voting, so that we can get to the needed volume of votes without necessarily requiring everyone who votes to fully form an opinion. There is also a possibility of restructuring the bylaws document to allow us to amend the day-to-day operations of CFR without requiring a full vote. All of these would, of course, require a successful vote to change the bylaws to use the new system.

The last major discussion area before lunch featured a variety of constituent concerns.

Four faculty positions were included in the 15% cuts that occurred this summer: two lecturers (non-reappointments) and two CT faculty. There was some discussion of providing support for CT faculty, to make their positions more comparable to tenure-track, especially for job security. Suggestions included pulling together a proposal for FacSen consideration, and drafting a set of CFR-backed best practices for CT faculty positions. *LoSavio and Bonamy volunteered to be on an ad-hoc committee looking at these issues*.

Queries were raised about the Access Center's notification communications to faculty regarding the accomodations and the processing of the accommodations that students have requested. Olson will be scheduling a meeting with Eric Scott and Domanic Vanthom to discuss.

Relatedly, *there is a question about how campus updates are being disseminated*. Staffing changes at the Access Center were not widely known. Similarly, faculty were unaware of the new food truck on campus. Olson will follow-up about messaging.

Last year's language about club advisors assuming personal liability for clubs appears to remain in the club advisor form, largely unchanged. Faculty are concerned because it is generally perceived as very risky for advisors and at odds with both past forms and the version used in Pullman. There is also concern that student club members were made to collect their advisors' signatures. Olson will also be scheduling a meeting with Eric Scott and Domanic Vanthom about this.

Over the summer, a group of faculty expressed an interest in exploring shared governance around campus budget cuts. Interested parties have been invited to our meeting on September 18.

The retreat concluded with a lunch, also attended by Chrstine Portfors.

Portfors indicated that *Commencement will be held mid-week during the evening, at the direction of the Office of the President.* The exact date will be announced soon.

Work to consolidate support services under the Academic & Student Services Team is ongoing. There is already a shared email address (van.academic.affairs@wsu.edu) that goes to all members of the team and can be answered by any of them. There is also a phone tree being constructed that will be able to ring all available team members. Portfors requests feedback on what has fallen through the gaps and any suggested solutions. Reception areas in the various buildings will be getting physical phones for reaching the services team. Some members of the team will also be alternating between different campus locations, allowing them to spend time with the units they support.