

CFR Meeting Minutes
18 September 2026
Zoom & VNET 14
9:00 – 10:30 AM

Members attending: Bonamy, Dimitrov, Dunn, He, Lohmann, LoSavio, Olson (chair), Reisz, Spradlin

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

Recording Secretary: Paul Bonamy

Recorder's Note: review of the 9/4 minutes was postponed until a later date, with an online vote. The conversation on 9/4 noted that 32 positions had been cut, but no one is quite sure where that number came from.

The meeting began with updates and announcements.

Upcoming visitors to CFR include Damien on 10/2 and Laurel and Katrina on 10/30. (Recorder's Note: at meeting time, Damien had been scheduled for 10/2 but it looked like he couldn't make it. Subsequently it was confirmed that he can attend on 10/2.) It has been proposed that the 11/13 meeting include representatives from the Everett and Tri-Cities Faculty Organizations. The original thought was to invite the chairs of those organizations, but it could be worthwhile to invite the whole organizations. This would leave one open meeting on 12/4.

The Faculty Assembly meeting is coming up on 10/18. A formal announcement will be made soon. The event is currently scheduled for MMC 22.

Updates are in progress for the CFR website. The current membership is more up to date, and a system for browsing minutes is in the works.

Vanthom and Bennett are looking for a faculty member to help plan a campus-wide office/door decorating contest in late October. The goal is to do something Halloween themed.

Michael Dunn has joined CFR representing the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. We're still in need of a CT faculty representative for Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate's Steering Committee has had their first meeting, and FacSen is generally getting up and running. Thrush brought the list of concerns from our last meeting to Steering and presented it there. Other major points of discussion at Senate include:

- The Senate Budget Committee currently lacks a chair and has one vacancy. While budget oversight is not, strictly speaking, part of the Senate's "legislative powers", it does fall within the Senate's "powers of recommendation", and the Senate executive would like to see that power of recommendation exercised more regularly. Judi McDonald has been recommended for the open seat on the Budget Committee.
- Campuses manage their own budgets and, with that, can hire or terminate faculty. At the same time, "these actions should be taken in consultation with departments" and departments should be "engaged and able to provide input" when decisions are being made about faculty terminations. CT contracts state whether the position is fixed-term or continuous. Katie Cooper will be checking that language is consistent between contracts, the Faculty Manual, and Workday.
- Two majors – Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and Comparative Ethnic Studies (CES) – have been suspended throughout the system. It appears that Pullman is the only campus that offers the majors. The official reasoning for the suspension is apparently low enrollment, but both programs are essentially zero-cost because they only have affiliate faculty and use courses also used for certificates and minors. The suspension is an administrative action, and a full report is due to the Senate soon. While the administration has the authority to suspend programs for up to two years, only a Senate vote can remove a program completely.

Alex Spradling met with Damien Sinnott about the hot food on campus report. *The position of the administration is that a cafeteria must be self-sustaining and cannot be subsidized by operating funds.* Budget data from the cafeteria before it closed was provided, but only covered expenses and revenue at a macro level, with no ability to examine why or how the cafeteria started running at a deficit.

The food trucks on campus model is showing some promise, but it could be better advertised. Current food truck operators have reached out to admin, including one additional potential operator (CFR was asked to review and provide feedback on the latter's sample menu). Admin is not currently soliciting additional food trucks to operate on-campus, but they are open to suggestions. There was some concern expressed over the pricing of some food truck offerings (will follow up).

It is possible that the students could elect to support and run a cafeteria through the use of Service and Activities (S&A) fees (<https://vancouver.wsu.edu/student-life-support/student-affairs/services-and-activities-fees-allocation-committee/>). Sinnott would prefer that the Crave Market stay where it is to provide offerings later in the evening, while students take over the kitchen in the Firstenberg center.

With the report delivered, and campus admin planning to reach out student leadership, there is a motion to dissolve the CFR ad hoc committee on hot food on campus.

Olson reported on a meeting with Sinnott about the WSUV budget process. Systemwide there is a lack of "cash on hand", resulting in ever-tightening restrictions on reserves and

carry-forward. Post-true-up, it appears that campus has a cumulative \$1M deficit this year, stemming from tuition deficits in 2025-26 (\$800k) and 2026-27 (\$200k). This is independent of the losses from the cuts over the summer. Summer funds and carry-forward are being centralized on campus, and directors will now have to submit requests to use those funds. There is ongoing discussion of the role of shared governance and faculty voices in budget planning.

Olson also report on a meeting with Eric Scott about club advising forms and student accommodations:

- The WSUV RSO Advisor Agreement is a direct copy of the system-wide version with WSUV contact information added. It is otherwise the same document with the same policies. Scott indicates that the liability language comes from the Attorney General and is meant to cover cases where an advisor specifically instructs students to do something. He agrees that this contradicts language elsewhere that suggests advisor guidance, and will investigate whether other language could be used and when the handbook was last updated. *Signing the WSUV form acknowledges awareness of the policies, not acceptance of them. Anyone serving as a club advisor is held to the manual and its policies regardless of signature.*
- *Classrooms are considered public spaces for the purposes of recording* (e.g. for accommodations). This does not mean that anyone can enter a class at any time. Instead, it means that explicit consent is not required to make a recording of the class as a whole. Groupwork is considered private, so faculty would need to work with students to get consent for recordings or provide alternative options.
- The accommodation policy and procedures are set at the system level, with campus-level contacts. Students interact with SADR to figure out an initial set of reasonable accommodations. Once that's settled, students get to decide which accommodations they request for each of their classes. Mostly they seem to play it safe and request everything, because it's not easy to know in advance what might be needed for a course. *Faculty should consider the receipt of an accommodation letter the start of a conversation with the student.* Things like preferential seating should always be allowed, but there is room for discussion around flexible attendance, deadlines, etc. Faculty with questions are invited to contact SADR.

Planning for the FA meeting, and discussion of the bylaws, was postponed until the next CFR meeting.