

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Walla Walla Community College

Date: October 8, 2024 (3:30-5:00pm)

Members Present:

Hector Lujan	Dave Bailey	Jim Pietersen
Robin Leventhal	Kris Margart	Trina McCoon
Mike Rostollan	Tracy Sereda	Krista Mahan
Jim Bower	Lori Loseth	Chris Mehl
Raul Flores	Devon Gustafson	Charlie Miller
Shauna Hammond	Marley Olson	Karlee Pruitt Larkin

Discussion Topics:

New Member Vote

New members were inducted into positions for the 2024-2025 academic year on a 2-year membership. New members were Tracy Sereda for the BAS position, Shauna Hammond for the WSP position, and Devon Gustafson for the Clarkston At-Large position. Jim Bower was transitioned out of the Clarkston At-Large position and moved to Transitional Studies. Dave Bailey made mention that he will retire in December and elected Cullen Colston to step into Transportation Trades position. The Enology and Viticulture position remains open due to the lack of faculty in that program. Kris made the motion to accept all new faculty senate members into their position. This was seconded by Robin and the motion passed.

President Election Results

Jennifer Vaughn stepped out of her position as Faculty Senate President and vacated her position due to personal reasons. Nominations were held and two people stepped up to be put to a vote. The vote between Mike Rostollan and Devon Gustafson was held over a week-long period. The result being that Mike Rostollan will serve as the 2024-2025 Interim President for Faculty Senate.

State of Senate

State of Senate addressed more details on why Jennifer Vaughn stepped down from her position. On another note, light was brought upon a growing situation at the college. There are concerns of a growing culture shift where bullying, sexism and microaggressions are becoming prevalent. Question was called on the structure of HR and how this situation can be appropriately addressed. Several members were adamant that Faculty Senate addresses these issues. The current ask is to tie this concern with a current guiding principle from the college: Create an Environment for Community to Flourish. One note is that the new Director of Connection and Belonging is supposed to send out a survey addressing these concerns. There was an ask about the potential for Faculty Senate and the Union to hire a third party to also conduct their own survey.

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Walla Walla Community College

Call to Action: Mike will get together with other members personally involved with the situation and will decide on a timeline for Faculty Senate to address these issues.

Faculty Senate Handbook Update

The Faculty Senate handbook needs to be updated. Our current timeline is to bring new revisions to the November meeting and have a finalized document by the January meeting.

Call to Action: Mike, Marley, and Karlee continue working on revisions, which will be brought to the November meeting.

In the previous year, faculty created a list of concerns to be addressed by administration. While efforts were made, not many results came through. Specific agenda items brought to the table in the meeting were concerns about hiring practices of the college and technology issues.

Call to Action: The executive team will meet together to address the list of issues and consider what needs to be prioritized.

Report-back of concerns from respective areas

In the previous year, faculty created a list of concerns to be addressed by administration. While efforts were made, not many results came through. Specific agenda items brought to the table in the meeting were concerns about hiring practices of the college and technology issues.

Call to Action: The executive team will meet together to address the list of issues and consider what needs to be prioritized.

Title IX updated reporting re. students with pregnancy-related conditions

Admin presented new Title IX regulations to faculty during fall conference a few weeks ago. In that address, faculty were outraged by the language used and policy enforcement to report pregnant students, along with students who have ever miscarried, had an abortion, or gone through IVF treatments. The actual language of Title IX does not say this and other senators reached out to colleagues at other colleges to see the interpretation of the statement. It was noted that these other colleges did not interpret the language the same as admin at our college had. The ask is that the college does not continue with this policy and retracts the previous statements made during fall conference. An additional update will need to be provided to all faculty.

Call to Action: A letter is drafted by Faculty Senate and sent to administration to address the Title IX discrepancy.

Dante Leon VPI re: College Goals

Dante joined Faculty Senate to provide goals and information from the office of the VPI. NWCCU accreditation will visit the college tomorrow to assess if progress has been made from previous recommendations. Policies are still being revised by the college and will be

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Walla Walla Community College

sent out to Faculty Senate once they are fully drafted. The college is currently working on new goals, specifically:

- New set of strategic objectives for the college
- Realign the new mission with those objectives
- Provide numeric targets for student success
 - Guided pathways are to see if we achieve equitable outcomes
- Work on reporting infrastructure to track data in classes

Dante's timeline is to begin with outcomes, then the STEPS program, then generate an academic master plan, and to end with a 5-year evaluation cycle.

Good of the Order

The Union is currently working on negotiations for class caps to be included on contracts. The Union would like for Faculty Senate's input on this issue.

Call to Action: Add class caps discussion on to November's Agenda.

Marley made the motion to adjourn the meeting, a second was made and the motion passed. The October Faculty Senate meeting adjourned at 5:06pm PST.

Minutes recorded by Karlee Pruitt Larkin