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CWU Faculty Senate Minutes - 01/17/07

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ROLL CALL:
Senators: All senators or their alternates were present except: Breanna Banchero, Gina Bloodworth, Lori Braunstein, Scott Calahan, Loran Cutsinger, Boris Kovalerchuck, Mark Soelling and Wendy Williams.

Visitors: None

CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Moved, seconded and approved.

Motion No. 06-16 (Approval): Approval of Minutes of November 29, 2006.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

FACULTY ISSUES: Senator Erdman brought up a course enrollment issue. Currently faculty have little control over who is signed into their classes, specifically students who are enrolled from the wait list who have not attended the first 5-6 days of the quarter. There is no prioritization by class standing. Chair Dippmann indicated he would refer this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee. Senator Erdman brought up the issue of chair elections this year, specifically the fact that non-tenure track faculty are not eligible to vote under the proposed chair section of the Academic Code. There is a department with four faculty only two of which are tenure track. A third issue is final exam week. Currently a day time course could have a 6:00 p.m. final and an evening course could have a noon final. Would like to see if some parameters could be set for evening courses have evening finals close to the same time as the course was offered. Chair Dippmann will refer this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Senator Callaghan indicated that the faculty has received notice on the following administrative decisions which raise significant questions and will require clarification as attempts are made to determine their applicability to individuals and groups. Collectively, their immediate effect is to create an anxious workplace that is not conducive to collaboration or, for that matter, productivity. They include:
1. All non-tenure track faculty will apply for their jobs every year.
2. Tenure and promotion will now be linked, even in cases where initial faculty contracts stated that promotion COULD precede a tenure decision.
3. A negative decision on a request for early promotion will result in dismissal prior to the regular probationary period.
4. Faculty with annual contracts has no right to appeal contract issues even in cases where those contracts were signed, by direction, "under protest."
5. Merit is to be awarded only to faculty who work above and beyond their annual workplans, a decision that assumes we have come to general agreement on what levels and types of effort in service and scholarship constitute full employment. As a matter of fact, there are different levels of teaching responsibility required college to college.

OLD BUSINESS - None

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

SENATE COMMITTEES:

Executive Committee:

- Academic Code – Chair section – Chair Dippmann reported that the Academic Code was approved on December 9th with the exception of Section II Department Chairs. That section was tabled by the BOT and they have asked for a response from the Faculty Senate. The letter that is included with the agenda will be going forward to the BOT tomorrow. The BOT will review this section at their February 2nd meeting.
- **Senate Committees for 2006-2007:** The current Academic Code calls for three permanent standing committees: Academic Affairs Committee, Curriculum and General Education. All other previous Senate committees cease to exist with the approval of the Academic Code. The Executive Committee is restructuring several of the previous standing committees into Ad Hoc committees for the remainder of 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years. The committees will spend the rest of this year and the fall quarter evaluating the committee structure and make a recommendation to the Senate by the end of fall quarter. These committees will be Faculty Evaluation and Assessment Committee (formerly Personnel Committee), Professional Development Committee (combined the former Development & Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee), and Academic Code and By-law Committee (formerly the Code Committee). The Public Affairs and Council of Faculty Representatives Committees are being eliminated. The Executive Committee is exploring the possibilities of creating a Technologies committee and would like further input on that possibility.

**Academic Affairs Committee:** Senator Dittmer reported the committee is working on a proposal for block scheduling of classes. This proposal has been voted on and it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

**Budget Committee:** No report

**Code Committee:** We are working on having a recommendation of our charge: "Begin consideration of the role of a reformulated Code Committee in light of the proposed Academic Code. Specifically, recommend to the Executive Committee whether the new Academic Code should be under the purview of an additional standing or ad hoc committee."

We apologize for not having a final report on this issue for this senate meeting. We will have one for the next full senate meeting.

**Curriculum Committee:** No report

**Development and Appropriations:** No report

**General Education:** No report.

**Personnel Committee:** No report

**Public Affairs Comm/Council of Faculty Reps/Faculty Legislative Representative:** See written report available in the Faculty Senate Office.

**CHAIR:** There are several committee vacancies still available. Please respond if you or know of someone who might interested by Monday. Senate is asking for these very early because of the need to get committees filled so they may be included on their workload forms. On February 14 & 15th there will be a Cultural competence interactive workshop for best practices in including and introducing multiculturism. It is based on the book: We can’t teach what we don’t know. Faculty workshop on February 14th on teaching and reaching diverse students.

**CHAIR-ELECT:** No report.

**PRESIDENT:** The legislative committees are getting organized and new committee members are learning about higher education. Paul Shinn is the chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee. The higher education committee has for several years been part of the Education Super Committee and that restores some attention to higher education that had gotten lost in the shuffle. Representative Deb Wallace is chair the Representative Higher Education Committee. Different university representatives have been attending hearings. House Higher Education staff asked people to talk before the House Higher Education Committee about higher education accessibility. Yesterday, Rich Corona has met with the capital budget committee. This morning, the President was at the Senate Higher Education committee. The comprehensives and Evergreen presented on the topic: Educational and Economic contributions the state of our institutions. However, when the research institutions presented on Monday, they received questions about how many students are residents of the state of Washington, how many transfers, and how many get jobs. The university quickly prepared a fast fact sheet in preparation. The university was pleased with the Governor’s budget in general and particularly the capital budget. The Governor has designated money for the construction
and renovation of Dean Hall, pre-design money for Hogue as well as a sizeable amount of money for combined utilities and minor works preservation project. Operating budget was pretty good. We received 50 general FTE at the graduate level and 330 in high demand areas for a total 5.65 million dollars. However, this does not address all of the enroll demands. The university will continue to work for funding for all enrollments. There is a cap on tuition increases at the regional universities of 5%. There is also money set aside for the student support services, TRIO programs and some salary money. Governor’s budget does not address the tuition waiver inequity. Put in a proposal for Wildcat transition program to help students succeed with various programs. Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series next week January 25-27 and February 1-3 and a matinee on February 4th will be the world premier of Blankity Blank. On January 31st Michael Ott will speak in the SURC Ballroom on the promises and challenges of biofuels and alternative energy. Friday Feast is Friday in the Grupe Center 5-7.

PROVOST: The Provost was in Olympia and unable to attend.

STUDENT REPORT: Senator Martinez reported that students seem happy to be back even though it is cold and icy. During winter break ASCWU did some restructuring within their cabinet. The BOD officers attended retreat for emerging leaders. The BOD will have a basket auction on March 1st to support the Stephenson quintuplets’ scholarship. They are currently gearing up for spring elections.

NEW BUSINESS - None

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.