Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of December 10, 2012

Officers: S. Ligon, J. Smith, P. Chantrill, L. Reeves
Ex Officio: R. Fuller, M. Voves, S. Morgan-Foster, J. Filla for K. Chapman

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by S. Ligon.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda including Senate Minutes of November 26, 2012. Hearing no objection the minutes of November 26, 2012 were approved.

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda. None.

4. Committee of the Whole. a. Legislative Liaison Report. P. Chantrill reported she is in communication with D. Buri and he is arranging for her to meet the new Executive Director of the Council of Presidents. She stated the Executive Director is scheduled to come to Eastern and he has set aside some time to meet with her. b. She has sent an email regarding a potential faculty summit and is floating the idea of inviting legislators to come to the Cheney campus. c. The Legislative Committee decided at the last meeting they would come up with communication from EWU faculty that could be delivered to individual legislators so they can find out what it means to be an Eastern faculty member, what makes Eastern unique, etc. so they will be coordinating with the administration for some of that data. In addition they would like to create an introductory sheet that shows what we can do for them because we want to be seen as a resource to the legislature rather than going and begging for stuff, etc. d. Lodging has been secured for the upcoming legislative session and she is ready to go. e. There is a Council of Faculty Representatives meeting scheduled on January 10th so she will fly over for the day. She stated at that meeting they will be coordinating their agenda for the year. b. Shared Governance. a. J. Graves stated she has a concern from her faculty that she would like to bring forward. She stated since 2006 they have sent reports forward that were obtained from the Cheney Fire Marshal to who they thought was the appropriate person(s) regarding the fire code violations in the music recital hall where approximately 175 public concerts are held every year. The curtains are the original curtains and are flammable plus there are other things that are of great concern and they aren’t getting any response to their pleas. She stated they are excited because they have received a grant to get a $100,000 instrument but are very concerned to bring it into a building that has been condemned by the Cheney Fire Marshal. M. Voves stated that the facilities and fire safety folks forwarded the information to her in the fall, the funding for the project has been approved and they are working on getting the specs together so that is a project in process. She stated if they want to talk with someone specific they could speak to S. King. J. Graves stated they have tried however that isn’t working so they are curious if they are not following the protocol they should be following to make that conversation happen. M. Voves stated she could call her and she will set up a meeting with S. King, herself and members of her department. b. J. Smith reported in her college there is concern with DATA 180 and the tenure process. She stated that last spring there was communication from the provost’s office that they were going to start using DATA 180 for a variety of different processes around evaluation such as first and second year reviews, Faculty Activity
Plans, tenure, etc. At that point there were people who started looking at DATA 180 and there were some pilot projects however not all faculty members participated. This fall the provost’s office said they would begin to use DATA 180 for tenure and promotion reviews. She stated at that point she understands there were a series of communications back and forth between chairs and directors i.e. at the retreat and a great deal of lack of clarity resulted as to whether they would actually use DATA 180 for tenure and promotion or whether they would put the decision off for another year. It is her understanding that at some point in November a decision was made to go forward with using DATA 180 and at that point she, along with some other faculty members, began to look at it more seriously as a tool for tenure and promotion. She reported she was able to look at the set-up for someone who was actually up for tenure and promotion and at that point she was left with some real concerns about how faculty input data into DATA 180. She stated she raised the question at Rules and L. Kieffer addressed her concerns. She was assured that if people put things in the wrong places that the departmental and college committees would really diligently look to make sure they found all the information wherever it might be however she remains dubious. She talked with the people who are on the DPC and on the CPC and they expressed some concerns about how they would be using DATA 180 because they hadn’t received any real information about how they were to use the program for the evaluation process. She stated when she spoke with the person in her college who is up for tenure and promotion he said he wasn’t quite sure how he was to use this in terms of where specific kinds of materials would go. There are now 4 weeks until the tenure and promotion packets are due and there is a lot up in the air for something that is the most serious and scariest moment ever even if a faculty member knows they have succeeded in doing everything on the Faculty Activity Plan and they are put in the position where it is not clear how materials are received, used, etc. J. Durfee stated he just came from a meeting with their associate dean, who is meeting with everyone who is going for tenure and promotion, about DATA 180 and he still came out feeling like he has received no guidance. He stated they are being told they have to do the paper portfolio and they have to do DATA 180 and now he is told no one is going to look at the paper portfolio but they still have to turn it in as back-up. The paper one is so much easier because you can have a summary of work completed, evidence, letters of reference, etc. but how is that information inputted into DATA 180. S. Ligon stated the system hasn’t been customized appropriately to match the fields necessary. G. Kenney stated that since this is the first time using DATA 180 couldn’t the people who are doing the reviewing be obligated to look at both venues to ensure fairness and integrity to the candidate so a faculty member isn’t denied tenure or promotion inadvertently because something was missed in DATA 180. W. Repovich stated at the CALE retreat at the beginning of the academic year they were told they didn’t have to work on DATA 180 because the vice provost was going to figure out how to do it and the dean would help them get the information into the system. R. Fuller stated he is hearing of frustration that is on a level that is different than the reports he received earlier. He stated the problem is to make sure the faculty have the opportunity to make their case for tenure and promotion in a way that is effective and complete. He would like to remind the Senate there was a committee, composed of representatives from all the colleges, that looked at all the software packages including DATA 180 and there were open forums before a decision was made (before he became provost) to move in that direction. He stated they have been trying to implement DATA 180 for 2 years having liaisons from each of the colleges report to him through the deans and he was informed they were on track and ready to move forward. He stated that is why they made the recommendation to test it with the tenure and promotion candidates thinking they would be the most experienced and able to use it in a way it would be effective but what he is hearing today is it isn’t working. He stated he will take this under advice, huddle up and tomorrow they will get word out via email so faculty can present
their case in a way that will be most effective. What he said to the chairs in October was he would like to give it a Beta test to see if it does work so he would like faculty to inform him they are going to present their information rather than having them do both ways especially given the timeline. He stated faculty need to decide what will work best for them. He will have them work with their perspective deans on this issue.

5. Administrative Report. Provost. a. R. Fuller reported the next Northwest Commission for Colleges and Universities report is due on March 1 and the report will include a focused report on reestablishing a priority among various goals they have with regards to graduation rates, retention, community engagement, etc. He stated that once the next version of the report is completed it will be sent out to the Senators for their comments. Vice President for Business and Finance. a. M. Voves distributed the Master Plan Update and will send it to D. Van Meter to distribute electronically. She stated it is a document prepared by the architects that summarizes and updates where we are in the campus master planning. The analysis has some stark information for our campus. There is always talk about classroom scheduling and how difficult classrooms are but we only use 14 hours a week out of a 22% minimum standard utilization rate which means that our classrooms are utilized less than any other higher education institution in the state and we don’t even meet the legislative minimum for funding for new buildings. There is also an interesting capacity spreadsheet included that shows we can grow another 5,000 students before we need another building on campus and the report shows we have a surplus of parking spaces on campus by several hundred spaces. She stated our classrooms are not all the best equipped or most convenience so they will make a case for the legislators that while we have buildings with spaces they are not well equipped, they are not modernized and to modernize those buildings would take more money than it would take to build a new one. One thing they will try is to push classroom size while still maintaining our unique sense of the small classroom. Vice President for Student Services. a. S. Morgan-Foster reported she would like to remind faculty that students are under a great deal of stress and lots of others are under stress so if you see something strange or someone acting odd please pick up the phone and call her or the Dean of Students. b. Student Affairs and Academic Affairs in cooperation with the Living Learning Community have won the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) for our Living Learning Community for Computing, Engineering and Science which is a great honor. They will next see if they can win the best program of all universities anywhere. She stated there are 70 students in the Living Learning Community and they have the highest retention rate of all students who live in the residence hall.

6. Associated Students Report. a. J. Filla reported he has heard the extended Library hours are being well utilized however he doesn’t have the exact numbers. b. They made approximately 950 Finals Week Survival Kits and they handed out 200 at the Riverpoint campus beginning on Monday and handed out approximately 250 each day on the Cheney campus. He stated the students were very appreciative of them and they are currently trying to figure out how to do the same thing next quarter. c. K. Hoffer has resigned as president of ASEWU and R. Harold, former vice president, has been voted in to replace him and J. Filla will now assume the role of vice president. They had a hiring committee last week and they went over the applications and had interviews on Thursday and have picked a person to fill his former position. They will be approving that person at their next council meeting. d. The Legislative liaison is currently working on their agenda.
7. Chair’s Report. S. Ligon reported: a. He met with M. Westfall and had an excellent discussion about the “Donut Issue” and the Gateway Project. He stated there is talk about how the Gateway Project will generate revenue that will go to the students through scholarships which is great but it is a huge impact for a small amount of students. He would like to see how they could have dedicated dollars for a low impact for a whole lot more students for “donuts” or events where they are interacting with students outside of the classroom and having academic, intellectual experiences with them that are happening in places that aren’t our traditional places that is critical to what we do as an institution. He stated they also talked about dollars for student travel for conferences both at the Graduate and Undergraduate level. M. Westfall will address the Senate on January 14th and he will be talking further about the Gateway Project but he invites the Senators to talk to him about some of these ideas because he is looking for ways he can get more involved in supporting students and faculty. b. He has invited M. Ayers, Director of Community Engagement; B. Meredith, Executive Director of E-Learning and Off Campus Programs (ELOC); and J. Hammermeister, Professor of PEHR to come to future Senate meetings over the course of the next three months to talk about what is going on around the campus that we don’t know. c. The Student Success and Retention Committee had a meeting to finalize their priorities however although it was an excellent meeting the priorities will still need to be finalized. He stated he believes the 4 priorities they will be working on are: 1) Academic Advising – how it works and coordination between the various bodies that handle academic advising; 2) Mentorship – interested in faculty/student interaction in a long term faculty/individual student relationship; 3) First Year Experience Program – will be getting reports on First Year Experience at the next meeting and 4) Gen Ed Requirements Review. He stated there may be others but these seem to be the ones that are the most pressing. He will report back to the Senate when he has more information.


10. Information Items. a. Senate Agenda Reports. S. Ligon stated there will be brief reports attached to the Senate agendas beginning January 14, 2013 from FPAC, FVC, GAC, LAC, UAC and the Legislative Committee to update what they are working on.

b. IT Update. G. Pratt and his team gave an update of what the Office of Information Technology has accomplished during the 2011-12 academic year.

c. Faculty Dues Plea. L. Reeves stated the Faculty Organization is asking for faculty to sign up for a payroll deduction to support the Faculty Organization or if you are already contributing, to increase your deduction amount. She stated the Faculty Organization is the only four-year institution in the state that is actively supported by faculty and does not rely on the administration for funds which provides an independent faculty voice in shared governance. The Faculty Organization uses the dues money received to mainly support the Faculty Legislative Liaison who travels to Olympia each legislative session to represent the faculty interests to the legislators. She stated the past legislative liaisons have been able to keep our issues at the forefront of legislative deliberations so it is important to support that position. A payroll deduction form will be distributed through intercampus mail and will be in your mailbox when you return from break.
11. Unfinished Business.  

a. Academic Policy Discussion: 301-21 Chapters 1-6.  S. Ligon reported there were small items changed that will make the policy clearer.  

   J. Durfee moved to approve Chapters 1-6 of AP 301-21 Faculty Organization and the Academic Senate.  J. Graves seconded.  

   Motion carried unanimously.


13. Good of the order.  

   a. P. Chantrill would like to have an all Senate thank you to D. Van Meter for the hard work she does to make life better for the Senators.  

   b. B. Chaves said, “Let’s win a football game.”  The game is scheduled at 1:00 p.m. in Roos Field.

14. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.  The next meeting is scheduled on January 14, 2013.