Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of January 28, 2013


Officers: S. Ligon, J. Smith, P. Chantrill, L. Reeves

Ex Officio: R. Arévalo, R. Fuller, M. Voves, S. Morgan-Foster, L. Reyes for K. Chapman, A. Flinn

Guests: G. Pratt, J. Hammermeister, R. Galm, C. Jordan, C. Hammer

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by S. Ligon.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda including Senate Minutes of January 14, 2013. Hearing no objection the minutes of January 14, 2013 were approved.

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda. None.

4. Committee of the Whole.  
   a. Legislative Liaison Report. i. P. Chantrill reported that in general for whatever reason bills are coming through very slowly and there are a dozen bills of either concern or confusion they are following. She stated the Council of Faculty Representatives has been meeting regularly to address how much they can respond to as a group as opposed to responding individually. One of the things she has been working on is she is blogging from the capital and she will make that blog public so faculty can track bills and keep up with what is happening in Olympia on a daily basis. She stated there are documents on the blog that came out of hearings so faculty can see what other people are presenting to the committees as well as information about the Higher Ed Committees in the House and Senate as well as RSS feeds, news and opinion articles specifically on higher ed and some of the issues that are going forward. She stated she would like to mention R. Stolberg of Dental Hygiene has identified a potential bill about mid-level Dental Hygiene Practitioners that hasn’t been numbered yet but came forward in the last two sessions and they are expecting it to come forward again. L. Bilich stated the Department of Dental Hygiene has an approved post-bacc Graduate certificate program ready to enroll students if some state laws change in Olympia this year. They are hopeful to educate a new level of provider in Dentistry similar to the nurse practitioner or physician assistant in medicine. She stated state laws need to change in order for them to educate this new provider and the program would appreciate any help they can get in Olympia to educate legislators on the severe lack of access to dental care for the uninsured, underinsured and the poor. P. Chantrill stated there is some resistance from the bill especially from dentists who are worried anything encroaching on their practices. She stated the package is ready to go and they need it to get out of committee. ii. Most of the discussion has been around financial aid for students. There are some issues regarding the GET Program which is the program that allows for money in towards future tuition and there are some that are claiming that these are liabilities and not being fully funded so they are trying to get some of the information on that. The Campus Bound Program also is in jeopardy and that is a program for where you sign up as a middle school student and who want to make a commitment to doing well, not getting into trouble with the law and getting good grades then their tuition is covered at a four year institution but that is also being called an unfunded liability. She stated it is difficult to know how those will come out but she knows the students and faculty are onboard of those bills. They are paying close attention to financial aid this year because it is vulnerable area to some legislators and they will continue to push for better funding. T. Flinn asked
what movement if any with the Council of Presidents plan to ask for money in return to not raise
tuition. P. Chantrill stated the Council of Presidents are asking for $225 million for a freeze in tuition
and they all agreed to that but right now the base of discussion is the difference between the $225
million and the $175 million figure and that has to do with identifying where those dollars are going
to go. She stated she isn’t convinced that everybody who advanced that bill thinks they will have to
freeze tuition and her thoughts are that some of them actually advanced the bill knowing that they
wouldn’t be asked to freeze tuition but they also wouldn’t be getting their millions of dollars. She
believes there is some political leverage going on but she also feels at this point it is talked about but
there have been no hearings about it in particular. She stated the URL to her blog is
http://datelineolympia.orgpress.com and she will make it live by the end of the week. S. Ligon
stated links will be included on all agendas and the Faculty Org website to both P. Chantrill’s blog
and the student reps blog. iii. S. Ligon stated he keeps hearing that Washington State is the lowest
funded state in the nation. P. Chantrill stated she has gotten confirmation that Washington State is
the 4th lowest. S. Ligon stated he would like to know where we are and would like to talk about it as
much as possible. He stated that when he thinks of progressive Washington he doesn’t think about us
as having the lowest funding in the country. P. Chantrill stated she will get the presentation on it that
came from the Council of Presidents and they talk about not only Washington being the 4th from the
bottom but also 5th from the top in terms of our graduation rates. She stated that in the nation
Washington schools are doing really well so they are getting a bang for their buck that keeps
decreasing over time. The other thing they hammer pretty heavily is the notion of indebtedness for
students. Tuition increases being one thing but indebtedness is another so if the get state financial aid
like The Need Grant or the College Bound Program, etc. if they start tinkering more with that then
certainly it becomes a form of tax on the student to pay higher tuition. S. Ligon asked if they have a
rank of where our students stand in terms of indebtedness. P. Chantrill stated she does not but she
will ask. M. Voves stated she looked at the Council of President’s website and we rank 46th in the
nation for Undergraduate but 49th in the nation for Graduate. T. Flinn stated what he understands is
we are at the bottom with higher ed funding per student if you include the two year schools. S. Ligon
stated this is something that we need to talk about as much as possible and we need to do a better job
to educate the residents in the State of Washington and the residents of the State of Washington need
to know we are among the worst if not the worst funded states in the country for higher education. P.
Chantrill stated a lot of the newspaper articles are around that very topic and they are from faculty,
from parents, etc. so people are aware of the statistics even if they only have a portion of the facts
they are driving it home that we didn’t get here accidentally, this was a conscious, over time choice
that began long before the financial collapse. She stated the other thing that is coming forward again
this year is a kind of performance contract which seems to surface whenever there is a new team of
legislators so they will be monitoring that as well. J. Durfee stated in the last couple of years there
have been a couple of articles in the paper talking about how rich the people at universities are i.e.
WSU president, etc. and then all the way on page 8 it says the professors aren’t making that kind of
money but there is the public perception that the universities are fine. P. Chantrill stated that part of
the reason the public perception is out there is because Eastern is in its own environment or world
and that has never been truer than when she is listening to her colleagues on CFR talk to her about
what their priorities are for the year. She stated for example WSU faculty are talking about helping
those poor faculty members who are making less than $100,000 they want to make every effort to get
them all up to $100,000 and she thinks we don’t live in the same universe. Then you hear about how
well the U of W is doing and how much they have done on the backs of tuition with double-digit
increases in tuition and that all goes towards things they are championing now and will get more
funding because of that. There are all kinds of inconsistencies and ironies in that but she would like
to hand out some kind literature to the legislators about the unique face of Eastern faculty. She
envisions a one page document that would give a snapshot of who we are, what we care about, how
many hours a week we work, etc. She stated she would like to create a quick survey to get
information that can be used to champion the unique quality and the unique fierceness of Eastern
faculty. **b. Shared Governance. None.**

5. **Administrative Report. President. a.** Dr. Arévalo reported the Washington Student Achievement
Council who replaced the HECB will be doing listening sessions across the state and they are
scheduled to be in Spokane on Wednesday, January 31st. He has time specific to talk to the group but
they are also having opening sessions at the Riverpoint campus beginning at about 9 a.m. W.
Repovich asked who they were meeting with and why. Dr. Arévalo the only people they have invited
are business people from Spokane and some of the issues they are looking at have to do with the
issues of student affordability of higher ed, higher education costs overall, the use or integration of
technology in higher ed, transfer relationships and how the decline in state funding has affected
divisions of higher education. W. Repovich stated she is curious why they are talking to business
people vs. us. P. Chantrill stated they have a tradition to do that. If they want to know what kind of
curriculum we need they talk to business people. She stated she was in a business meeting recently
and she raised her hand after a student asked if she could talk about what matters to students and she
asked since faculty are the curriculum designers if they might find it useful to hear from the faculty
perspective and they were like, ok. She explained when curriculum is designed they take into
consideration a lot of different demands such as what students need, what industry needs but also
what the discipline need from the students so that goes into the mix but they do have a tradition of
deferring to industry needs first in workforce development. Dr. Arévalo stated he will send a copy of
the email to S. Ligon to distribute to the Senators. **Provost. a.** Dr. Fuller reported he would like to
thank D. Almeida and her colleagues for their Board presentation on Friday at the Riverpoint campus.
They presented on behalf of their program, an update on their approaches and their innovation as well
as the new major and it was well received by the Board. They had a tour of the Science building with
R. Stolberg and A. DiMarco who did a great job of highlighting the outreach efforts that Dental
Hygiene is involved in. He stated there was a retention piece presented by C. Ormsby and he
presented some encouraging preliminary results about the ALEKS program and the improved success
rate of our students from fall to winter so they are seeing tremendous gain after one year or one
quarter of really hard work by B. Alvin and her colleagues and he would like to thank her publically
for the work that is going on there. B. Alvin stated it is really J. Lane and her colleagues but R.
Fuller stated she isn’t at the meeting and he wants to make sure it is in the record that it is really an
improvement that is substantial, noteworthy and the Board is very appreciative as well. **b. The search
for the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs continues this week and will conclude next week. He
stated they expect the Dean of Libraries candidates on campus later in February. Vice President for
Business and Finance. a.** M. Voves stated she has nothing to report. T. Flinn stated M. Voves had
talked about fund allocations for faculty salary increases at a recent FPAC meeting and he would like
to ask about that. M. Voves stated at this point in the budget process all these requests come in, they
are evaluated and then they are prioritized by the campus budget committee and then recommended
to the president where they are prioritized. She stated there are only two funding sources for
anything they do and that is the state allocation which is about $30 million dollars and the rest is
tuition so really any funding for any initiatives they do whether salary or whatever will have to be
funded about of tuition and tuition increases. **Vice President for Student Services. S. Morgan-
Foster distributed the Student Affairs Annual Report and stated it can also be found on their website. If you have any questions she will be able to answer at the next meeting.

6. Associated Students Report. a. L. Reyes reported on Friday they will be meeting with ASWSU from Riverpoint so they can see our facilities and continue to build their working relationship so the students on Riverpoint have activities to go to and can feel more included in student life rather than being in Spokane and everything is done in Cheney. b. The ASEWU team is full now they have appointed the Director of Elections. c. They are filling committees and have received at least 15 applications on Friday because they spread the word they needed people to fill the positions. d. They are working on the PUB remodel plan and although they can’t get it done in their term they want to start seeing what students would want if they were to remodel it and see what steps are required to do that. e. They have 65 out of 75 spots filled for Lobby Day so they are excited to be sending a multitude of students to lobby for what they want as a student body. f. They are diligently practicing for the dodge ball game they have against the administration on Thursday night during halftime of the basketball game.

7. Chair’s Report. S. Ligon reported: a. J. Smith and he have been working with R. Fuller on the faculty salary study. The study should be completed and they should have a report at the next Senate meeting. b. The Student Success and Retention Committee will be meeting Friday, February 1, 2013 and he feels they will have a report at the next Senate meeting. c. J. Smith stated on the Washington Student Achievement Council website it shows the open meeting on Wednesday, January 31st at 4:00 p.m. in Room 20 of the Academic Senator building where the Library is. S. Ligon stated the more people that can attend the better.

8. UFE Report. a. T. Flinn reported the UFE will be visiting people to listen and to gather your comments about what your life is like at Eastern to see what they can do to make it less onerous. If you don’t see someone let him know. b. The UFE has gathered all the appointment letters that were issued in 2013 for lecturers and senior lecturers so they can compare salaries and although it is too early for his to make generalizations but his initial sense is that in many disciplines the longer a lecturer has been here the lower the relative salary. He stated new people come in at higher rates and this is a practice they will be discussing in upcoming Labor Management meetings. B. Stirling stated he would like to thank them for looking into this issue because it has been an issue for lecturers and senior lecturers for a long time. S. Ligon stated the salary study they have been working on with Academic Affairs they are looking at the pay in the context of market rates and what is different with that is they are looking at market rates for all faculty and not just new hires. R. Fuller stated they are looking at CUPA based market mediums by discipline so it could be examined against the mid-point of the market which is a place to have a conversation that centers the debate on what is out there in the labor market.


10. Information Items. a. J. Hammermeister PowerPoint Presentation. J. Hammermeister gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled: “Enhancing the Psychological Resilience and Academic Success of First Generation College Students at EWU.” He stated Psychological Resilience is the ability to
bounce back from adversity. They have worked with a small group of first generation students and have seen an increase in self-confidence, they are more goal-oriented, emotionally in control, they have a greater ability to focus, they are able to produce and control images, adaptive self-talk, they are optimistic, self-responsible, have lower stress, anxiety and depression. He stated they will expand the program during winter 2013 to include 4 sections of EDUC 196 and ENGL 101. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be posted to the Fac Org website and distributed to the Senators.

11. Unfinished Business.  a. AP 303-24 Grades, Changes and Appeals. W. Repovich stated she has issues with Sections 1-2 Pass/No Credit Grade Option (Department or Program Designated) and Section 1-3 Undergraduate Pass/Fail Grade Option (Department or Program Designated). L. Bilich stated she has an issue with Section 1-5 Incompletes (X) where it talks about the only way a student can be given an incomplete is due to a catastrophic circumstance. She stated in her program they have students who can’t complete their work due to patient’s health issues and it is unfair to penalize them because it affects their financial aid. J. Kieswetter stated he also has issues with Section 1-5 Incompletes: procedure. S. Ligon stated he will have someone from GAC and UAC attend the next Senate meeting to discuss this policy and he would like to ask the Senators to send any edits they would like to be made to D. Van Meter by the end of the week. S. Morgan-Foster stated depending on the financial aid status was and how many credits they have completed, whether they were already suspended or whatever it would probably put the student in a suspended status which wouldn’t take away their financial aid but it would have to be appealed. J. Smith stated her understanding is if they were suspended in one quarter, appeal and resolve in another and then they are suspended again something else happens and that would be the Dental Hygiene’s concern about financial aid. S. Morgan-Foster stated that could be the problem they running into. S. Ligon stated they may have to create a special section to deal with that program and to avoid financial aid issues. b. S. Ligon stated he feels the way we grade at Eastern is unfair to students and that section will need to be reviewed in the future. This will be unfinished business at the next meeting.


13. Good of the order. None.

14. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on February 11, 2013.