Academic Senate
Eastern Washington University
Minutes of February 11, 2013


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

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

Guests: B. Meredith, B. Chaves, E. Morgan, D. Dean

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by S. Ligon without quorum. Quorum reached at 3:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda including Senate Minutes of January 28, 2013. Several members were unable to download the minutes so they will be approved at the February 25th meeting.

3. Additions/Changes to Agenda. None.

4. Committee of the Whole. a. Legislative Liaison Report. P. Chantrill reported the Legislative Liaison blog is live and can be found at: http://datelineolympia.wordpress.com She stated there will be live links to modest bill tracking, the House Higher Ed committee member names and phone numbers, the Senate Higher Ed committee member names and phone numbers, online resources as well as the student Legislative Liaison’s website: http://eaglelobby.wordpress.com/ The blog will be updated regularly and P. Chantrill will attend Senate when she can to address any questions or concerns.

b. Shared Governance. None.

5. Administrative Report. a. Vice President for Business and Finance. W. Repovich asked how the budget committee is going to figure out how much the health care costs will be going up. M. Voves stated that comes directly from the State Benefits Board and isn’t controlled at the institutional level. She stated the state has done a good job of managing health care costs and insurance programs so we have been very fortunate but she is more worried about the amount of payroll taxes that may be imposed beginning in March. b. Vice President for Student Services. S. Morgan-Foster reported the Partnership in Employment Career Fair will be held at the convention center in Spokane on February 27th. She stated it is held in conjunction with Whitworth, Gonzaga and WSU Spokane and there are over 500 students who attend and approximately 100 companies. The night before there is a pre-conference event for students to meet and mingle with the companies. b. An error has been found in the Student Affairs Annual Report 2011-12 and the correction has been emailed to all Senators.

6. Associated Students Report. L. Reyes reported they are currently working on the ASEWU bylaws to make sure they are up to date and reflect all the changes that have been made and reviewing job descriptions. b. They have an opening for a court justice because the student in that position has taken a study abroad position. c. Lobby Day is Monday and they are excited. They have a full bus of 75 students and there is approximately 25 more driving to Olympia to participate in the
activities. d. At the last Senate meeting the grading scale was brought up and they are doing research into that to see what the students want and would be beneficial for them. e. They are excited they have been able to get a lot of student involvement this year.

7. Chair’s Report. S. Ligon reported: a. He sent an email about the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) event they attended. He stated it was a positive experience in that they were listening. They wanted to get an impression of our region and were aware that what we do is different than what happens in other regions of the state; that our students are different; our institution is different, etc. which was the most encouraging thing about the meeting. He stated he did bring up the race to the bottom question of when we are going to be worse than Mississippi and how we can compete with Haiti to be the worst. They didn’t quite know the answer to that question but that is the question he wants to keep asking. He stated he wants to know where we stand in terms of per cap funding and it is hard to determine that number which the answer he keeps getting. P. Chantrill stated the word in Olympia is we are 46th out of 50 as far as funding. J. Smith stated to prove how engaged they are they have already posted something to their website in response to the Spokane part of their listening tour. It can be found at: http://feedback.wsac.wa.gov/. b. W. Kraft is the Mace Bearer for the 2013 graduation ceremonies. c. He previously reported the Student Success and Retention Committee were meeting and they had four areas of focus which were approved by the committee. He stated the committee has added a fifth area of focus. They will be focusing on: 1) Advising; 2) Mentoring; 3) First Year Experience; 4) Gen Ed Review; and 5) Faculty Development – Pedagogical Support. d. There is a problem at Eastern when faculty get sabbaticals their classes aren’t funded in terms of the classes being covered which causes anxiety among faculty. He stated there is a state law that says the institution can’t spend more money than they would otherwise spend if no one went out on sabbatical. He stated that means if a faculty member takes one quarter off the faculty member will get paid 90% of their salary that term and that means in order to not exceed costs the university can spend 10% of 1/3 of the faculty sabbatical to cover the sabbatical. What is interesting about the state law is the community colleges get 150% of that amount and we get 100% which means the law is differentiating between community colleges and the four year institutions. He stated the law also differentiates between us and the research institutions because not only do the faculty members get paid more so they have more dollars to pay out their loads are smaller so it is easier to backfill. If we are teaching roughly 12 credits a term, they are teaching 6 because a bigger part of their load is research so it is easier for them to take care of the problem. He stated he is working on this and trying to find a way to deal with it. If you have a college with lower pay than other colleges your college will have a harder time taking care of the sabbatical. He will be working with R. Fuller and T. Flinn but if you have any ideas let him know. e. A question was raised about the Council Mini Reports and how to raise a question. He stated an agenda item will be added to allow the opportunity to respond to those reports. W. Repovich stated every year they have evaluated the senior administrators they have come up with a new set of questions and statistically that doesn’t make sense if they want to compare the results so they should have the same set of questions from evaluation to evaluation. J. Smith, acting chair of the Faculty Values Committee, reported when they started the year there was a great deal of concern that while people were pretty happy with the evaluations they had done of the deans there was concern if the evaluations that were done for the senior administrators was going to be comparable. She stated they used the three point scale which doesn’t allow for a great deal of differentiation and feedback from faculty members had indicated they were treating the point scale in very different ways she they felt it was worthwhile to reexamine the questions and make sure they were doing what they wanted them to do. She stated she is hoping
8. UFE Report.  a. T. Flinn reported the two bargaining teams have been identified and should be convening soon to discuss issues such as raises, greater faculty autonomy, etc. they will be bargaining.  b. The report on lecturer pay shows that across campus within the departments 12 lecturers are being paid more than the senior lecturers in that department which is a campus wide problem. He stated it isn’t the UFE position that the lecturers are being over paid but that the senior lecturers are being underpaid. They will work to continually raise the profile of that problem.

c. B. Meredith, Executive Director of E-Learning & Off-Campus Programs. B. Meredith reported the Virtual Campus consists of four different departments that are combined under one title. They include Running Start Concurrent Enrollment; Eastern On-Line; Off-Campus Programs of which there are 8 across the state and they are delivered through partnerships with community colleges; and Non-Profit Government and Corporate Training Department (for Continuing Education Unit’s). He stated the commonality between those is these are EWU students taking a EWU class that isn’t at the Cheney or Riverpoint campus. The other commonality is they pick up students in high school and they can be taken through their experience of being able to deliver EWU classes, EWU quality and EWU instructors wherever they are from high school to life-long learner under one banner.  He stated we are also a little non-traditional in the way we deliver because they use E-Learning, they use online, they use asynchronous and synchronous technologies as well as combinations of placement by going out to the community colleges or going out to wherever the students may be. The biggest location is Bellevue Community College on the west side and they are looking to expand in a number of other locations including Lower Columbia. He stated they are delivering the virtual campus with EWU classes to students who are not able to come to the EWU Cheney or Riverpoint campus. They are extending their reach and opening access and opportunity for our students and delivering out to the students wherever they may be the ability to finish their degree and advance in their academic careers.  P. Weller asked who determines the curriculum for these courses and B. Meredith stated it remains with the faculty and it goes through the normal channels for determining new courses which includes departments and chairs.  W. Repovich asked what his office would do for the faculty. B. Meredith stated his department is the branch campus itself, they provide support, they provide the structure for academic support, structure for student support, for student success with mentoring, advising, etc. which needs to be coordinated and delivered to the students.  He stated they are currently self-support but they would like to eventually move to state support.  Dr. Arévalo has pointed out he is concerned about access and opportunity for students and right now it is a little expensive to take an online class. He stated as a result they are in talks and looking at numbers to see how they can get those costs down so that they can meet Dr. Arévalo’s request that a student taking an online class or a student taking a distance class is paying no more than a student taking a face to face class so they can increase the accessibility
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M. Sharifi asked how they can assume that the means of delivery would not influence the content itself and the assumption that virtual teaching is pretty much the same as actual experiential learning at the campus and the minds of public education. He stated the general philosophy of virtual teaching in the country he believes it is another way of prioritization of public education and he is amazed it will cost more money. The whole idea of virtual campus and virtual learning is to reduce costs and it has reduced costs in many places but his fear is the economists are running the political position but they are entering into the idea of running public education and making it more efficient so how do you make sure the content isn’t diluted to make our universities to become a public/private shopping center where students can buy it cheaper. B. Meredith stated it is a concern that came up once before in the history of the academy and at that time the issue was a book or books and it was considered that books being brought into the academy were going to undermine the education system. He stated this is a tool to connect two people together but it really comes down to education is the connection of minds together and coming up with new ideas. It isn’t the tool but the connection of the minds that help to bring about the newly educated and knowledgeable mind. He stated regardless of the tools that are used it is the instructor and the student connecting with each other that will bring about new knowledge. S. Ligon stated this conversation will continue over the next several years.

11. Unfinished Business. a. AP 303-24 Grades, Changes and Appeals. S. Ligon stated there will be a new version of the policy document at the next Senate meeting and there will be representatives from both GAC and UAC to address and questions or concerns.


13. Good of the order. None.

14. The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on February 25, 2013.