

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 1, 2025; 3:10 – 5:00 PM

Important Dates:

Oct. 8, 3:00 Open EC

Oct. 17, 8:30-10. State of the University Address Nov. 5

Next Senate Meeting.

Senators and voting alternates present: Amy Claridge, Ana Freire, Anne Cubilie, Bernadette Jungblut, Brita Williams, Chong Eun Ahn, Christopher Schedler, Cristina Bistricean, Eric Cheney, Eun Young Lee, Gabrielle McNeillie, Gary Bartlett, Jim Johnson, John Bowen, John Choi, John Durham, Julia Stringfellow, Keith Lewis, Kyung (Kate) Hee Im, Lila Harper, Mary Radeke, Natasha Lindsey, Nicole Jastremski, Nicole Lamartine, Peter Klosterman, Richard Marsicano, Ruthi Erdman, Sara Toto, Tafere Belay, Tennecia Dacass, Todd Weber, Upakar Bhatta.

Guests in attendance: Andrea Eklund, Arturo Torres, Chris Redfearn, Christina Barrigan, Christina Denison, Delayna Brecken, Elvin Delgado, Eric Foch, Faiza Khoja, Hope Amason, Jim Wohlpart, Julie Baldwin, Katrina Whitney, Matt Altman, Patrick Pease, Sathy Rajendran, Sydney Thompson, Tishra Beeson.

We began the meeting with the adoption of Roberts Rules, expectations for Senators, and approval of the last Senate minutes of June 6. Natasha Lindsey, Theatre, will be the Senate Chair this year.

There were two PowerPoint presentations this meeting:

A. Multimodal Learning (MML) Presentation (10 minutes)—Joy Fuqua, Delayna Breckon, and Chad Tester.

Faculty who are involved with Multimodal Learning were introduced. There are 27 Associates. The Resource area in Canvas is where faculty can find development courses and register for them. MML will send out start, end of quarter announcements, and a newsletter. Syllabi policies are posted in MML; however, the section on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence on the model syllabus **needs** to be edited by the faculty member.

An AI Literacy Essentials Digital badge is available. The training is 1 hour/week for 5 weeks starting on 10/24. A program for students to learn about AI will be available in winter.

All workshops are recorded and available in Canvas Instructor Resources for review.

B. Faculty Athletic Representative Presentation (10 minutes) —Ana Freire and Sean Dahlin

This PowerPoint presentation focused on how faculty can support student athletes. In 2024-25, there were 391 student athletes with a 3.29 average GPA. The women's basketball players appear to have achieved the highest average GPA.

The policy on athlete attendance was outlined. Faculty are not required to excuse student athletes but are encouraged to support them by providing clear syllabus policies regarding make-up work. Attendance excuses can be applied to competition/travel but not practice time.

If students do need to take an exam while traveling, coaches will proctor the exams.

SENATE CHAIR REPORT

Natashia Lindsey, Chair, provided a welcome back address. She acknowledged that last year was hard for everyone. In her role as Senate Chair, she wishes to emphasize transparency. To this end (since it can be daunting to bring a concern to open Senate or open EC), in addition to the regularly scheduled Open EC sessions, she will hold office hours each month with both in-person and online options.

There have been some structural changes this year. The Faculty Senate has been moved from the President's Office to that of Academic Affairs in the Provost's office. Thus, Senate service WLs will be paid through negotiations with college deans and the Provost's office. This is likely to make maintaining equity in the EC a challenge; however, the Senate is monitoring the situation.

Chair Lindsey and Past Chair Klosterman have worked on committee charges and met with each committee chair. Currently, there are five Senate standing committees: Academic Affairs, Curriculum, Bylaws and Faculty Code, Evaluation and Assessment, and General Education. The Budget and Planning committee is currently on hiatus until it can be realigned with the new Values-based Budgeting model. Throughout the year, these five committees will bring reports and motions to the Senate. Membership and charges will soon be on the Faculty Senate website. There are still openings on the Senate Committees, along with other university committees.

One new committee is the Global Literacy ad hoc committee, whose task is to create a requirement to replace the old ADI requirement, one that will align with other WA state schools' programs.

The Senate's new Administrative Assistant, Alysia Owlsym, began work at the beginning of September. She is now figuring things out.

As with last year, the Senate agenda will be sent out to Senators two Fridays before the Senate meeting in hopes of cleaning up any wording in advance (a definite time saver); this timeline will also allow Senators to get feedback in advance.

Last year, we anticipated a Course Material Access Program that would allow students to pay a flat rate for textbooks. Unfortunately, some legal issues were raised, and the program has been paused until the issues can be resolved.

Multimodal and Associate Vice President of Faculty Success Elvin Delgado have updated the required syllabus language. That language should be available under the "syllabus" tab in Canvas. Do not import old syllabi from previous shells. See Delayna Breckon's "Canvas start of the Quarter Procedures" email and the MML website for help.

For those teaching 100/200 level courses, please submit any Early Academic Alerts by Oct. 24, so we contact students who need additional help. You can also reward positive student behavior by submitting a "Wellington High Five."

Adaptive University Council. A reminder that although the AUC was formed by the Provost, he is not actively engaged with its activities. Anyone can propose ideas to transform Central. The AUC vets proposals and sets up Catalyst (or Cat) Teams to research the most promising ideas. The first two cat teams focusing on Advising and the 3-year degree will be making recommendations soon. Information and timelines for these teams can be found in the AUC Sharepoint. Another upcoming Cat Team for General Education is being formed. All Team-proposed changes will come through the Senate for discussion and vote.

Last May, the Board of Trustees approved the Shared Governance document. Now, everyone is being asked to revise any policies and procedures to align with this document. This includes the Faculty Code.

The BOT has indicated that they are concerned about how class size, scheduling, and online offerings might be affecting student retention. However, the Senate EC does not believe the Faculty Code is preventing change nor that revisions are needed. These items are not mentioned in the Faculty Code and are outside the Senate Purview. The EC will continue to remind the BOT that the Code does not mandate schedules nor course offerings. The BOT also

desires that a consultant come in to work on trust building. Even though the consultant's cost would be covered by a donation, the Senate does not believe that, yet another consultant will be useful. Plans are however underway for the President and Provost to meet with the BOT's consultant. Senate leadership will keep Faculty updated.

Additionally, university policies have been renumbered and moved. There was no consultation over this movement of procedures. Policies that were housed in the Faculty Senate have been relocated, language naming what policies the Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee controlled were removed; sections of procedure were eliminated. This is very concerning. The EC has raised concerns about these policy changes multiple times.

The State of the University address is Friday, Oct. 17 at 9:30. Chair Lindsey encourages everyone to attend if possible and add their voices.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF FACULTY SUCCESS REPORT

Elvin Delgado provided an update on his work. He detailed four goals/areas of his focus:

- 1) Focus on the mental health of faculty members, not just how to use Faculty 180, but how faculty are handling their courses and any discomfort with productivity guidelines. He is talking with Multimodal about ways to build community with sessions for new faculty and NTT from 3-5:00 on the first Monday of each month in Samuelson. These sessions will be recorded so faculty can review them in their second year of work.
- 2) Intergroup dialogue on how to create a safe environment. Developing a Student profile will help us meet the needs of students by understanding our audience. Multimodal will be the center.
- 3) Online education. Assessment of online education at CWU. Looked at enrollment trends. Strengths and challenges. Scheduling challenges. Need to access services after hours. There is a lack of teaching consistency since faculty reach out when they need help rather than attend training. Inconsistency among course use of MML causes student stress.
- 4) Working with the union on guidelines for faculty evaluations.

Questions? Email Elvin Delgado.

FACULTY ISSUES

Chair Lindsey covered old Issues from last spring quarter. If you remember, the June meeting had quite a few faculty expressing concerns about Cat Teams and Gen Ed changes.

There was a complaint that the EC was lobbying for the administration. Lindsey responded by referring to shared government as the cornerstone of the university and reiterating that the EC will advocate for faculty.

Concerns over loss of distinctive course offerings in Gen Ed was raised by Senator Tenerelli. Lindsey explained that the EC is studying possible approaches with the Gen Ed committee. Changes in the Gen Ed structure will require Senate approval.

Senator Sara Toto had yielded to colleague Cody Stoddard, both from LAJ, who expressed concerns that the Cat teams would usurp faculty authority.
Lindsey: Cat teams will assist, not replace Senate control over our curriculum.

Senator Weber, Management, was concerned about Canvas's data disappearing after a student withdrawal from the class since the data would be needed if there was a complaint later on.

Lindsey checked and found that the Canvas data may not be visible, but it is still there. If there is a need to obtain the data, MML can get it, even years later.

Senator Toto, LAJ, had complained that VA loans were not being processed quickly enough, causing problems when Veterans tried to register.
Lindsey agreed. The VA Center is having problems since staffing is low.

Senator Toto had also asked about an earlier Fall start for class, as was done during COVID. Lindsey explained that was not possible as it would affect faculty benefit coverage.

Senator Dormady was concerned about whistle blowing and internal informing.
Response was that CWU's legal risk is low; if something is risky, the EC will be notified.

NEW ISSUES

Senator Nicole Jastremski, Anthropology suggested that the reporting on student "noshows" to be extended to the second week since some classes had only met once.

Senator Bernadette Jungblut, Political Science, had questions about the Early Alert in Canvas. She felt more data is useful. What happens to the student after a report? Did the students go to a counselor after the report? Did the meeting improve their grades?

Kate Reynolds, Education and Learning, reported her program is having two retirements and they can't hire replacement TT, and are having problems getting NTT. How is this loss of faculty affecting programs?

STUDENT REPORT

There was no Student Report

REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

Motion No. 25-03: Ratify the 2025-2026 committee nominees.

John Bowen, Geography, complained about the lack of anyone from COTS on the Global Literacy ad hoc committee. He suggested that the committee be extended or reformatted.

The decision was made to postpone the vote and to take the issue back to the EC to discuss whether another person should be added.

Motion No. 25-04: Endorse 2027-2028 academic calendar.

Calendar was endorsed, although Senator Chris Schedler, English, noted that in regard to internship application deadline, the Wildcat Career Network doesn't exist anymore.

PRESIDENT REPORT

This will be the last time the President comes to the Senate meetings since the BOT has asked him to delegate more and meet with external groups: government and donors. So only the Provost will be meeting with Senate on a regular basis.

One example of a group Wohlpart is meeting with is The Washington Roundtable, a business committee, who is setting up a performance-based funding program using metrics. This program might start in 2029. Wohlpart will be on the steering committee. He is familiar with Florida's use of metrics in higher education. In that state, money was taken away from campuses who didn't meet their metrics.

WA state revenue is down. One major loss of funding is connected to the federal government reduction of Medicaid payments, which would mean a \$13 billion deficit if the state makes up the difference.

The student enrollment numbers are not yet available.

PROVOST REPORT

Provost Pease reported that our student retention is now 73%, up 3 points from last year. This has an impact on students and the bottom line.

Our target projection is for 8,200 students. Today, we have 1,600 new students and 800 transfer students. With the improved retention rate, the projected enrollment is now 8,331.

We need these students since there is a 5% cut in state funding. While revenue is up, so are expenses. If the actual student enrollment comes through, the deficit will be a manageable one million dollars. We are not out of the woods, more deficits will occur.

CWU's class scheduling is not meeting the needs of incoming students. There are lots of waitlists. We lost over 100 students likely due to poorly performing scheduling.

CHAIR-ELECT REPORT

Faculty are invited to come to the open EC.