



## MINUTES

The Faculty Senate Steering Committee was called to order by Tracy Klein, Chair, at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in French Ad. 344B and via Zoom.

Members Present: Executive Committee: T. Klein, E. Shelden, K. Roberts, M. Hudelson; Committee Chairs: D. Grigar (AAC), J. McDonald (FAC), R. Thomas (GSC), P. Monsivais (RAC), T. Rotolo (Library); S. Bollens (Legislative Rep.); Campus Reps: G. Taub and S. Seo (Everett), Ayesha Ahmed (Spokane), V. Cozza and Y. Demissie (Tri-Cities), A. Dimitrov and J. Barber (Vancouver), Absent A&E, Budget, PHSC, Others present: None

- I. Approval of Steering Committee Minutes from March 27, 2025 ([PDF](#)).

***Corrected note from BoR Report to reflect paid leave – J. McDonald – President Schulz will be available to President Cantwell in a support capacity beginning on April 1, 2025, to July 2025 then will be on ~~sabbatical~~ paid leave for 1 year.***

- II. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

***None***

- III. Legislative Update –

***S. Bollens – Things are very uncertain at this time which is unusual this late in the session.***

***T. Rotolo – With cuts being discussed, will they happen this academic year?***

***S. Bollens – The budget being discussed is for the 2025-2027 biennium, meaning in FY26. Cuts will be specific and prescribed; the State will determine our budget, details will unfold at that time. Even when we do get our budget with X cut in Y, there will be a domino effect on other areas. Decisions could reduce enrollment if we increase tuition or cut financial aid. WSU leadership will make the decisions.***

***K. Roberts – If legislation goes to extended session, do we know when it would be and/or end?***

***S. Bollens – It can be immediately following regular session or delayed until August, it is up to the Governor.***

***T. Klein – Quite likely we will have steering committee over the summer to discuss any incoming business.***

- IV. BoR Report – J. McDonald – not much to report, preparing for BoR meeting 4/18.

1. FAC Update – J. McDonald – Proposed amendment to the Faculty Manual Section III.C.8, Advancement in Rank regarding promotion criteria to regent's professor has been returned to FAC for additional conversation.

- Updated Faculty Manual Section III.E, Termination of Employment Exhibits [511A](#), [511B](#), [511C](#)

***J. McDonald – Added documentation to show example of form.***



- Updated *Faculty Manual* Section III.C.8, Advancement in Ranking regarding transparency of the tenure and promotion process Exhibits [514A](#), [514B](#), [514C](#)

*J. McDonald reviewed changes to verbiage – Made changes to reflect "available letters" vs. "external letters".*

- Update on NOI to Create a Department of Social Work in the College of Nursing [508A](#), [508B](#), [508D](#)

*J. McDonald – This NOI falls under the MOU between the Provost and Senate that states it must go through FAC which will provide a report to Faculty Senate Executives for distribution to the provost. The initial discussion was held at the 4/3/2025 Faculty Senate meeting.*

*FAC had a few questions:*

- 1. What checks and balances are in place if the program does not successfully recruit students?*
- 2. If the program is a department in the College of Nursing, how is this issue resolved: "Nursing requires a terminal (PhD or DNP) to hold tenure across Colleges of Nursing in the US, but Social Work does not and has different professional accomplishments that are recognized as benchmarks for tenure as well as advanced.*
- 3. Found the description of how faculty were consulted lacked detail. For example, "Faculty and administrators both inside and outside the units support this proposal" leaves open questions about who was and was not consulted.*
- 4. Do the affected faculty and other administrative units agree to the creation of this college or department? If not, please explain why the unit should be created over their objections.*

*A. Dimitrov – Faculty Senate does not control creation of departments, but we do approve maintenance and support of programs through AAC. This program's budget support is not very clear. How does it get set up? Does the department get set up because it already has a budget? There is an approved Social Work program in Tri-Cities. There are already 4 faculty, what is the justification to hire 12 new faculty?*

*J. McDonald – College of Nursing is moving to create a new department. Advance Practice and Community Care already has a bachelor's degree program and would be adding the masters.*

*A. Dimitrov – can we find out how they are doing?*

*V. Cozza – Anticipated start date of Fall 2026*

*J. McDonald – They are working on getting accreditation by July 2025.*



*T. Klein – How do we move forward to answer the questions?*

*J. McDonald – upon receiving information related to our questions, we will provide written communication to the Faculty Senate Chair outlining the review, any outstanding questions, and feedback.*

*FAC – additional questions were answered through email communications with Dean Koithan and Chancellor Haynes. This information was shared with the Faculty Senate on 4/17/25. Memo sent to Provost office on 4/29/25.*

V. Presidential Graduate Committee Report –

*R. Thomas – not much to report, the next meeting will be on 4/16/25. Professional degrees are not included in this committee review, only PhD programs. There have been questions regarding WSU's R1 status. The R1 status is not in danger, WSU is well above the requirement to keep R1 status of \$50 million in annual research and award at least 70 research doctorates a year.*

*A. Dimitrov – Do we know why the provost is signaling in on Graduate programs?*

*T. Klein – It tends to be the cost of the graduate program and the number of students in the program.*

*A. Dimitrov – How are they measuring productivity? Should not stop/cut off at graduation.*

*R. Thomas – The production of research is measured while the student is here, not post-graduation.*

*Y. Demissie – Feels there has been a lack of transparency and is not sure how we will track this. There needs to be a clear understanding of the desired outcomes.*

*R. Thomas – This group will not be cutting programs; they are attempting to measure the efficacy of programs. They are looking only at core funded students, not grant-funded students.*

VI. Executive Officer Updates

1. T. Klein, Chair – ***Will be in Spokane April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> for campus visit. Will present at the April Board of Regents meeting in person.***
2. E. Sheldon, Immediate Past Chair – ***No update***
3. K. Roberts, Chair Elect – ***Updates are discussion items, will discuss later.***
4. M. Hudelson, Executive Secretary – ***No update***



VII. Consent Agenda

1. Committee Reports

AAC –

A&E –

Budget –

FAC –

GSC –

PHSC –

RAC – [3.28.25](#) & [4.10.25](#) &

[4.10.25](#)

Library –

2. Other Committee Updates

- Workforce Policy Task Force (WPT)

3. Other Items Not Requiring Discussion or Action

VIII. Discussion Items

1. (Item 2024.10.17\_429\_CoC) Proposal to establish Faculty Compensation Committee (Exhibits [429A](#), [429B](#))

***Compensation committee memo shows membership composition. The committee will have a member from every college as well as the library. There will be representation from all geographic sites so each campus and extension offices. This will facilitate acknowledgement of discrepancies across colleges, within colleges, and locations.***

2. (Item 2025.04.17\_521\_CoC) Recommendation of new members to Faculty Senate Committees (Exhibit [521A](#))

***Discussion regarding committee member nomination for Sergey Lapin who holds a dual Faculty and Administrative role.***

***G. Taub – Three faculty members in Everett have been given a dual role as faculty and administration.***

***K. Roberts – We could look at this for these types of positions. Can we update the requirements?***

***M. Hudelson – When language was being ironed out, it was a heated discussion, and this is the language agreed upon. Current language makes Sergey ineligible to serve on a committee.***

3. (Item 2025.04.17\_522\_Steering) UPDATE to Information Item 508 - Exhibit 508C, now is exhibit [522A](#)

IX. Action Items

***None***

X. Campus Updates – All

1. Everett (S. Seo / G. Taub)

***G. Taub – Campus faculty and staff meeting was held but S. Seo and G. Taub were occupied with the RFO Meeting regarding year-end information.***



*S. Seo – Have been preparing for the upcoming President Cantwell visit as well as the student showcase on 5/2.*

2. Spokane (A. Ahmed/ J. Roll)

*J. Roll – Looking forward to Senate Exec visit next week. Hearing about faculty BPMS program started with two students. Faculty that was ready to teach but transitioned out of the dept. The program had faculty filled in to teach last semester. Project 8 to 10 students in Fall 2025, hired one faculty member last year.*

3. Tri-Cities (Y. Demissie/ V. Cozza)

*V. Cozza – Have received election ballot for open senate seats. RFO meeting discussed contracts, and the previous meeting held with HRS left some confusion.*

4. Vancouver (A. Dimitrov/ J. Barber)

*A. Dimitrov – Meeting new president shortly on Whistle Stop tour, worried about her hierarchical thinking. Ongoing meetings regarding budget cuts created a lot of uncertainty. CFR reporting enrollment forecasting is not good.*

*D. Grigar – Research week, good attendance. CFR elections ongoing.*

XI. Concerns: **None**

XII. Review of the draft [April 17<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate Agenda](#)

XIII. Meeting Adjourned: **5:08 pm**

**Matthew G. Hudelson**

Executive Secretary, WSU Faculty Senate

Associate Professor, Mathematics

Email: [mhudelson@wsu.edu](mailto:mhudelson@wsu.edu)