

WFU Faculty Senate Agenda – March 19, 2025

Call to Order – 4:00p

1. Approval of February 2025 meeting minutes - **Approved**

2. Announcements

Farewell to Senators completing their terms:

- Raja Chatterjee (Medicine)
- Catherine Harnois (College, Sociology)
- Melissa Jenkins (Graduate School, English)
- Dan Johnson (College, Biology - running for re-election)
- Amol Joshi (Business)
- Ellen Miller (College, Anthropology - running for re-election)
- Ananda Mitra (College, Communication)
- Lauren Reid (Business)
- John Sumanth (Business)

Thank you to all for your service.

3. Old business

- April Meeting – President’s Address to the Senate: both outgoing and incoming senators will be included (not an open meeting)
- No further old business

4. Current business

- Elections for 2025-2026 Senate Officers
 - See current attached ballot
 - Call for final nominations from the floor – no further nominations
 - President recognizes significance of commitment to officer service for shared governance and calls upon senators to consider running for elected office in the next academic year.
 - Challenges to elections also include number of temporarily serving senators who are on leave
 - Electronic voting
 - Terms start April 1, 2025
- Report outs from those serving as representatives on various University committees
 - UDEIC: similar information shared about executive orders as to the senate at our last meeting; leaders of different affinity groups shared what they are hearing from students
 - No other meetings between the prior senate meeting and this one.
- Standing Committee Reports
 - Athletics: John Sumanth, Chair
 - See attached report
 - Fringe Benefits: Ellen Kirkman, Chair
 - See attached report
 - Was there consensus on the committee about exploring the new options?
 - Yes, broadly, though the committee did not have much notice about the new options on the table. Bodes well for future exploration, though.
 - Academic Freedom and Responsibility: Sarah Morath, Chair
 - Committee hasn’t met since last senate meeting
 - Comment from the floor: Medical School faculty cannot submit feedback on the Academic Freedom statement since comments are limited to “@wfu.edu” addresses
 - Matthew Phillips informs us that this conversation was intended to focus on

Reynolda Campus because Med School has its own equivalent statement; he is happy to take feedback directly

- President Wenthe reminds us that the statement will go to the Board of Trustees as a university statement
- This question hooks back into broader conversations and challenges around campus integration

• Comment from the floor: Have the conversations among different groups of faculty been more or less siloed or are groups tapping into CAFR?

- Groups seem to be doing their own conversations, not tapping into CAFR (e.g. Law)

- Comment online: Library is doing its own listening session/conversation, too

• Comment from the floor: Will CAFR's perspective on the draft statement be informed by changes in higher ed coming from government?

- CAFR may wish to revisit their initial comment letter in light of ongoing changes

• Comment from the floor: AAUP Chapter VP asks for participation in ongoing forums and expresses concern about the comment period not leading to a broader faculty vote (so the purpose of comment session seems unclear). Asks for input from CAFR about this process.

- Committee member describes the way that the feedback and comments will be integrated into subsequent draft

- Question is raised again about why there is not a faculty vote planned? Can this question be raised with the committee members

- College Senators: Jason Parsley, Chair

- See attached report
- New ad hoc committee on Workday Student (to facilitate communication note solve problems, per se) – contact chair if interested

- Medical School Senators: Michael Cartwright, Chair

- No report

- Salaries: Katherine Shaner, Chair

- No official report; buried in data and questions
- Chair met with Dean Krasas about CUPA-HR data
- Comment from the floor: Senator describes the Dean's stance that CUPA data will be more useful than AAUP data

- Integration: Amanda Kaufman, Chair

- No report

- Capital Planning: Lauren Reid, Chair

- See attached report
- Some changes to over space planning around new student center, which would no longer be at the current Tribble site

- Senate President Report

- Guest Presentation: Julia Jackson-Newsom, Jimmy Broughton, and Dina Marty: Gov't Affairs update

- Jimmy Broughton, director of government relations. Works with both Reynolda and Medical campuses

- Dina Marty – commenting upon current events on other campuses, in particular Columbia

- Columbia trying to negotiate around the withholding of funding while maintaining institutional independence
- Student conduct enforcement is at stake
- Demonstrations policy
 - NC state law prohibits masks during demonstrations already
- At Columbia: "Academic Receivership" for a department; a troubling aspect of this

situation w/r/t academic freedom

- Columbia being told to deliver a comprehensive plan for admissions reform demanding compliance not only with federal law but also “federal policy” – this latter piece poses significant interpretive challenges
 - Question from the floor: At what point do *all* universities speak up about these impositions on questions of curriculum, admissions, etc.?
 - Question of leverage: what leverage do universities have in these situations? Makes it harder for institutions to raise their voice in opposition to moves
 - Don’t want to hurt the students we have
 - Balance of short-term and long-term
 - Would take time to bring all together
 - There are some organizations working behind the scenes
 - May have to be determined judicially
 - May have to get worse before it gets better
 - This is happening at the executive branch
 - Legislative branch may be getting involved
 - Influence public opinion
 - \$175m over Penn – transgender students participating in sports
 - NC passed state law in 2023 that prohibits trans students from participating intra-mural and collegiate sports – could be in conflict with Title IX and may not be enforced at this time
 - Students here on visas – do we need to think about protecting them (ICE coming on campus, etc.)
 - On website, what to do if ICE shows up on campus – call WF police and they can check credentials
 - Can’t interfere with what law enforcement comes to do
 - May be difficult to get back into the country if travel
 - Protests – could become a flag that gets people’s attention so be careful –
 - Immigration support services - Lynch

- Comments and Discussion

5. New Business

- Adjourn – by 5:30p

End notes

Executive Committee Membership:

- Saylor Breckenridge (College/Sociology) - President
- Steve Virgil (Law) - Vice President
- Ryan Shirey (College/English/Writing Program) - Secretary
- Angie Edwards (Medicine) - Member-at-large
- Raja Chatterjee (Medicine) – Past President
- Mike Cartwright (Medicine) – Chair, Medical School Senators
- Amanda Kaufman (Library) – Chair, University Integration
- Ellen Kirkman (College/Mathematics) – Chair, Fringe Benefits
- Sarah Morath (Law) – Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility (CAFR)
- Jason Parsley (College/Mathematics) - Chair, College Senators
- Lauren Reid (Business) - Chair, Capital Planning
- Katherine Shaner (Divinity) - Chair, Salaries
- Michelle Steward (Business) – Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on the Faculty Handbook
- John Sumanth (Business) - Chair, Athletics