

# FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

The Faculty Senate met on June 20, 2024

## Oregon Institute of Technology Faculty Senate Minutes – June 4, 2024

- x AVPAE Linus Yu is here and starting to reach out
- x The Provost wished everyone a wonderful summer to end her report.
- x End of report.
- x Questions?
  - o Randall Paul: You said that there is potential for a 6% drop. Do you know how that is broken down by campus?
    - f Provost: 9.2% in KF and up a little in PM. 7.1% down online.
  - o Terri: Historically, have our students waited this long to register?
    - f Provost: Year to year, this is the worst year for freshmen, actually.
  - o Terri: I heard you say there are things faculty can do to help this, but I wonder if in your meetings if you have talked about what everyone can do
    - f Provost: Last week I would have said that everyone should make announcements in their classes. Dr. Stringer is working with VP Clark to see what Student Affairs can do. There are still issues with advisors not being available and students not being able to find them.
  - o CJ: Is our acceptance rate being considered as a factor? I have seen many students this year who have decided to leave, more than any other year, and the trend for those I have seen is that they are not well prepared. Have you looked at that?
    - f Provost: We need to look at the numbers to study that. I don't think that's the issue. But there is a lot that we need to consider.
      - x CJ: Why don't you think the acceptance rate is a contributing factor?
        - o Provost: Because we're getting a lot of good students. Admissions have not dropped their standards.
          - f CJ: I've seen many students leaving, anecdotally, that can only be ascribed to underpreparedness.
            - x The Provost pointed to summer programs as a way to mitigate this issue, but also said we can't carry on such programs without funding.
    - o Terri: I think we should do some stats. We should try to find out who these students are, why they're leaving, and where they aren't prepared, if they aren't. We have tried to meet the students where they are, but sometimes that doesn't work. Maybe there's the possibility of a collaboration between IR and faculty to better understand the issues?
      - f Provost: Some work has already been done on this. More will be done in the future.
    - o David Johnston: What systems are in place for asking students why they might not return?
      - f Provost: We have texts and emails, but many students don't want to respond and you can't make them tell you
    - o Riley Richards: You said we should let someone know if a student is not coming back you said to reach out to Dr. Stringer
      - f Provost: Yes.
    - o

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- o Bobbi Kowash: Do you take into account programs like MIT, where students sometimes don't register until they find out if they make it into the program, and don't find out about their program acceptance until late?
  - f* Provost: We actually take that into account because this is the same time every year.
- o CJ: What are the advising and retention offices doing on this front?
  - f*



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- o College Deans were asked to meet regularly with department chairs. Chairs were asked to meet regularly with their departments.
- o There are two types of summer contracts to request: academic teaching contracts and hourly contracts for ninemonth faculty doing academic/departmental work out of contract during summer. Chairs should request contracts for anyone who might over the summer, just to be safe.
- o Our first-year orientation (SOAR) will try to place faculty in front of students before the first day in the classroom. Online students can attend in person.
- o Appointment letters should be sent within the next two weeks.
- o On the Convocation 2024 schedule: September 16th will be for travel, and the 17th through the 19th will be for the event. The 20th would be for return travel. The program will follow last year's format. If you have ideas for sessions, email the Provost's Office.
  - f Some trainings are required, and whether some of them can be offered online instead of at Convocation is being looked into.
  - f All faculty will be trained on Inspire
- o The Provost mentioned that retention must improve.
- x End of report.
- x Questions?
  - o There were no questions.

### Report of ASOIT Rep – Ron White (PMSOIT)

- x This past Friday was an end of the year BBQ for all students, faculty, and staff here on campus. We're trying to pursue more involvement with students when it comes to course evals. Also trying to increase registration and doing a registration drive. Last ASOIT meeting of the year is tomorrow
- x End of report.
- x There was no representative from Klamath Falls, so there was no report.

### Administrative Council Report – Carl Agrifoglio

- x Carl is filling in for Kelly Sullivan.
- x Admin Council met in May.
  - o We recognized a new employee, a first-year advisor for ETM.
  - o There was a training from cybersecurity about how to protect yourself against deepfakes.
  - o The monthly kudos award winner was Elizabeth Stovall.
  - o There was some staff feedback on how to better share community connections between the university and local communities.
  - o There was an election and thus some new members of Admin Council were voted in:
    - f Ashlie Pence
    - f Dierdre Harlan
  - o Some members were reelected:
    - f Cat
    - f Carleen Starr
    - f Gaylyn Maurer
- x End of report
- x Questions?
  - o There were no questions.











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- x Sean: Was this from our department? If it was, they are lying. We have team projects so at least one person needs to be at the booth at all times.
- x Ganghee Jang: Our senior project is individual, so our students are the only ones who can staff their booth.
  - o Randall: If I understand the Dead Week policy we just approved, it is not appropriate to have something like this during Dead Week.
    - f Vanessa: This is why our committee recommended that all faculty more readily follow the Dead Week policy, so issues like this don't come up.
      - x Sean: But you can offer major projects during

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- f* There's been a large amount of administrative churn.
- o U of O:
  - f* There was a large student encampment, but the outcome was "smoother" than at PSU. The report said that the U of O Faculty Senate got highly involved and that that helped diffuse tensions.
- o WOU:
  - f* Appointed a new Interim Vice President of Finance.
  - f* Implementing a new curriculum approval management system over the summer.
  - f* The Provost is floating an idea for a new class of NTT faculty.
  - f* Loss of senior faculty is leading to "a leadership vacuum" at Faculty Senate.
- o Oregon Tech:
  - f* We're searching for a new HAS Dean.
  - f* We have a relatively recent hire in the position of ETM Dean.
  - f* We have a new Associate VP for SEM.
  - f* We have hired a new Associate VP for Academic Excellence.
  - f* We have a search in process for the Libraries Director.
  - f* NTT collective bargaining is underway.
  - f* As of the last Faculty Senate meeting, the administration hadn't finalized next year's budget.
  - f* Faculty Senate recently presented a resolution expressing a concern regarding financial mismanagement. The Board's response was to send the OT President to the Faculty Senate during their May 7th meeting.
  - f* The university is looking to make external Chair hires for a number of departments.
- x Cristina added that some of the abovementioned universities have had to respond to encampments of

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of the other Oregon Tech representatives on these committees to hear how this is going, maybe a Convocation session?

- x Vicki: I was emailed this list of the 80 most transferred courses and they are working down this list.

- o Riley: Does anyone know, or is there an estimated timeline for when this is going to be done?

- f Vicki: No.

- x Ken and Randall pointed out that the process is meant to be iterative, so it will just repeat (and review) once it's done.

- x Randall: I would echo Ken that on my committee (math and calculus specifically). There was not the tension you're describing. The conversation was about 4 versus 5 credits. The community college professors wanted more credits to teach their classes effectively





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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

CJ Riley, Secretary (AY 2023-2024, original draft)