

March 1, 2017 Faculty Meeting Minutes – FINAL

Chair-elect Steve Blakeslee opened the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

The meeting began with the following announcements:

- George Bridges provided an update on the legislative session thus far, including possible issues related to McCleary. He also shared that WSU's president recently met with new Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Finally, he expressed concern about the lack of time that has been available thus far for open dialogue on the various items that have been under discussion this year and indicated there would be additional time set aside in the spring.
- Shaw Osha announced All-Campus Mentoring Day, which will occur next week, and asked faculty to review the program and encourage their students to participate in the workshops and, for seniors, the academic statement review sessions.
- Erin Martin announced a pilot academic partnership with Alaska's Wrangell Mountain Center.

The February 15, 2017 Faculty Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Curricular Flexibility and the "16-Credit Box" – Trevor Speller provided history and an outline for today's discussion that is intended to inform both short- and long-term curriculum planning. The faculty were then asked to engage in small-group discussions regarding ways to make currently variable credits more visible, new possibilities that should be considered, and the benefits and drawbacks that may come from increased formalization of variable credit options. After attendees engaged in small-group discussions, a report-out occurred.

Current Academic Initiatives: History and Process – Greg Mullins framed the discussion in terms of the work currently underway by the deans and provost in response to past recommendations from DTFs and in the context of the current enrollment and financial challenges that the College faces. The list of identified priorities includes a better first-year experience, visible pathways to depth, curriculum planning support structure, curricular flexibility, increased support for faculty through a teaching and learning center, and hiring priorities practices, with an equity lens embedded throughout. Greg invited faculty to work in small groups for a short time to determine the priorities for discussion. A question and answer session followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.