

March 29, 2025

TO: All Members of the Board of Regents
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Update
SUBMITTED BY: Tracy Klein, Faculty Senate Chair

The Faculty Senate is reporting on the following:

- Dr. Sunday Henry from Cougar Health continues to report compliance with system wide vaccine requirements. Cougar Health Services launched a new [WSU Required Immunizations website](#) with vaccination requirements and FAQs. The site also facilitates both uploads of vaccine information and the process for vaccine exemptions under state law. The Faculty Senate has agreed per our MOU with the President to further assess vaccine compliance for faculty.
- Dr. Christine Horne is our new Faculty Chair Elect. Executive service to the Senate is a three-year commitment which includes time as the Chair Elect, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair. Dr. Horne served as Faculty Senate Chair from 2022-2023, and we welcome her experienced view and perspective. Dr. Horne is a professor in the Department of Sociology on the Pullman campus.
- Current Chair Elect Roberts and Chair Klein will represent the Senate in the university budget hearings process beginning in April. The instability of state and federal funding requires that faculty be well and frequently informed of the university's status. Given the continued gubernatorial conversation regarding potential state furloughs, the Senate's Faculty Affairs Committee is doing intensive review of the Faculty Manual and the process for any changes in faculty status.
- Memos regarding apportionment are going out and the Faculty Senate secretary is communicating with chancellors and campus government regarding yearly vacant positions in the Senate. We have noted a small reduction in tenure representation and an increase of 3 career track positions to the Senate.
- Campus visits by Chair Klein and Chair Elect Roberts were completed on the Vancouver campus on March 20 and 21. These meetings included attending and addressing the Council for Faculty Representatives in addition to individual meetings with faculty and administrators. One prevalent topic of conversation was the recent Town Halls hosted by the Provost's office which addressed potential changes to the tenure and promotion process as specified in the Faculty Manual. In our discussions, Faculty seemed to support more feedback and openness during this process but continued to be conflicted about whether balloting for a candidate should be a consolidated or individual process. As we approach the end of the Senate's semester, we anticipate proposed language on this issue in addition to changes in language for short term faculty and termination of employment.
- A two-day campus visit is planned for the Spokane campus on April 17 and 18. This will conclude the 2024-2025 campus visits for the semester.
- The Faculty Senate Executive committee is planning a June 27 strategic planning meeting and retreat in Pullman, WA. This was a successful opportunity last year to anticipate upcoming faculty priorities and strengthen our team.