Academic Senate

Eastern Washington University
Minutes of February 24, 2025

Senators Present: B. Shaw, M. Garcia, L. Matos for B. Idsardi, B. Grinder, B. Lundgren, B. Houser, J. Klein, G. Sinekopova, E. Rodriguez-Marek, L. Bilich, C. Manikoth, M. Holmgren, A. Van Wig, T. Haskins, K. Decker, M. Binney, J. Ellsworth, C. Ogden, E. Dascher, S. Milton, D. Garraway, V. Taroudaki for M. Winer, J. Durfee, K. Garrison, S. Wachtel, M. Sharifi, N. Jackson, H. Hillman, R. Allan, L. Anidi, E. Pence, T. Hechtman, P. Gerber
Officers: C. Castillo-Garsow, G. Hustrulid, S. Shaffer, K. Evans
University Officials: J. Anderson, S. McMahan, L. Jarnagin, K. Davis, J. Curtis, B. Richey, D. Ayers

1. Call to Order/Attendance. Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. **Chair's Report and Welcome.** ***C. Castillo-Garsow's full report can be viewed at:*** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GYrRh0rNiAlwY1vF7F2nvfklAIhGFQ3s/view?usp=sharing

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda including Minutes of February 10, 2025.** ***Hearing no objections, the minutes of February 10, 2025 were approved.***

4. **ASEWU. J. Curtis reported: a.** they are searching for a student trustee and the application can be found on the ASEWU website: https://inside.ewu.edu/asewu/studentbot/ Currently there isn't a student trustee and they would like to make sure there is one for the upcoming year. The search will close at 5:00 p.m. on April 14th. **b.** In addition, ASEWU Declaration of Candidacy is open for next year. The declaration period is open until March 7th. If you have any questions, you can reach out to the Director of Elections, D. Nelson at asewuelections@ewu.edu **c.** The next ASEWU meeting is tomorrow at 12:00 p.m. in PUB 207. Their last meeting of the quarter is next week on March 4th at 12:00 p.m. in PUB 207.

5. **UFE Report. None.**

6. **Legislative Liaison. None.**

7. **UBC**. K. Evans stated she is reporting on budget redesign and the Faculty Budget Committee. She sent a PowerPoint with information about the Faculty Budget Committee: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G_Re7J2UmqNLKqWa_EuCAIysV4IyAkM2/view?usp=sharing which has the proposals for the RFP (Request for Proposal) that are due on February 28th. P. Weed has been holding some open forums and meeting with faculty who've been interested in applying. If you have any questions about the actual proposal part, you can email P. Weed at pweed@ewu.edu The Budget Redesign Committee met last Friday with all the deans in attendance. They were invited to talk about the processes and to get their feedback on the allocation model. They will be working through spring on finalizing a model. When she has more information, she will bring that forward. She stated that if you look at the BOT agenda there is a budget review that T. Habegger put together that has a lot of great information. It can be found at this link: https://ewueagles.sharepoint.com/sites/BOT/Public%20Folder/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2

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8. **Administrative: President. a.** S. McMahan reported she would like to thank those who were able to stop by for Pizza with the President and ASEWU today. Thank you to J. Curtis and thank you to VP Jarnigan for supplying all the little Eagle charms that were used for the fellowship bracelets that our campus students are making. **b.** It is a very tumultuous time in Higher Education. She spent some time in Washington, D.C. a couple of weeks ago at a Higher Education meeting specifically for presidents to discuss and spent some time in the Kennedy Center thinking they would get some really good information however it is radio silence. She was hoping to be more reassured or get insight but really there's frustration across every university in the country right now. There are a lot of executive orders hitting us and they have created a taskforce as a result of that. She would like to thank A. Scharosch who leads those meetings. **c.** On February 14th, the Dear Colleagues letter came out and they formulated a new task force which many of the same people are overlapping and C. Portillo oversees that taskforce so you can reach out to him if you have any questions on where we're headed or what has been discussed. **d.** Some universities are scrubbing their websites, fearing for the worst however we are staying the course and being true to ourselves as an institution in the State of Washington. There will probably be a memo coming out to the campus in the next couple of days making sure that people feel comfortable with moving forward at this time with cultural graduations and some of those significant events that we hold. As of today, she would like to assure faculty, staff, and students that we will continue to move forward as optimistically as possible. **e.** She will have a provost update from the provost search later this week as they are currently in negotiations. **f.** J. Ellsworth asked if there is any support for students whose parents have been affected by I.C.E. (Immigration & Customs Enforcement). A. Scharosch stated she actually received an email from a faculty member who is responding to that kind of situation. She stated she would send them to the Multicultural Center, that can help them connect with local resources or for on campus they can reach out to SASS (Student Accommodations and Support Services). **g.** K. Evans stated she would like to thank President McMahan for all her efforts in dealing with this national crisis. She reached out to Legislator Ormsby regarding the state budget situation and about making sure that Eastern did not have to take as much of a cut as the University of Washington. She asked if EWU would have to take a 6% cut. Are there any updates? S. McMahan stated tomorrow they'll be holding a legislative forum on Zoom at 11:00 a.m. and they will get updates from both D. Buri and S. Ligon. They are changing daily, and the situation gets worse each day. While she can't answer currently, she thinks it will be somewhere between 3% and 6%. **Provost. a.** J. Anderson reported he wanted to follow-up on one thing Senator Decker asked about in the last meeting around those academic programs. They're beginning to do some marketing with specific programs stating with Mechanical Engineering, Biology, Communication Studies, Music, and Psychology. **b.** He would like to give a shout out to those who were instrumental in putting together Black History Month. A. Schwendiman from Africana Studies program put together a silent auction at the end of the year and will be held February 27th on the second floor in Monroe. Everyone is encouraged to stop by as they

always have some wonderful things to auction off to support the program. **c.** Thank you to M. Breen, A. LeBar, and K. Kebede who were worked with the Thrive International along with students from Design Honors and Sociology on the digital storytelling for Thrive International's IRL Refugee Immersion Experience. It was held on Saturday, and he heard it was incredible. **d.** The conversion of students from fall to winter was excellent. They had a little over three percentage points in terms of year over year bump between fall and spring term registration. Registration has just started for priority so please connect with your students, i.e. putting an announcement on Canvas re: have you registered? If not, contact your advisor. Open Navigate and connect with your advisees to ask how you can help them. There are a couple of areas that students struggle with including financial. We want to make sure students are encouraged to touch base with Financial Aid. They do have payment plans available through the Bursar's Office. They have a Student Emergency Fund that can help take care of some low-cost items and that fund is operated out of the Student Affairs Office. **e.** K. Evans asked when the PRD report will be coming out. J. Anderson stated it should be wrapped up and distributed tomorrow. **f.** J. Ellsworth stated she was reading about the new Carnegie classification and was happy to see that EWU is in it. She asked for an update of what that would mean for us. J. Anderson stated that is a recognition that is geared towards R1 institutions however what they did in the reclassification was took our university and recognized it as not an R1 institution but that we have high scholarly output. We are one of 218 that was reclassified into a research college and university. It is a reflection of the work that is being done at by the faculty and students as well. **Vice President for Student Affairs. a.** L. Jarnagin reported she would like to share an opportunity that is germane given some of the comments from today. The workshop is a partnership between the JLR Multicultural Center, Counseling and Wellness Services, and our Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies and the Manzanita House from the Spokane area to come on campus on March 3rd and provide a workshop called, "Know your Rights". This organization that has the legal expertise to guide individuals on things such as detection, I.C.E. interactions, detention, and legal protections and aid. As she heard the question asked about support for students whose parents have been affected by I.C.E. she interpreted that as support for the parents, not necessarily support for our students. Support for the parents is beyond our scope however there is a direct correlation between a student who is struggling with issues along this line, as well as their parents or family members so the Manzanita House would be a good referral for parents of students who are struggling to get some assistance. It is a challenging situation that many faculty find themselves in when it comes to students who need help. Many of the circumstances that students bring to the faculty members are things that are easily prepared to refer the student to a service on campus. There are many resources are available for them and faculty can give them a referral there where the student can get the help they need. Sometimes they hear about complicated situations where students are really requiring a level of ongoing assistance that is not within the scope of what we would expect faculty would be able to handle and sometimes they are outside the scope of what we should be doing as an institution. If faculty run into a situation, they should fill out a ICARE form which is the primary source of help for students. If there is something more dangerous, you should call 911 right away. There are some students that need to step out for a bit. We are not clinicians, and we can't put ourselves in that position. G. Hustrulid stated she had students who went to Counseling and Wellness for help, and they were told there was a 2-month backlog there and they should look for help externally.

What are we doing with students that can't wait for 2 months? L. Jarnagin stated care and compassion fatigue is real, and the impact on our site, our counseling staff in the Counseling and Wellness Center has seen turnover due to care fatigue. Counseling Centers across the nation where a student would come in and they would have a 50-minute session and then the counselor would have 10 minutes to write notes before seeing another student. That is a thing of the past because they are now basically triage centers. Currently they do have 3 vacancies but, in the meantime, they continue to have a walk-in triage center where a quick assessment is done. They are looking at the idea of outsourcing because they are not able to offer an hourly wage that is competitive to work in the center. It is a real challenge. In the meantime, there are several modalities for those that need a counselor, and they do have a vast network of community people they can connect them with. G. Hustrulid asked if there are any resources at the Catalyst Building or do students have to drive to the Cheney campus. L. Jarnagin stated she will check it out and get back to the senators. **Sr. Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. a.** K. Davis reported the Viva Vino Gala took place on Saturday night which helped Nuestras Raíces to continue its mission to empower the Hispanic and Latino community and those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Nuestras Raices is one of our main partners in the Latino Community. We lost a community member, Yvonne Torres, who was working at Nuestras Raices. She is a family member of the Executive Director Fernanda Moscow, his wife Isabel, and Manuela Barton who is one of our key people that we're connected with. The president and C. Portillo have reached out on behalf of Eastern but if you have any connections with Nuestras Raices, community support is important right now. The gala was a lovely event and Y. Torres was immortalized after his car accident. **b.** Diversity and Inclusion Week will be held April 21st through 25th and they would like to do a better job of engaging the other campuses. They will offer online opportunities, but they'd like to have a presence at Catalyst, SIERR, and the Health Sciences Building. If you have somebody in your area that has ideas of how they can do that please reach out to her at kdavis2@ewu.edu One of the most successful is offer guest lectures in people's classrooms during Diversity and Inclusion Week. The only catch is the subject needs to be relevant to whatever their discipline is and they can find a speaker to come into your classroom but the classroom would need to be open to the public. That is usually 10-15 additional people who would show up so it depends on whether your classroom would accommodate that. If you have an innovative idea of how you could involve your class, they usually show up with t-shirts and swag to give out to the entire class. They have done that successfully for several years at Catalyst. It's a really great experience for students to see how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ties into their field and their discipline. They are looking for faculty partnerships and creative ideas. **Vice President for Advancement. a.** B. Richey reported she would like to invite those that want to volunteer to the Scholarship Read Night in March. They always have about 50-65 volunteers that read scholarships. **b.** They are hosting our Foundation Board meeting next week and they have volunteers for that meeting as well. **c.** P. Scott has hit the ground running pitching stories to the local media and the Inlander picked up Artificial Intelligence with T. Masingale and they were very complimentary. We already have guidelines in place that are in place for your classrooms on AI for the last nine months

so that was super impressive. **d.** As far as the Carnegie Classification, they'll be promoting that as well in Inside Eastern and on the media. **e.** They have raised $73 million of the $100 million goal that goes mostly to scholarships and endowments. She is impressed with our donors. She will be presenting that information to the Board of Trustees this week with a little bit more detail.

9. Council Elections/Selections/Confirmations – General Education Committee – M. Dobbins, Mathematics. **Hearing no objections, this is approved.**

10. **Unfinished Business. a. AP 303-22 Probation and Dismissal: Professional Behavior/Conduct.** D. Ayers is here to answer any questions. L. Matos stated he has concerns about when the student gets less than a 3.0, they would be dismissed. He finds that problematic because if a student has 12 credits and they get two A's and 1 C, they will actually have a GPA of 3.3 for that quarter, which could actually bring them out of probation, but instead they would be dismissed. That language, unless a student can't get a C when they are in Graduate school, the language needs to be reworked to say something about how the student needs to get at least a 3.0 GPA for that quarter to get another quarter of probation. D. Ayers stated their position is if the student is already on probation and they aren't getting a 3.0 or higher, then there may be something else going on and they should step out to take care of that issue before coming back. D. Garraway stated he would like to move to send this back to GAC for further discussion. L. Matos seconded. Motion passes. Will go back to GAC for further discussion.

b. AP 303-21 Student Requirements/Admission & Registration. C. Castillo-Garsow stated this is just updating language to match what is already being done. **Motion carried.**

11. **New Business. a. AP 303-22 Graduate Students, Chapter 6 Comprehensive Evaluations.** L. Matos stated in his department they like the TRA form, and these changes take away that form. D. Ayers stated those departments that want to use the forms can continue do so. They want to remove procedure from the policies and have that information be included in departmental handbooks. This will be unfinished business at the next meeting.

12. Good of the Order. a. K. Evans stated she has a class that is being offered in Spring, LIB 220 for pre-nursing, pre-dental hygiene, etc. She would like to advertise it as a face-to-face course offered Tuesdays, and Thursdays. She would like to help students before they get into their Health courses. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to her at kevans21@ewu.edu

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on March 10, 2025.