February 20, 2024

TO: Faculty Senate
FROM: Faculty Senate Steering Committee
RE: Recommendation to permanently establish the Course Review process as piloted during 2023-2024

WSU Faculty Senate review processes are guided by four principles: 1) trust in our faculty colleagues, 2) transparency, 3) adding value (and not wasting people's time), and 4) facilitating innovation and nimbleness. In alignment with these principles, the Faculty Senate began piloting an adjusted course review process in Fall 2023. Under that process, Catalog Subcommittee reviews courses for compliance with Academic Regulation 27. About once a month, courses are added to course bulletins, which are placed on the senate review site. Members of the university community are able to review courses and express concerns. Course bulletins then go to Senate for discussion and action.

The adjusted process has increased transparency, reduced committee workload, and reduced review processing times. Anecdotally we have heard appreciation from faculty for the revised process – the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Submitted syllabi appear to be the same quality as before the pilot. In fall 2023 there were an average of 89 visits to the site each month; in January/February 2024 there were an average of 37 visits per month. Thus far concerns have been raised about one course; the relevant parties were able to resolve the issue.

Our assessment is that the adjusted process has a number of benefits and few downsides. Accordingly, we recommend that the Faculty Senate approve making this pilot process permanent.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hudelson
Faculty Senate Executive Secretary