

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Executive Council
Minutes
April 14, 2009 CP 206C

Meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.

Attendance: Chair, Michael Forman; Vice Chair, Johann Reusch; Marjorie Dobratz, Gregory Benner, Siân Davies-Vollum, Ehsan Feroz, Janice Laakso

Ex-officio: Vice Chancellor Beth Rushing

Synopsis:

1. Approval of the agenda
 2. Approval of minutes from March 31, 2009.
 3. Announcements
 4. Layoffs, Beth Rushing
 5. Revising bylaws: Vice-Chair
 6. Adjournment
-

1. The agenda was approved.
2. The minutes from March 31, 2009 were approved with language corrections.
3. Announcements, Michael Forman
 - a. Opportunities Admissions Committee: Two members have been confirmed. The committee will be comprised of 3-4 members.
 - b. Disciplinary Committee (DC): Forman confirmed that Marjorie Dobratz's request for review of Washington State Law was correct. The DC members should be made up of a random selection. Forman advised that Julie Draper, Associate Director for Student Services, will prepare language for that outline the policy for this committee. Most likely it the members will be ten volunteers. In each case three of the ten will be chosen at random.
 - c. Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly: There has been one nomination, but the person has not accepted.
4. Layoffs, Beth Rushing
 - a. Rushing reported that Marcia Killien, Secretary of the Faculty Senate had asked what policies and procedures regarding Retention.
 - b. May 1, 2009 Academic Affairs and HR will have conducted layoffs and voluntary FTE reductions. Rushing asked that faculty "be responsive as

appropriate, to the people who are being laid off.” Tacoma HR is working with Seattle to handle specific layoffs.

c. There will be a general announcement about layoffs in May, but no specific information will be given.

Johann Reusch asked about resources that are available to those who are laid off. Rushing advised there are several resources offered, Carelink, online job possibilities, one-on-one interview coaching, resume workshops, and HR is preparing other options. The termination date is set for July 3, 2009. Employees who are laid off will be paid through July 6, 2009 and received health benefits through the end of July, then have the option for COBRA.

Janice Laakso asked about how many are going to be laid off on this campus.

Rushing advised that initially it looks like approximately 20 employees will be affected. Dobratz asked about how layoffs are determined. Rushing responded that layoffs decisions were made on the basis of how essential positions were and a number of other contractual criteria when it came to staff.

5. Revising bylaws concerning the Faculty Assembly Chair and Vice Chair

Forman opened the discussion to reference Ehsan Feroz’s proposed amendment to the proposed bylaws. The subject of this amendment was the units from which Vice Chair candidates and incoming Chairs came. Ideally the Chair and Vice Chair would come from different units/ programs. Feroz suggested through email and in past conversations that this should be codified in the bylaws.

Feroz presented the following amendment:

The Chair and Vice Chair must come from different units

Feroz explained that the current language does not guarantee that the elected Chair and Vice Chair are from different units. There was a lengthy discussion. Janice Laakso suggested that the current problem with nominees was not about eligibility, it was the shortage of candidates due to a variety of issues, such as interest and release of the nominees’ from duties to their home units.

Johann Reusch added that it is not the charge of the Chair or the Vice Chair to represent their corresponding units. Reusch noted that legislation would preclude, “the most qualified candidate.” Reusch also suggested that the problem really lies in the level of resources for smaller units, it may be that nominees could be provided with more compensation. Feroz noted that this proposed legislation would be a mechanism that Faculty Assembly could use as a body; it would ensure that smaller units have access to the Chair and Vice Chair positions.

The amendment was put to a vote and was rejected (6 “no,” 1 “yes”)

After the vote on the Chair and Vice Chair issue, Sian suggested that the candidates for the Vice Chair position submit a brief summary outlining their experience that could be posted for all faculty prior to voting.

Feroz brought both the following changes to the proposed (highlighted in yellow) legislation:

Article III, section 2:

The chair shall convey to the Chancellor the decisions and recommendations of the Executive Council and of the Faculty Assembly in writing.

and

B Membership: The Executive Council shall consist of a chair, a chair-elect, ~~the chair of the standing committee on Faculty Affairs,~~ and at least one representative chosen from amongst the voting faculty of each of the academic units* of UWT. Each of these units shall elect at least one representative. Units housing 21 to 42 voting faculty shall elect a total of two representatives. Units housing 43 to 64 voting faculty shall elect a total of three representatives. Units housing 65 to 86 voting faculty shall elect a total of four representatives.

20 faculty	1
21-42	2
43-64	3

These amendments were unanimously approved and the committee agreed to put the proposed amendments to the bylaws of Faculty Assembly to a faculty vote via Catalyst.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1: 25 p.m.