

Faculty Affairs Committee Report 2020-2021 - DRAFT (June 7, 2021)

Issue/Topic	Response	Further Action	Ongoing 2020-2021
<b>Decriminalizing UWT Workgroup – FAC Support of</b>	Representatives from the Decriminalizing UWT Workgroup gave a presentation on their efforts address various issues on campus without involving law enforcement. FAC approved a motion to sign a letter to the UWT Chancellor, in support of the group’s efforts.	No further action recommended	None proposed
<b>Faculty Workload Issues</b>	This was a continuation of a topic that was identified in the previous academic year, which sought to explore the perception of increased research expectations for tenure-track (TT) faculty, and concern over stalled Associate Professors. FAC developed a survey which was sent to UWT faculty in the fall (2020). 88 surveys were completed. In addition, FAC members reached out to similar universities around the country to inquire about their workload expectations and issues for TT faculty. The results, in general, were that research expectations at the other universities tended to be lower than UWT. Where research expectations were similar to UWT, the workload tended to be lower than UWT. Further data were gathered via listening sessions held with some schools/units across UWT. Subsequent FAC discussion of the issue led to a proposal to have a subgroup draft a position paper, summarizing concerns, to be submitted to the Chancellor. (more detail in the next column)	The FAC subgroup will draft a position paper which will:1) outline the identified problems identified from the various sources that are related to faculty workload issues at UWT, particularly those affecting tenure-track faculty; 2) propose possible solutions to address the problem; 3) offers ideas on resources which could be utilized to implement solutions.  Report to be completed by end of academic year.	FAC will begin working with key campus partners – academic affairs, non-tenure track faculty forum and others to consolidate proposed solutions.  FAC will submit proposal to EC for review with expectation that proposal will go to UWT Chancellor for review and consideration.
<b>Discussion of Scheduling Classes around COVID 19</b>	This agenda topic was carried over from spring of the previous academic year, when the COVID 19 pandemic began to impact the delivery of instruction at the university	Through FAC discussion it was agreed that ultimate resolution of the issue was not the purview of FAC. Though, in the most recent meeting there was strong concern voiced over the issues related to the continuing pandemic and policies around remote and online instruction, etc.	This will likely be a continuing topic of concern
<b>Concern over Budget Development Processes at the UWT</b>	FAC members expressed concern around the perception that the UWT budget development process lacked clarity, transparency and meaningful participation from faculty and schools/units. There was support given for the continuation of the Ad hoc Budget Advisory Committee established by EC	none	N/A
<b>Issues/Topics for 2021-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FAC Workload implementation plan</li> <li>▪ iTech Fellow Policy – issues and concerns</li> <li>▪ Post COVID-19 transition and long -term effects on faculty</li> <li>▪ Parking/Transportation</li> <li>▪ Junior Faculty: Access to conferences, and PD</li> </ul>		

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