Faculty Council Meeting
February 6, 2024 — 12:30–1:30 pm
GWP 320 or Zoom: https://washington.zoom.us/s/91299827850

MINUTES

Faculty Council Member	Capacity	Present (P), Absent (A), or Recusal (X)1
Ben Meiches	Faculty Council Chair	P
LeAnNe Laux-Bachand	Vice Chair	P
Cassie Miura	CAC Representative	P
Etga Ugur	PPPA Representative	P
Haley Skipper	SAM Representative	P
Amanda Sesko	SBHS Representative	P
Cynthia Howson	SHS Representative	P
Scott Rayermann	Lecturer at Large (SAM)	P
Anna Groat Carmona	Dean's Diversity Advisory Council representative (SAM)	P
Ex-Officio Members	**Capacity**	**(P), (A), or (X)**
Natalie Eschenbaum	Dean	P
Hyoung Suk Lee	Chair, Committee of Chairs	P
Kathleen Pike JoNes	Assistant to the Dean	P
Non-Member Participant	**Capacity**	**(P), (A), or (X)**
Jessica Asplund	Director of Academic and Finance Operations	P
Jeremy Davis	Associate Dean of Programs & Operations	A
Stephen Ross	Associate Dean of Faculty Development & Student Support	P
VaNessa de Veritch Woodside	Associate Dean of Equity & Inclusion	P
BethAnn Hoover	Assistant Director of Academic Services	P

AGENDA

1. Introductions, Ground Rules, Land Acknowledgment, Agenda (2 min)
2. Consent Agenda: Minutes (1 min)
3. RCEP Ranked Voting (15 minutes)
4. Teaching Modalities (30 minutes)
5. W Subcommittee Update (10 minutes)
6. Updates/For the Good of the Order (2 min)
7. Adjournment

1. Introductions, Ground Rules, Land Acknowledgment
   a. Faculty Council Chair Ben Meiches called the meeting to order and the council took a moment to reflect on the SIAS Land Acknowledgment and Ground Rules before beginning the business of the meeting.
   b. Cynthia Howson is representing SHS today.
   c. Etga Ugur is representing PPPA.

2. Consent Agenda
   a. No objections to the agenda.
   b. No objections to the minutes of the January 30, 2024 meeting.

3. RCEP Ranked Voting Survey (15 minutes)
   a. Members discussed the details of the SIAS survey to seek feedback from SIAS faculty on the RCEP process. Ben Meiches presented a summary of survey components that Faculty Council had previously discussed. Members expressed continued support for the survey to reflect the following: preferred ranking of available models; qualitative feedback, including recommendations, concerns, and an opportunity to voice support for tweaks to any of the 6

models presented at the 2-2 faculty meeting; clear and open prompts that promote comparability, while limiting confusing; inclusion of all SIAS faculty and staff voices, regardless of current leave status; and a balance between having enough time for faculty to participate and enough time for Natalie to incorporate that feedback in her recommendation.

    b. After members and other attendees shared and discussed their input, Ben Meiches moved that Faculty Council send a survey to all staff and faculty (on and off contract). The survey should include role (meaning faculty or staff), rank, and division as the sole identifying information. The survey should ask respondents to rank the six RCEP models and the possibility of a no RCEP, ask respondents to articulate their preference for each model on a 1-5 scale, and offer respondents an opportunity for qualitative feedback. The survey should be open from Friday 2/9 to Friday 2/16 and the chair shall send daily reminders of the survey to faculty and staff. Cynthia Howson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. W Subcommittee Update (10 minutes)
    a. Vice Chair LeAnne Laux-Bachand presented the draft W Course Policy as established by the Faculty Council W policy subcommittee in consultation with various bodies. Their work was guided by student graduation pathways, faculty professional development, and best practice in writing instruction. Key components of the draft include the following: a recommended (but not inflexible in the case of faculty request) maximum course cap of 24 students; we will phase out the practice of individual faculty awarding W status to individual students on an ad hoc basis; there will be a form to assist faculty, major coordinators, and chairs in determining the role of their W classes in their curriculum and the demand for them.
    b. Two staff members reminded Faculty Council of the process by which students plan their courses in advance, noting that Autumn 2025 is very soon to implement such a policy. We should ensure that students do not plan to take a W class only to discover that the W has been removed by the time the course is offered.
    c. A member noted that there may not be the instructional capacity to offer some classes at the lower course cap, in spite of the equity concerns of a higher cap. Dean Eschenbaum asserted that course caps should be developed based on pedagogical and curricular need, such that we would need hire more part-time instructors in the event that a major is regularly unable to provide necessary courses at the recommended cap.

6. Teaching Modalities (15 minutes)
    a. Multiple faculty members and chairs have expressed a need for clearer guidance and/or policy for decisions around teaching modalities, particularly during the scheduling process. This has come up in Shared Leadership in the context of scheduling. Ben Meiches and Dean Eschenbaum both asserted that it is within Faculty Council's role to participate in devising and recommending such guidance.
    b. Ben Meiches presented a table of data compiled by Associate Dean Jeremy Davis regarding online vs in-person enrollment by division. Ben Meiches noted that there have been discussions in multiple spaces about modality in terms of equity and preparedness for online instruction. There remain questions about the kinds of curricular offerings that are best for our campus. This will be a longer-term discussion, but thus far, we have not had policy guidance to think about the distribution of online versus in person classes other than the Chancellor's broad principle that we are returning to campus.
    c. Ben Meiches noted that according to the data, SAM and SBHS course enrollments are strong with their in-person sequences, but for many majors in CAC, SHS, and PPPA, fill rates are correlated to modality in important ways. A hybrid class results in about 12%

higher enrollment, while an online course may get 16-24% more students than an in-person counterpart.

    d. Dean Eschenbaum noted that because our programs were developed as in person programs, a student should be able to complete them without being required to take courses online, while some international student visas and sources of funding, as well as veterans' benefits, require a sufficient portion of in-person enrollment.

    e. Members discussed the importance of better data regarding student outcomes in response to various modalities, noting that we know very little about the role of modality in retention, pass rates, and learning outcomes. Further, changes in the definition of "hybrid" courses have led to skewed data (if we look at hybrid courses that were primarily online vs those that had a small online component).

    f. By way of summary, Ben Meiches reminded members that the eventual goal is to craft school-wide guidance collectively about what kinds of modalities work based on curriculum, school, and existing offerings. We need to be motivated by enrollment impacts, but that doesn't mean that we have the right to tell faculty how they can teach. The job in Faculty Council, then, is to provide some guidance to chairs to help them make these decisions, while taking enough time to ensure that the DAC representative and DAC co-chair specifically have the opportunity to identify and communicate implications regarding equity and inclusion.

7. Updates/For the Good of the Order
    a. Likely Faculty Council agenda items:
        1. Hiring proposal requests: Faculty Council members will be encouraged to consider feedback in advance of the meeting so that they can discuss their recommendations as efficiently as possible.
        2. Compression and Equity Taskforce
        3. W policy: We will need further discussion in order to be ready for a vote in time to put this policy forward.

8. Adjournment
    a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.