

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Faculty Assembly (FA) Executive Council (EC)
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Minutes

Present: Zoe Barsness (Chair), Katie Baird (Vice Chair), Donald Chinn, Linda Dawson, Marjorie Dobratz, Charles Emlet, Diane Kinder, Marcie Lazzari, Nita McKinley, Mark Pendas, Peter Selkin, Tracy Thompson, Larry Wear, Charles Williams, JW Harrington, VCAA (ex-officio)

Absent: Yonn Dierwechter, Beverly Naidus, Garth Novak

1. Approval of minutes from October 20 meeting, with noted changes.

Passed amended unanimously, with caveat that Chancellor may have comments.

2. Standing Committee Updates

APC: McKinley reported that they hadn't met since our last EC meeting, but had they had the EDU Doctorate to review. McKinley indicated that steps were underway to clarify procedural issues and the division of responsibility between CC and APC.

CC: Baird seconded McKinley. Baird indicated the CC is working on getting information from each of the Academic units on their internal review process for new courses and changes to existing courses. These processes would be posted on a website.

FAC: Chinn reported the FAC had just met. He provided a review of the discussion with JW Harrington about research and sponsored research that occurred at the FAC meeting. Harrington weighed in to say that all forms of scholarship are valued, not just sponsored. Harrington clarified that the main objective is to increase visibility of research as well as create a stronger research culture at UWT. Harrington suggested that sponsored research isn't going to solve budget crisis; that is for sure. Emphasis more about culture, as well as means of revenue diversification.

SBC: Lazzari will report next time after first SBC meeting.

3. Update from Chancellor's Office

Harrington reported that 2 FTE's from IRP will remain at UWS to work there. Purpose for that is we get higher level analysis, and benefit from division of labor. We can use anyone at UWS's IRP, not just those two. Anyone can send request to IRP without any oversight or permission. In process of finalizing Memo of Understanding (MOU), but MOU is specific to Carol and Debra being in their respective positions. If one leaves, the arrangement may be revisited. One FTE will remain at UWT for conducting things like assessment that are specific to our campus.

Harrington asked if there had been faculty follow up on the schools and college discussion. Generally, the collective answer was no. Some units hadn't had an opportunity to discuss. Dobratz indicated that in Nursing it might have been more of a relief that we don't need to address it this year. Pendras indicated that getting clarity on language might be useful ("programs" versus "unit" versus "department" and so forth), but there is no rush. Lazzari followed up on comment by Emlet to indicate that it makes sense to make structural changes if it meets other goals such as enrollment growth and other opportunities.

4. Reflection on Roundtable

Generally successful. Barsness discussed attendance (39 first hour, 32 second hour, and 25 last hour). Generally very good discussions took place. Various observations made about the roundtable. Barsness mentioned that Nan Geier had taken notes from discussion which will be circulated via UWTFac listserv. General discussion ensued about need for more opportunities to interact with one another in a more informal setting. Hard to find out what others are doing. Discussion of need for better websites, and better information being available on what each of us is doing. Thompson highlighted the potential of using a search engine on faculty pages that was identified at one of the retreat roundtables, and said she and Colleen Carmean discussed this. Some discussion ensued about getting a "Faculty Expertise" list together; Baird said she would follow up with Advancement.

Barsness discussed one follow up, which would be a regular faculty presentation each quarter sponsored by FA. This is in the works with both Tracy Thompson (Winter) and Marcy Stein (Spring) agreeing to be the first guinea pigs. Discussion and details to be continued next meeting.

Barsness returned to the on-line session which generated quite a bit of discussion both at the roundtable and after. Barsness reported that there is a strong sense among faculty that we need a sustained discussion on these issues. Discussion ensued about potential of technology, and potential to improve what we are doing, but concerns were highlighted, especially around the issue of how "optional" going on-line will be. A second issue briefly discussed was that surrounding "ownership" of an online class. The discussion wandered into the meaning of a university today, and the role of face-to-face interactions with students. Group asked what is distinct about that? Barsness suggested we might return to this more global topic—what makes us as a 4-year university distinct, in contrast to other learning communities (e.g., community colleges, online universities)—in a spring retreat. Harrington commented that legislators and regents are quite keen on seeing us move more courses on line. Dobratz mentioned that we need a paradigm shift, and the most important component is knowing what your pedagogical goals are, and then thinking about on-line and technology in terms of whether and how they can advance those goals.

5. Peer Institution

Barsness unsuccessfully suggested we table this discussion. Brief discussion ensued about the purpose of having peer institutions, and the difference between peers at the institutional and unit levels. Wear indicated some concern over their use, and asked exactly why it was useful to have this information, and what it might mean. Harrington responded, saying in part it depends on your criteria. It's a form of benchmarking, and looking beyond your own institution. Also helps with our sense of identity. Finally, Harrington said that this issue shouldn't be "overworried"; it may take another year. Kinder mentioned that discussions of this issue should be ongoing in units. Barsness then asked all to be prepared for a more indepth discussion at the next meeting and asked members to review the current list of peer institutions and draft lists of proposed peers institutions prior to the next EC meeting.

6. Miscellaneous

Barsness informed members of an upcoming trip to Portland State University planned for December 2nd, and asked members to think about what they would like to know and for FA leadership to ask of our faculty governance counterparts during the visit.

Barsness also solicited from members agenda items for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 2PM.

Minutes by Katie Baird, Vice Chair Faculty Assembly. kebaird@uw.edu

Approved by Zoe Barsness, Chair Faculty Assembly.