

**Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC) Meeting**

February 21, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm  
Tacoma Room

**Attendees:** Katie Baird, Jill Purdy, Orlando Baiocchi, Zoe Barsness, Greg Benner, Donald Chinn, Sergio Davalos, Linda Dawson, Marjorie Dobratz, Rich Furman, J.W. Harrington, Matt Kelley, Marcie Lazzari, Debra Friedman

**Absent:** Luther Adams, Bonnie Becker, Yonn Dierwechter, Nita McKinley, Tracy Thompson, Charles Williams

**Guests:** Elizabeth Sundermann, Elizabeth Pierini, Harlan Patterson

**1) Updates, Announcements, and Information:**

- Distinguished Research Award Presentation: 2012 DRA winner Divya McMillin will be presented today, 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm in Jane Russell Commons
- The first of three Faculty Development Workshops will be held at Anthem coffee house on next Wednesday. The seminars will be an opportunity for faculty to learn more about the promotion/development process.
  - Assistant Professors: Feb. 27 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm
  - Associate Professors: March: TBD
  - Lecturers: Spring: TBD
- Senate Elections: The Executive Council revisited the discussion regarding the distribution of UWT Senators from the previous EC meeting.
  - The deadline for the election was extended to February 25; however, there are only two nominees, leaving three vacant positions open.
  - Difficulties in finding volunteers has created an immediate need to figure out how to fill these slots, as well as rethink how to do this in the future
  - Alternative options examined include:
    - ✓ Getting representatives from the units
    - ✓ Delegating responsibility to specific EC members, Faculty leaders based on unit, or to the standing committee chairs
    - ✓ Requesting provisions to have “video conferencing” or Skype available
    - ✓ Allowing for vacant positions
      - Review importance of numeric representation and have an inventory representing how much additional representation is needed
  - To address immediate appointment of senators, IAS representatives will look for one nominee, Greg Benner will recruit another, and Marcie Lazzari will recruit the third.

- Katie Baird will look into the possibility of video conferencing or skyping
- In moving forward, the EC will re-examine how to fill roles (Senate, Tri-campus, Graduate Council, etc., especially in Seattle), more effectively in the long-term.
- Faculty memorial:
  - A general policy titled “Tributes to Faculty/Staff: Philanthropic Options”, drafted by Chancellor Friedman was recirculated to EC.
  - The policy was drafted in principle to address how we remember faculty and commemorate them on campus, whether it is someone who has been long serving, has retired, or are deceased, etc.
  - Guidelines of the policy tell us what our options are and welcome faculty to raise funds for specific memorials to particular individuals, or for more general memorials that commemorate faculty more broadly
  - Decided that EC reps will introduce the memorial options at unit faculty meetings, and leave specific initiatives up to faculty to identify and organize.
- Dialogue concerning the proposed statement on faculty mix, and standing committee reports from Faculty Affairs (Donald Chinn and Libi Sundermann) and APCC (Nita McKinley) was deferred.

## **2) Faculty-Student Collaboration**

Elizabeth Pierini, President of ASUWT attended the meeting to give input and answer specific questions regarding students’ perspective about the Y project. She presented a brief power point with a breakdown of the Campus Life Facilities Master Plan:

- The students’ investment in this project comes from student fees that they have been saving over the years to build a student center.
- In response to faculty concerns regarding the Y’s connection to religion, Elizabeth reported that younger students view the Y simply as a recreational center, and a huge national non-profit that offers numerous resources; there has been no feedback from students regarding its historic faith-based image, but ASUWT will monitor to ensure a welcoming, non-biased environment
- The Y is still at the beginning stages of approval and design. ASUWT has not yet voted on the new fee to pay for construction. All students will have a full regional Y membership as a result of paying the fee.
- ASUWT will be sending out a survey to students regarding their preferences for the Y facility.

## **3) Investment in The Y**

As a continuation of the Jan 24 EC meeting, the council reexamined how to provide budget advice to the Chancellor. Harlan Patterson offered his budgetary expertise to answer financial questions. Copies of the reserve account summary were distributed.

## **Faculty Questions and Concerns**

- The Y’s historical background as a faith-based organization, essentially for men, and how that would translate to UWT’s image as a public institution

- Plans and priorities for the use of reserve funds and how these priorities are derived
- Uncertainty about where the funds for the investment come from and how the reserves will be replenished
- A desire to support students and a concern that questioning the Y investment not be perceived as failing to support students
- Reluctance to give advice or input on decisions that are already made or publicized in the media as being made
- A desire for deeper involvement in decision-making around the reserve in order to have any legitimate ability to advise

### **Responses to the above concerns offered by Harlan and Elizabeth**

- The Y has nationally rebranded itself using approaches that are open, welcoming and appreciative of all members of the community; the diversity values of the Y and UWT are indistinguishable
- The collaboration with the Y to develop a student recreation center reflects a project that has been a student priority for a long time, and UWT's assistance in financing the project reflects this.
- The \$4 million dollars to match the students' investment in this project comes from UWT's Reserve fund
- This is a joint operation/project with one building. There is a student component and a YMCA (Y) component; 80% of the dedicated space will be managed by the Y for recreation, and 20% will be dedicated to student activities and governance.
- The building is sized for the campus at 8,000-10,000 students. The recreation space will be built as flexibly as possible to support the changing needs and desires of students.
- The UWT--Y partnership project decision is not finalized; it is currently an agreement of mutual interest, subject to all of the university's review and approval processes including faculty consultation, student approval of design and fees, buy-in by the Treasury, Real-estate, and Architecture commissions, and the Board of Regents
- Timeline expected for opening of Student Recreation Center:
  - Groundbreaking by Spring of 2014
  - The Y available by Summer or Fall of 2015

Executive council members agreed that it needs to be made clear in conversations with the Y that the campus and the new facility be secular and inclusive. This agreement should also be secured in writing.

All agreed that the faculty and students should collaborate in drafting the document so that language is inclusive and so that expectations for the building are included.

In the future the Executive Council would like to improve collaboration between faculty and students regarding shared interests such as what we would like to see on campus. EC would also like to improve collaboration with the administration in

advising on long term planning and the use of reserves through early involvement and regular consultation.

**Meeting Adjourned 2:04 pm.**