

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC) Meeting

May 15, 2013, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Tacoma Room

Attendees: *Katie Baird, Luther Adams, Zoe Barsness, Bonnie Becker, Greg Benner, Donald Chinn, Sergio Davalos, Linda Dawson, Marjorie Dobratz, J.W. Harrington, Matt Kelley, Marcie Lazzari, Nita McKinley, Jill Purdy, and Tracy Thompson*

Absent: *Orlando Baiocchi, Yonn Dierwechter, Rich Furman, and Charles Williams*

1) Consent Agenda:

Katie announced that the Faculty Assembly had a successful election, and Nita McKinley has been elected and will serve as Vice Chair for 2013 academic year. She also thanked Sergio Davalos for running.

2) Chair's Report:

Reminder: The next Executive Council (EC) meeting will be on the third floor of the West Coast Grocery building, Room 322.

3) Class B Legislation: Global Honors and OUE:

The EC returned to the topic of faculty oversight of academic units that lack faculty assigned to them (such as the Office of Undergraduate Education). Revised recommendations for establishing faculty oversight of these units were presented by Nita McKinley, chair of APCC, and appear in Appendix A of the agenda. After brief discussion, Zoe Barsness made a motion to accept the proposal, Bonnie Becker seconded, all were in favor; proposal passed successfully.

4) Class B Legislation on Academic Misconduct: (Appendix B)

The EC returned to the topic of UWT's process for allegations of academic misconduct. Proposed policy appears in Appendix B of the agenda. During discussion of the policy, concerns were raised that no faculty are involved in the informal process which is where most allegations are settled. Faculty do sit on the University Disciplinary Committee (UDC). The question arose as to whether the informal hearing officer and others across campus have a shared understanding of plagiarism. Discussion emphasized the need for increased transparency and communication at the operational level, and fostering a culture of academic integrity. The suggestion of an electronic tracking system for academic misconduct cases was once again raised. At a previous meeting JW had noted that such systems are very expensive. Katie volunteered to talk with Patrick Pow, Vice Chancellor of Information Technology, to see if such might be possible. After discussion, the EC suggested the following amendments to the proposal in Appendix B:

- Line 1: update the name of the Office of Student Affairs to Office of Student and Enrollment Services.
- Line 4: modify the language to replace “the caseload handled and the outcomes of these cases” inserting the new language “the number of incidents reported, number of cases handled, and the outcome of those cases”

Jill Purdy moved to accept the proposed legislation as amended; Tracy Thompson seconded the motion. The legislation passed by unanimous vote. It was suggested that APCC’s quarterly reviews of academic misconduct cases be included in the Faculty Newsletter.

5) Proposed Class A Legislation on proposed bylaws changes regarding FA budget role and role in campus Strategic Budget Committee: (Appendix C):

Appendix C proposes changes to Faculty Assembly’s bylaws to reflect EC’s decision to move budget advising from the Strategic Budget Committee to Executive Council. The proposed changes strike the SBC from Faculty Assembly’s bylaws, with the understanding that SBC will continue advising the Chancellor with participation from faculty, staff and students. Several additional minor changes are also proposed. The floor was opened to the committee for feedback. Substantive modifications included:

- Removing amendment associated with comment 2: Is repetitive, strategic planning is already listed which addresses both short-term and long-term
- Removing amendment associated with comment 4: the addition of “of an academic nature”; It is defined too narrowly.
- Removing amendment associated with Comment 5: the addition that specifies how faculty should be informed is already taken care of with the addition on page 4, which states: “shall advise the chancellor and inform the Faculty Assembly”.

Zoe moved that EC submit these bylaw changes as amended to the faculty for a vote, Tracy seconded; EC voted with 9 yes votes and 1 abstention. The proposed changes will be submitted to the entire faculty for a vote. Information regarding this legislation will be sent to faculty prior to the vote.

6) Class A Legislation: Proposed Class A Legislation for proposed change to Appendix A of bylaws regarding Lecturer Promotion Process: (Appendix D)

This winter JW initiated the articulation of a process and required elements for someone to be considered for promotion from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, and from Senior Lecturer to Principal Lecturer. JW’s recommendations were passed on to the Appointment, Promotion and Tenure committee (APT) and appear in Appendix D of the agenda. If the EC approves the process, it will serve as interim policy for the campus and would be communicated to all the relevant parties. Subsequently Faculty Assembly would incorporate the policy into Appendix A of the handbook.

- Major issues and substantive conversation included the requirement of external letters by the Provost office, lack of clarity in the meaning of external review, and interpretation of the code regarding the section on letters.
- Some urgency to establishing an interim policy was noted as May 30th is the deadline for initiating the process for non-mandatory promotion.

- EC members agreed that the current proposal is too prescriptive and detailed about what exactly those letters should look like, without sufficient basis in logic to explain why that particular configuration is the right one, given how many other ways there are to evaluate someone's capabilities as a teacher.
- JW will talk with Yonn (co-chair of APT) to figure out how to modify this to be less prescriptive. He will let unit Directors know that the faculty will refine the guidelines for lecturer and senior lecturer promotion processes for inclusion in the hand book; meanwhile it is a work in progress.

Meeting Adjourned 1:54 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jamie Burks, Faculty Assembly Administrative Coordinator