

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC) Meeting

May 30, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
WCG 322

Attendees: Katie Baird, Orlando Baiocchi, Zoe Barsness, Greg Benner, Donald Chinn, Sergio Davalos, Linda Dawson, Yonn Dierwechter, Marjorie Dobratz, Rich Furman, Matt Kelley, Marcie Lazzari, Nita McKinley, Jill Purdy, Tracy Thompson (via phone), Charles Williams, & Debra Friedman

Absent: Luther Adams, Bonnie Becker, J.W. Harrington

Guests: Cedric Howard and Karl Smith

1) **Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda accepted.

2) **Admissions:**

Cedric Howard and Karl Smith attended the meeting to discuss admissions decisions, and the faculty role in these decisions. Faculty have voiced concern about how admission decisions are made, as well as what sorts of support systems are there to ensure that students who are admitted have a reasonable chance for successful completion. The Executive Council's interest is not only on how decisions are being made, but also to start a conversation over how faculty might be involved with or informed about admissions decisions. Karl gave a brief overview of some admissions facts. Main topics included:

- New student enrollment goals and projections for autumn 2013
- Applicant pool—First year applicants and transfer applicants:
- The strategic recruitment plan
- Early outreach initiatives
- The threshold and Holistic Review process
- The new Strategic Enrollment Management Committee

Key questions focused on retention information; how are a range of incoming student characteristics or experiences related to retention? What are the criteria that are used in holistic review and how do these match with students' success? Key feedback included:

- Admissions recently hired staff to help with data analysis.
- Once retention data and student performance is evaluated, institutional resources or courses can be established to support students.
- There is a Strategic Enrollment Management committee that will be setting admissions expectations two years out, with deadlines.

The EC and Admissions will continue this conversation in the fall; the focus will be the admissions criteria, and on data analysis that helps inform us how well those decisions matched up with student success.

3) Campus Budget

Debra Friedman attended the meeting to seek EC's input on non-faculty budget requests; she sent a memo of the requests to staff prior to the meeting, included as Appendix A in the Chair's Report. She identified four top priorities among all of the campus' budget requests, and one addition she wanted to add, which is a Native American educator. She opened the floor for questions about any of the requests.

Questions included:

What were the conceptual priorities that were the basis for the five priorities and what wasn't a priority?

- The chancellor stated that student success is behind the top three requests; furthermore, and were factors that have emerged from discussions about where UWT needs additional support for students. The Native Educator priority is opportunistic; it does not speak to student success or higher functioning of units, but it does take advantage of a special comparative advantage we have in Sharon Parker and addresses a shortcoming in our institution.
- Many requests were very difficult to follow for various reasons. UWT is still in a very constrained budget environment in which a vast majority of resources is spent on faculty as it should be; requests that were not on this list were in the realm of more unit ambitions as opposed to UWT's core mission.

Is the current practice in the way temporary funds are allocated (held centrally and allocated on a 1 year basis) for instructional faculty changing to address issues regarding converting non-competitive hires to competitive?

- Chancellor Friedman stated that JW is working on a transition matrix for some of the non-competitively hired lecturers; furthermore, they are happy to transfer the funding to units. She is very well aligned with faculty interests on this issue. Next year we should see something quite different.

Is administration looking at ways to acquire a more competitive salary for underpaid lecturers?

- Chancellor Friedman stated that this topic is part of the institution wide conversation she and JW are a part of. Administration would participate with colleagues in Seattle if there was going to be an adjustment, because it is a single institution in that sense; UWT is paying competitive salaries within the institution as a whole.

A summary of other specific details regarding each of the prioritized requests included:

- **3 Instructional Consultants (Stat/Math, Science, Writing) in the TLC:**
 - TLC, since moving to Snoqualmie has been successful, but overwhelmed
 - Campus Fellows have identified needs for more quantitative scientific math
 - Also brought in specialists from Seattle's Instructional Center to help
- **Bridge funding for field supervisors in Education:**
 - Ed's previous field supervisor was successfully hired to assistant professor.
 - Fees will be instituted as part of the program in short term, in long run the tuition level will be changed to help fund this.

- **Student advisors in the Advising Center**
 - National benchmarks in general is 1 advisor for 350 to 400 students; our advising center is situated within that range, and wants more advisors
 - UWT is adopting the national practice of peer advising as opposed to adding professional staff, and attempting to utilize students to improve advising
- **Additional staff in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences**
 - IAS is in transition, and currently not in the functional shape that it should be
 - IAS is UWT's core academic program and "absolutely" must be successful
- **Native American Educator in Diversity and Equity**
 - Antioch University in Seattle has a social work program they want to transfer to UWT for native students, but UWT doesn't have the institutional capacity
 - UWT needs to develop strategic partnership with tribes, develop institutional capacity in the production of the academic programs, and to recruit

Chancellor Friedman finalized the discussion by stating the uncertainty surrounding the budget. This is why allocations for UWT's 5 priorities won't be made until we hear from the legislature and the Board of Regents. Faculty were encouraged to provide feedback if they have other thoughts, or if they want to give more feedback, they are welcomed to do so.

4) Class A Legislation

Proposed changes to our bylaws passed Seattle's review. The issue currently is whether this legislation can be distributed to faculty before end of year. There was concern that this legislation hasn't been clearly conveyed to faculty as a whole, that this change is happening. Katie will send an email memo to faculty as soon as possible that will convey the framework, give the historical context, the rationale for changes, and include a voting link; the vote will open as soon as the email goes out.

5) Campus Fellows and Changing Bylaws

Due to time constraints, these topics were tabled for discussion at the next EC meeting. The issue of changing the bylaws, specifically, is to include a lecturer. This issue came up last year, and necessitates further discussion, which will be put off until the fall. The committee's fall agenda will include the topic of EC composition/representation.

In closing, members were reminded that the Faculty Assembly is still seeking donations for the discretionary budget. Some members submitted donations. The committee will also pass out donation forms at Faculty Assembly fall retreat.

Meeting Adjourned 1:57 pm.