

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Minutes

Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA)

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MAT 251

Attendance: Annette Henry, Chair; Donald Chinn, Co-Chair; Erin Casey, Erica Cline, Sergio Davalos, June Lowenberg, Linda Ishem, Johann Reusch, Chair - Faculty Assembly

1. The minutes from April 6 and May 4, 2010 were approved pending the changes for May 4, 2010 from June Lowenberg.
2. Feedback on the Research Survey
 - Johann Reusch, Chair of the Faculty Assembly, agreed the survey will be important data for faculty during the Chancellor's search.
 - Suggestions: Sergio Davalos noted that the survey should include a portion that looks at the infrastructure with the perceived attitudes and experiences of faculty. Depending on the data, the level of productivity and the amount of research can be referred to the programs. Erin Casey noted the importance of comparing faculty perceptions of barriers to their research productivity

Action: FA would like to have the Research Survey in circulation over the summer and have the data available for the Annual Retreat on September 27, 2010.

3. Workload discussion with Johann Reusch, Chair Faculty Assembly
 - Reusch noted the potential for faculty incentives recommended by the Undergraduate Education Taskforce for faculty who are willing to teach in the Core. Reusch noted that the Foundations of Excellence (FoE) report extends to the entire campus, including the Graduate programs. This document has impact on Workload and could impact tenure.
 - Davalos noted that faculty already has rights to shape curriculum and the direction in the curriculum, which has been codified in the University Handbook.
 - June Lowenberg suggested that, in the coming year, FA should address whether policies are being pushed through during the interim without a new Chancellor. Reusch agreed. Lowenberg explained that Beth Rushing, VCAA will not allow for a university wide policy, but will allow for programs to determine one.
 - Sergio Davalos noted that faculty workload has been an issue since 2001. There is no disagreement that teaching load should be reduced. FA would like

to focus on reducing one course across all programs. The goal for implementing this policy is to allow the programs the ability implement this reduction.

- Lowenberg asked whether this reduction is fiscally feasible. Even though UWT is in a fiscal deficit, it seems there are options that could be implemented to reduce workload. Lowenberg suggested someone like Allan Wood from UW Bothell be invited to FA total how this could be implemented. Later Reusch addressed this point by speaking to the importance addressing these fears. For example, FA can put in a disclaimer that nothing new will be implemented until the economic crisis is sustained. FA should also suggest a cap be made on course loads.
- Reusch suggested FA look at the Project for Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (*PIP*), where graduate students teach, thus reducing labor costs. For example, three courses equal the costs of one tenured faculty. But, Faculty Affairs must have support from Administration to make this happen.
- Donald Chinn expressed concern over equity for junior faculty.
- Reusch discussed the workload document and some of the past issues. They were increased class size, which faculty did not want because they wanted to protect their small classes.
- Erica Cline noted that in Environmental Sciences it is better to look at the student-credit hours.

Action: at the beginning of the year FA will make its first priority to work on implementing this workload policy within programs. FA will continue to work on the workload policy in the next academic term 2010-2011.

4. The meeting adjourned at 1: 49 p.m.