

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Minutes

Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA)

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CP 103

Attendance: Donald Chinn, Chair; Erin Casey, Sergio Davalos, and Denise Drevdahl

1. The minutes from January 11, 2011 were approved with edits.

All future FA draft minutes will be reviewed at the meeting instead of on the list serve.

2. Research survey update

Donald Chinn sent revisions to Jim Posey. Chinn asked the committee whether there was a particular way it planned to analyze the data. FA will review the results from the Research survey.

Discussion

- Sergio Davalos suggested that the benefit to this study is to discover the current state of scholarship at UWT.
- FA agreed that they will have to wait until the results are available before deciding on how to analyze the data.
- Erin Casey suggested this survey could be useful for identifying resources for research . Casey also suggested that Faculty Affairs ask Jim Posey if he might be available to help with analysis.

Action: FA will wait for the results from the survey. In the meantime Chinn will ask Posey if he will help prepare an analysis of the quantitative data.

3. Update on faculty workload

Chinn and Emily N. Ignacio (Chair, Appoint Tenure and Promotion) met with program directors to discuss tightening procedures on faculty review files to make them more inline with the Faculty Code. This inquiry addressed 3rd year review and Promotion and Tenure.

Chinn also discussed Faculty Workload. Program directors felt that faculty workload has been, historically, a long discussion at UWT. Some programs directors expressed concern over the feasibility of developing a workload policy within their program. One outcome from the discussion was that the program directors agreed to initiate substantial discussions amongst faculty within the specific program about the principles that should guide faculty workload. In May 2011, Chinn and Ignacio will follow up with directors about their program specific discussions.

Questions

Davalos asked for clarification on the line of thinking behind Faculty Affairs' inquiry into Faculty Workload. Davalos suggested that developing a well-defined approach to Faculty Workload might be problematic. Davalos asked how this will be used at the administrative levels.

Lines of thinking about Faculty Workload

- Research – faculty want more time for research but there are increasing needs at UWT. Faculty must provide more service and teaching.
- Equity – it addresses the potential for Program Directors to assign work to some faculty and not others

Chinn clarified that programs have agreed to go ahead and help discuss the principles that guide faculty workload within their specific programs. This exercise is not meant to conflict with the already established guidelines codified within the Faculty Code (and Academic Human Resources).

4. Work FA might pursue

Chinn asked whether FA wants to discuss Teaching Evaluations. Other ways for evaluating teaching involve working one-on-one with new faculty and through peer evaluations.

The potential problems with existing formats for Teaching Evaluations

- Some faculty have been concerned that the Student Evaluations do not provide faculty with information on how to improve their teaching practices.
- Some think that Student Evaluations do not accurately reflect faculty teaching effectiveness.

Action FA will not pursue an inquiry into teaching evaluations and will report back to the EC that ad hoc committee with expertise is more appropriate to evaluate different methods of evaluating teaching effectiveness.

5. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.