

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Agenda

**Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA)**

Thursday, May 23, 2013

3:30-4:15pm

WCG 322

1. Approval of the April 11, 2013 and April 25, 2013 minutes.
2. Lecturer Affairs charge for AY 2013-14. (see attached)
3. Committee membership next year.
4. Adjourn.

UWT Lecturer Affairs Committee<sup>1</sup>

May 20, 2013

To: Faculty Affairs

The UWT Lecturer Affairs Committee respectfully requests a formal extension of our charge from Faculty Affairs. We request that our committee continue at least through the 2013-2014 academic year.

We would like to reiterate our mission and goals as a UWT Faculty Assembly committee:

“Faculty Assembly represents the collective voice of UW Tacoma’s faculty, and is the institution through which the faculty executes its role in university policy and affairs for the purpose of advancing the university’s mission. Through elected representatives, Faculty Assembly communicates faculty interests, positions, and decisions with administrators, and conveys administrative decisions, policies and priorities to UW Tacoma faculty. The Faculty Assembly also advises the Chancellor on budgetary matters and other policies that affect the university’s ability to achieve its primary goals surrounding academic quality. While the faculty role is chiefly guided by the Faculty Code and the University of Washington Handbook, Faculty Assembly’s intent is one in which shared governance at UW Tacoma is guided by the spirit of mutual respect and partnership.”<sup>2</sup>

We would like to note that Lecturer Affairs’ understanding of “faculty” includes tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track professors and competitively and non-competitively hired full-time and part-time faculty regardless of their AHR name or designation. All research and teaching faculty are integral to our mission and to our campus community and should be treated with the respect due all faculty.

Our 2012-2013 charge, to be extended at least through the 2013-2014 academic year reads:

1. Educate UW Tacoma administration, faculty and the campus community as a whole about national trends in higher education related to the growth of contingent faculty.
2. Investigate the existing processes of review and evaluation of part-time, full-time and senior lecturers and make recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> UWT Lecturer Affairs Committee (ad hoc under Faculty Affairs): Elizabeth ‘Libi’ Sundermann, committee chair, lecturer, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Donald Chinn, associate professor, Institute of Technology (chair, Faculty Affairs Committee), Joanne Clarke Dillman, lecturer, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Michael Honey, professor, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Kenneth Meerdink, lecturer (part-time), Institute of Technology, Linda Ishem, assistant professor, Urban Studies, Tarna Derby-McCurtain, lecturer, Social Work, Tom Diehm, senior lecturer, Social Work, and Roseann Martinez, lecturer (part-time), Social Work.

<sup>2</sup> [www.tacoma.uw.edu/faculty-assembly](http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/faculty-assembly)

3. Investigate mechanisms, policies and practices that can create a supportive environment and provide part-time, full-time and senior lecturers with resources to enhance their teaching excellence and job security.
4. Develop a set of criteria for part-time, full-time and senior lecturers regarding contract renewal, promotion schemes and issues surrounding the academic freedom of non-tenured faculty to enhance teaching excellence.
5. Make recommendations to faculty and administration that will create a more engaged and committed faculty to benefit our students and the campus community as a whole.

While our committee has been quite successful with its charge in the Winter and Spring terms of 2013, we find that our committee work needs to continue for at least another academic year in order to complete several tasks still in progress.

1. Our recommendations to Provost Cauce, endorsed by UWT Executive Council and Vice-Chancellor JW Harrington, are still being considered by the Provost's office, as well as the tri-campus committee on lecturer affairs charged by Provost Cauce.

This process will not be completed until the 2013-2014 academic year. As UW system leaders on lecturer affairs, the continuation of UWT Lecturer Affairs is crucial to UWT's long-term interests in this on-going process and policy decisions.

2. The Provost's office and the tri-campus committee is now working under a three phase timeline to finalize recommendations and possible policy changes for first, future full-time lecturer hires, second, existing full-time lecturers and third, part-time lecturers.

This means that issues surrounding approximately 30 existing non-competitively hired full-time lecturers and the 100+ part-time lecturers at UWT will not be formally addressed by the Provost's office and the tri-campus work groups until the 2013-2014 academic year. UWT Lecturer Affairs has made proposals surrounding a "conversion" process for existing full-time lecturers and has initiated discussions, but not made recommendations on, part-time lecturers on the campus or system level. We believe both of these issues are crucial parts of our original charge that still need to be addressed.

3. We believe our committee should serve in an advisory role while new possible policy and practice changes are implemented campus and system-wide.
4. Several issues related to, but not fully addressed by our proposals of Spring 2013, including salary, workload, evaluations, and benefits need to be addressed to create comprehensive recommendations to fulfill our original charge.

We hope that you will carefully consider our request. The request for this continuation of our committee and its charge was unanimous at our last meeting.<sup>3</sup>

Sincerely,

Elizabeth 'Libi' Sundermann, chair and Lecturer Affairs Committee members

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that Michael Honey was excused from that meeting and did not vote.