

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA) Minutes
Monday, October 31, 2011
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
GWP 215

Attendance: Donald Chinn (Chair), Erin Casey, Sergio Davalos, Denise Drevdahl, Johann Reusch, and Matthew Weinstein

1. The minutes from October 14, 2011 were approved.

2. Discussion with VCAA J.W. Harrington.

The committee had a discussion with Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs J.W. Harrington on a number of issues regarding faculty life, especially research.

Harrington said that in some disciplines (such as the life sciences), external funding for research may not pay the full costs, because of the high costs associated with building and maintaining large labs. He said that at UWT, however, external funding would help diversify the campus's revenue stream. There are plans to get a group of faculty to work on a project(s) of common interest and apply for external funding. It will be organized as a series of "camps" or workshops. The work on this will begin this coming summer. Part of the Chancellor's Fund will be used to fund these external-funding camps.

Harrington noted that enrollment growth is the key to the campus's finances.

He also mentioned that he has had one-on-one discussions with many Associate Professors at UWT. He has discovered that there is a lot of interest in this group of faculty that wish to pursue use-inspired research and research that influences the local community. He also observed that some colleagues in this group are somewhat less interested in being promoted to Full Professor than he expected.

There was also a discussion about ways to build a culture of research and scholarship on campus. In the Faculty Assembly Roundtable on October 21, several suggestions were made to increase interactions among faculty, such as something as simple as setting up a web page that lists faculty research interests.

3. Understanding the barriers to research/scholarship at UWT

The committee briefly discussed plans to further investigate institutional supports for scholarship at UWT. The current plan is to interview the more active researchers on campus to find out what their thoughts on how the university could help facilitate research. In addition to the list of faculty from Kelly Fitzgerald provided to the committee, there were other individuals identified that the committee should interview (such as Denise Drevdahl, Charles Emlet, and Jim Gawel).

4. The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.