

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA) Minutes
Monday, November 14, 2011
9:15am – 10:15am
GWP 215

Attendance: Donald Chinn (Chair), Erin Casey, and Matthew Weinstein

- 1. The minutes from October 31, 2011 were approved.**
- 2. Reflections on the discussion with VCAA J.W. Harrington.**

There was a discussion about the discussion with J.W. Harrington in the previous meeting. The following thoughts were expressed:

 - The committee was encouraged by the flexible approach to faculty work that Harrington expressed. (For example, not everyone will conduct their research in the same way.) There has been a lot of discussion at the administrative level about the greater need for faculty to engage in external funded research projects, but it is encouraging to know that administration recognizes that is not going to solve all of the institution's problems.
 - There was some concern about the diversion of Chancellor's Fund monies from the projects it has funded in the past to fund the summer "boot camp" for external funding. However, it is important that it appears that faculty will have a voice in the process and strategy in the construction of the camp.
 - There was also a discussion about institutional support for non-external funded research (for example, how to incorporate undergraduates in research). Some suggested ideas to move forward on this: go back to the programs and ask for suggestions; convene a focus group of people from different programs to share best practices.
- 3. Further planning on interviews with UWT researchers**

The committee decided to move ahead with the project to interview active researchers (externally funded or not) to understand better barriers to research and how the institution can support research. Weinstein proposed an "ethnographic subcommittee" to design the interview questions and devise a timeline. Action item for Weinstein: A list of proposed interview questions.
- 4. Other items**

Chinn raised the issue of the evaluation of teaching effectiveness, which has been a longstanding issue primarily motivated by the general dissatisfaction of faculty with student evaluations being used as the primary (or only) method to evaluate teaching. The issue has implications for accreditation (at the program and university levels), promotion and tenure, and assessment in general (at the program and university levels). No concrete action items were generated.
- 5. The meeting adjourned at 10:15am.**