

Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC) Meeting
Friday, November 1, 2013 09:00 am – 11:00 am
GWP 320

Attendees: Katie Baird, Orlando Baiocchi, Greg Benner, Zhiyan Cao, Sam Chung, Erica Cline, Linda Dawson, Marjorie Dobratz, Denise Drevdahl, Michelle Garner, Debra Friedman, Matt Kelley, Nita McKinley, Doug Wills, and Jill Purdy.

Absent: Rich Furman

1) COACHE Next Steps—Jill Purdy:

Targeted leadership is needed to address the results of the COACHE survey. The initial idea was to find someone who could lead this initiative, but it was decided that participation should be solicited from individuals who have a fair amount of expertise and a mix of skills to make progress on this issue. The group would be provided with a pool of resources, with parallels to what was done with the campus fellows. This idea was presented to EC to get feedback, and/or suggestions. Options for soliciting participation include plan a) constructing a group interested in this kind of work on the UWT campus, or plan b) seeking assistance elsewhere, such as recruiting experts from sister campuses. Discussion included ideas to conduct a re-survey to gauge changes in perspective since last year, and giving the solicited group a campus fellow's name/title; this led into discussion of preserving the campus fellows focus on academic excellence. Jill will consult with JW and decide whether there should be a name given to this kind of committee, and recruitment will begin for interested participants.

2) Consent Agenda: Oct 16 Executive Council Meeting Minutes (Pages 1-3 of Agenda):

The consent agenda included the Executive Council October 16 meeting minutes for review. Hearing no needed amendments or modifications, the consent agenda was accepted unanimously.

3) Merit Review Follow up-Faculty Affairs:

Sam Chung has been officially elected as chair for the Faculty Affairs committee. The Faculty Affairs sent a Catalyst survey regarding priority issues to all faculty; they will report the responses from each unit in the near future. Faculty Affairs recently met with Lecturer Affairs and discussed their agenda for the year. Faculty Affairs' agenda includes review of last year's merit and salary increase process.

4) VCAA/Chancellor's Report:

Chancellor Debra Freidman gave a report, emphasizing her desire to be responsive to the EC's interests. Topics reported included:

- UWT has a campus priority focused on retention; this is an all-campus engagement with JW Harrington and Cedric Howard having principal responsibility on the administrative side. This issue was described as a complex, multi-faceted including three important pieces: the quality of the classroom, financial aid, and academic achievement. UWT's dominant retention issue is for first year students returning for a second year. JW and

Cedric have made a request for the Chancellor to bring in a consultant similar to Michelle Sandin (the consultant that was brought in to assist Enrollment Services), to help guide campus on retention. The Chancellor presented this request to EC to think about and will present a formal proposal to EC for advice, and a decision next week.

- Pat O’Callahan, columnist for The News Tribune and part-time lecturer for UW Tacoma recently asked the Chancellor: “Has UW Tacoma lived up to its promise to serve the region and community of which it is a part?” Demographic data discussed included comparisons of UWT student data against Pierce County census data. Characteristics included: African American-UWT, 8.9%; PC, 7.2%; American Indian-UWT-2.1%, PC-1.6%; Asian-UWT, 17.3%, PC, 6.3%; Native Haw/Pacific Island-UWT, 2.3%, PC-1.4%; Hispanic/Latino-UWT, 8.9%; PC, 9.6%; Caucasian-UWT, 49.0; PC, 69.5%. 85% of our students have home addresses within 11 miles of campus, and 93% are Washington residents. The Chancellor concluded that UWT is serving the community that it was established to serve. Also, the two fastest growing groups in the State of Washington are Latino/Hispanic and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. The Chancellor concluded this topic emphasizing that there is still a lot of work to be done.
- UWT will have continuing conversations on TPS Tacoma Paper and Stationery. The Chancellor issued the general invitation to discuss; a similar general invitation will be sent in the near future just to faculty to discuss TLB4 as an innovative teaching space.
- The VIBE (Veterans Incubator for Better Entrepreneurship) center has been established and set up in TLB 3. All were encouraged to attend the formal opening on November 14th.
- Acclaimed photographer Dawoud Bey will be visiting the University of Washington Tacoma campus on Saturday November 2nd, from 4 to 6p.m., in the Snoqualmie Building to reveal his new Tacoma portraits. This will be his last trip to Tacoma, and all were encouraged to attend.
- UW Tacoma Childcare Center project is moving forward. Bonnie Becker is the head of the project committee, in partnership with Tacoma Community College, and the Tacoma Children’s Museum. The physical location of the childcare facility will be underneath the Tacoma Children’s Museum. The expectation is to open the childcare center in the upcoming fall. Cedric Howard has responsibility for how the 50 spaces will be allotted; The Chancellor will report back when the project is further along. The lease for the center will be held by The Children’s Museum, TCC will run the center; UW Tacoma’s responsibility will be to fill the spaces. For tenant improvements, UWT may raise money, or borrow from ourselves; the Chancellor will present the information to EC if money was needed to be borrowed.
- Strategic Budget Committee (SBC) status—Tracy Thompson was recently elected to the SBC. JW Harrington will be calling a meeting for this committee in the near future and presenting new information. Topics of interest for SBC include, online and digital, and the year round calendar.
- The Provost is forming a committee on online learning for the University of Washington. Jeff Cohen and Colleen Carmean will be representing the UW Tacoma campus on this committee.

5) Forum for Discussing Colleges at UWT

UW Tacoma's largest unit, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (IAS), is proposing to be organized as a school on the UWT campus. By comparison, all units at UW Bothell and UW Seattle are organized into schools and colleges. Some faculty are concerned about what happens to a unit if it is not part of a school and everyone else is, in terms of representation, status, governance, faculty workload, etc. With so many questions, and an array of answers that are not quite clear, it would be useful to have a campus wide discussion, and move the conversation to be a more open one. Part of the January General Faculty Assembly will be utilized to share information as well as figure out what unanswered questions there may be. This topic and the topic of academic misconduct will be key agenda items.

Other pressing issues that might take precedence include developing unit bylaws for all UW Tacoma academic units; IAS and Nursing are the only units that currently have bylaws in place. Faculty Assembly and the EC will provide emphasis and support to help create bylaws. JW is planning to bring up this process at the next Academic Council meeting. A deadline has been proposed to create bylaws for all units by the end of 2014. A copy of the current Nursing and IAS bylaws will be posted to the Faculty Assembly website for reference as well as templates for units to build on.

6) Admissions Standards and Pathways to Promise

Several faculty members have expressed concern about UW Tacoma's current admission standards. Specific issues mentioned include:

- Procedures—i.e. were faculty involved in establishing these criteria?
- Structure and support—i.e. If UWT admits students at a certain level, do we have the structures and resources to support their success after admission?
- Status—i.e. Is UWT going in the wrong direction in terms of UWT image of serving students that are not academically talented; being the campus that students look to as a last resort if you can't get into another campus?

Jill wanted to bring this conversation and concern to the attention of the Executive Council to see what general thoughts are and what members have heard regarding this topic. Chancellor Friedman spoke briefly on the issue emphasizing that UW Tacoma has a different mission; UWT has an "Urban serving university mission", and are responsive to our community. Faculty do in fact set the admission standards, and current requirements yielded an average GPA of 3.2, with required completion of college preparatory classes. WA state statistics show that only 17 of 100 9th graders who start high school in the state of Washington will get a college degree; in Pierce County the number is 13. UWT's responsibility as an urban serving university campus is to try to increase the college-going culture. UWT is not interested in lowering standards, but encouraging students that if they can stay the course, UWT will be there when they are ready. For high academic achievers, UWT is direct-admitting to majors, will have a pathway to global honors, and is planning the creation of an Academy type program for high school students. UWT is also increasing support for the Bridge program seeking to expand the program. An important focus of the retention focus is also placed on the TLC and advising, and establishing gold standard support in those areas. The Chancellor further suggested to invite Karl back to the EC as a follow-up to his presentation given last year on admissions, and to share new information and statistics. She also encouraged EC members to request access and explore the UW Profiles data. She also reminded the group of the Strategic Enrollment Management committee, which includes one faculty representative.

After further discussion, EC agreed that there needs to be an institutional mechanism whereby faculty understand the decisions that have been made, and all the implications of those decisions. Suggestions included talking with Doug Wills as the faculty representative of the Strategic Enrollment Management committee, as well as ensuring that faculty pay due diligence to these issues and that there is clear communication amongst faculty.

7) Budget Guidance

This resource issue is a very significant one, and pertains to how the campus is aligning resources in a way that supports UWT's academic mission. An issue EC worked out last year was an overall budget calendar; while there is not a truly an annualized process, there are things that happen yearly including the hiring of faculty. Last year EC got started on the budget process and had the list of requests shared, but didn't have a lot of insight into reasons for requests. This year they have the opportunity to participate fully through the full cycle and to share advice with the campus as a whole on relevant priorities and needs. There is no specific initiative for this topic, other than exploring if there are aspects that members have recognized as ongoing concerns, issues, or recommendations we would want to make known to academic units as they go through these deliberations of faculty hires. What issues are there in which EC as a group can provide insight and advice to the campus as a whole on unit budget priorities and principles from the perspective of academic excellence and student success? Also, what outcomes and inputs should be prioritized?

Chancellor Friedman will provide Jill with time on the upcoming Academic Council Meeting to address the subject. Other ideas raised included support for developing diversity courses, the role of Tri-Campus Council, investing in the TLC, investing in a Retention Consultant, academic planning, and moving the budget calendar from draft state to a finalized document. Chancellor Friedman also discussed another issue relevant to budget guidance, which is a campus wide need for assistance in helping students apply for merit scholarships. UWT may add a staff person to assist in this process. The Chancellor will represent this opportunity to EC with budget numbers for input if a quick decision is needed. Jill will take the issues discussed forward to the Academic Council so that they can have these conversations that deal with the larger structure.

8) Good of the Order

No new business arose.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00 pm.