



Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC) Meeting Minutes

November 20th, 2015 1:00-3:00pm CP 206C

Present: Juliet Cao; Bill Kunz; Marcie Lazzari; Huatong Sun; Lauren Montgomery(by phone); Jim Gawel; Ellen Moore; Jutta Heller; Mark Pendas; Ka Yee Yeung-Rhee; Denise Drevdahl; Gregory Rose; Julia Aguirre; Marian Harris.

Absent: Mark Pagano; Ji-Hyun Ahn; Chuck Costarella; Nita McKinley; Matt Kelley; Alissa Ackerman.

1) Consent Agenda

The October 16th and the November 4th Executive Council meeting minutes were accepted.

2) Announcement: Cancellation of 1/6/16 meeting due to start of winter quarter.

3) VCAA Report

Presentation

Urban-Serving definition: Bonnie Becker and Faculty Assembly leadership are working on hosting a faculty conversation to work toward consensus on a definition for this key term. The hoped for outcome of the clarification is to then value it in UWT's processes, for instance, in the Promotion and Tenure process.

Office of International Programs: Brian Coffey will be the interim director for the next four months. He will work with faculty to plan trips for next year. This office also awaits the international consultant's report. Dr. Coffey is currently assessing the office's staff needs; especially as having the proper staff support to plan trips has been a concern of faculty.

Law School at UWT: There had been the possibility of UW Seattle delivering Law School curriculum at UWT. But, there are concerns/questions regarding if there is a need for it, especially with enrollment in law schools declining nation-wide. Seattle wants to see a demonstrated need. Another possibility is for UWT to start their own, but there are challenges with legislature, funding, accreditation, hiring faculty, cost of library, etc. Some state Legislators and politicians have been involved in recent discussions around this, therefore ideas regarding it may seep into the media. A suitable market analysis needs to be done to address some of the challenges. Many community members see the Tacoma area lacking a law school, for instance, the Tacoma Law Foundation found that other cities, similar to Tacoma, have a law school. Many Tacoma politicians received their law degrees from the law school at UPS before it closed and now are pushing for Tacoma to have a law school again.

Action: A market analysis will be done to differentiate community desire from market demand.

Transition with new EVCAA: Regarding how administration will be handling the APT letters, by code, the only person who has to sign them is the Chancellor. There is the possibility that the new EVCAA will write them or the current IVCAA will. There is one mandatory case and fourteen non-mandatory cases going up.

Program Enrollment Projections: Each program has been asked to give enrollment projection for next year. There are some programs that have more demand, while some have less. Some places may have capacity, but need more students to fill. Based on the projections, administration is considering what would be a comfortable growth plan for next year.

4) Updates from Standing Committee Chairs

Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee: Chair, Lauren Montgomery, reported that all is going well. It is notable that there were fewer program proposals put forward this fall which indicates that the growth has leveled off somewhat and is not exponential. The committee is working hard on crafting a Distance Learning Policy. They received greatly varied feedback from all 7 units. Committee may need to host a comprehensive, campus-wide conversation. It is a very complicated and confusing issue as the committee attempts to craft a DL policy that is acceptable to all.

Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure Committee: Chair, Jim Gawel, reported that there are 15 cases total; 1 mandatory, 14 non-mandatory. The files are made available on December 16th and then due one and a half weeks after the beginning of the quarter. It is still unsure who will read them at the administration level since both the EVCAA and the Chancellor are new to UWT. The current IVCAA may read them because he has been here a while, but he also has a case going up and cannot read his own. ATP will discuss the issue further and then propose a recommendation to go up through the Executive Council to the Chancellor.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Chair, Marian Harris, reported that FAC has mostly new members this year. For their charge, they are interested in childcare and diversity issues. Their charge will be approved by EC, which wants to honor their interests.

5) Meeting with Governor Inslee

Presentation: Lauren Montgomery, who attended on behalf of EC, sent an email regarding the meeting. The meeting mainly focused on the conflicts of interest that the Board of Regents had in the past, the worst being closer to corruption when the wife of a board member had personal gain from the building of the new Husky Stadium. The Governor did not appear to be aware of these issues. Governor Inslee remained non-committal, but said that he would thoroughly vet those who wanted to be on the board.

6) Faculty Affairs Charge: Pending how EC moves forward with the Resolution. See Faculty Affairs Committee under Standing Committee reports above.

7) Resolution Concerning Faculty Support for Diversity

Presentation/Discussion/Crafting:

- Ricardo Ortega, DRC Initiatives Director, is seeking to partner with people around UWT to take advantage of the Amazon Grants (ongoing, no specifics). EC should keep this in mind as they move forward with diversity initiatives
- A full faculty vote brings awareness and commitment, but isn't needed to pass the Resolution
- Question of audience: EC's role is to represent the faculty in each unit and advise the Chancellor and VCAA
- #StudentBlackOut is a movement spreading in colleges across the country
 - momentum *now*
- Issue of accountability: what can we do as leadership of faculty to hold ourselves accountable?
 - Accountable implies specific action
 - Action: a constant movement toward equitable justice
- Members clarified wording/meaning of proposed edits/additions:
 - Under, "Be it resolved...(3)" – clarified that faculty and staff who review promotion and tenure files, who are on hiring committees, and who participate in any merit review and/or evaluation, need to have anti-bias and diversity awareness training
 - Under first, "Be it further resolved" – clarified that having students on committees is an opportunity, not requirement
- What would a new standing committee's relationship be to current Diversity and Equity groups?
 - Focus specifically on faculty
 - Include something that is already part of the structure so that it is anchored and not temporary
- Members discussed whether or not a new standing committee is necessary
 - There was concern that adding another standing committee would strain the faculty's capacities
- Another option: Faculty Affairs Committee could change their bylaws charge to write in a diversity component. This would still require a full faculty vote and would continue with the current momentum to bring awareness and commitment from faculty

Action:

- Chairs of FAC and EC will work together to craft the final paragraph to change the FAC bylaws charge.
- EC will vote on passing the Resolution at the next meeting: 12.2.15.
- Julia Aguirre and Marcie Lazzari will attend the Diversity Task Force meeting on November 30th from 9am-11am in order to be aware of what they are doing toward diversity and inform them of what EC is doing; to have a partnership and maximize efforts

8) Faculty Salary Policy

Presentation: Brought to EC's attention by Chair, Marcie Lazzari. It is important for faculty to be informed about it. EC member and Senator, Jim Gawel, offered to craft a survey for faculty feedback to go out as soon as possible so that UWT Faculty Senators can take feedback to the Faculty Senate meeting on December 3rd, 2015.

9) Adjourn