

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Faculty Assembly Faculty Affairs (FA) Minutes
Thursday, October 18, 2012
1:30-2:30pm
CP 103

Attendance: Donald Chinn (Chair), Katie Adamson, Chris Demaske, Rupinder Jindal, Matthew Weinstein, Anne Wessells

Guests: Elizabeth Sunderman, Joanne Clarke Dillman

1. The minutes from October 4, 2012 were approved.

2. Lecturer issues

Most of the meeting was spent discussing Lecturer issues. Sunderman and Dillman spoke briefly about the issues of concern, some of which have been discussed in other venues, including Executive Council. The entire group then engaged in a general discussion of the issues. Some of the issues discussed include:

- Multi-year contracts
- Promotion to Senior Lecturer
- How a Lecturer is hired (local versus national search) and its impact on multi-year contracts and promotion
- How merit is determined for Lecturers
- General engagement in faculty governance, such as Faculty Assembly standing committees
- Notification of employment for the year after a contract expires

These issues, of course, are related.

It was noted that Lecturers have many different roles in a university and UW Tacoma in particular. Some Lecturers (such as part-time Lecturers) teach as a side activity to what they mainly do for employment. Other Lecturers are more committed to the institution, but for a variety of reasons a one-year contract is acceptable. Still others are completely committed to curricular development and are an integral part of a program's academic landscape. In addition, depending on the program, Lecturers are often engaged in scholarship and research.

It was also noted that what happened last year, where Lecturers with one-year contracts (which is the vast majority of Lecturers) were notified of their contract for this year as late as July. It was understood that this was partly due to a delay from the state legislature to decide on a budget. Nevertheless, it was proposed that our campus put mechanisms in place to minimize the negative effects of such delays (which include stress, planning for classes over the summer for the academic year, and general resentment). It was noted that Bothell had tried to put a mechanism in place to reduce the logistical and administrative energy to rehire Lecturers.

As a first step, it was suggested that we understand what restrictions the University Handbook imposes on these issues and what practices UW Tacoma has established. Knowing the parameters, it would be up to Faculty Assembly to agree upon a mutually acceptable set of policies and practices that would address all of these concerns. In general, it was generally agreed that it is important that the committee educate itself and educate the faculty in general about these issues.

Another aspect of these issues is the hiring of part-time lecturers and the impact that has on the academic landscape.

Rather than engaging the entire committee on these issues, it was suggested that a subset of the committee, together with other interested faculty across campus, form an *ad hoc* committee to look into these issues. It was suggested that Chinn send a note to all faculty soliciting participation in this *ad hoc* committee.

3. Support for research efforts

The committee briefly discussed the proposed survey to the faculty (written by Jill Purdy, Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly) that would provide information for budget decision makers to decide which sorts of support (e.g. software or a statistician) the campus could fund.

There was general agreement that such a survey would be fine, but there was not enough time to edit or make specific suggestions on the survey that was provided.

4. The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.