

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

May 13, 2021

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Review of the minutes from April 8, 2021
3. Chair's updates
4. Reasonable Accommodation – Class C draft (attached)
5. Data request: student evaluations trends
6. Discussion: topics for next year
7. Good of the order
8. Adjourn

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.

2. Review of the minutes from April 8, 2021

The minutes from April 8, 2021 were approved as written.

3. Chair's Updates

Chair Halverson asked council members interested in joining the new faculty council on technology to email the senate office for membership consideration.

4. Reasonable Accommodation – Class C draft (attached)

A draft of the Class C resolution on Reasonable Accommodation (Exhibit 1) was shared and members suggested language changes to the document.

A motion was made to vote on the final draft. The council voted to approve the changes and forward to the faculty senate.

5. Data request: student evaluations trends

Chair Halverson shared a request from a faculty member regarding student evaluations of teaching (SET) and their change over the past academic year. The chair will ask the Office of Educational Assessment to provide that report.

6. Discussion: topics for next year

The council discussed agenda items for the next academic year. These included peer evaluations for faculty, the mastery of foreign language requirement, student course evaluations, and graduate student course reviews.

7. Good of the Order

A member noted an article regarding a university abusing their use of Canvas and the supervision of students.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Minutes by Alexandra Portillo, faculty council analyst, xanport@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Fred Bookstein, Lynn Dietrich,
Kristin Gustafson, Thomas Halverson (chair), Kathleen Peterson,
Rania Hussein, Ruben Casas
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Kat Eli, Ashlee Abrantes
President's designee: LeAnne Jones Wiles
Guests: Katie Malcolm, Sean Gehrke, Matt Winslow,

Absent: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Kimberlee Gillis-Bridges,
Timea Tihanyi
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Deepa Banerjee, Clara Coyote

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – Class C resolution (1)

Draft of Class C Legislation on Operationalizing Reasonable Accommodation

Subcommittee Members: Deepa Banerjee, Kat Eli, Sean Gehrke, Rania Hussein, LeAnne Wiles.

Background:

Faculty are being asked to make “reasonable accommodations,” outside of the scope of disability request, for students around a number of things related to teaching and learning (e.g., absence from class for health/religious observance), but there is very little guidance for faculty as to what a “reasonable” accommodation is, and who should have the authority to define what is “reasonable.”

The Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning (FCTL) has been asked to define and operationalize what a “reasonable accommodation” is that meets UW code, and is useful and fair to both faculty and students. Accordingly, During winter quarter 2021 FCTL launched a survey to explore accommodations requested by students, outside of the scope of disability requests, for students around a number of factors related to teaching and learning. The survey was sent through the Senate to all voting faculty in the 3 campuses. 364 faculty completed the survey and the results of the survey are available at

The FCTL used the results of this survey to guide the making of this class C resolution.

Recommendation

WHEREAS the academic year of 20-21 during the pandemic **and social unrest in our country** necessitated faculty to provide accommodations to students and practice flexibility with course requirements and deliverables.

WHEREAS faculty seek general guidance on what is considered “reasonable” accommodation and what not, as the university is transitioning back to in-person instruction. Currently there is limited guidance for faculty and instructors as to what **constitutes** a “reasonable” accommodation, and who should have the authority to define what is “reasonable”.

Whereas departments, units, and schools have different policies and practices pertaining to their curriculum needs and expected outcomes, **and should be afforded some degree of flexibility in their determination of what constitutes a “reasonable” accommodation within the context of their teaching/learning environment.**

Therefore, the Senate recommends that departments, units, and schools consider the following:

1. **To maximize consistency and fairness, departments, units, and schools should formally engage in a process to define (operationalize) for faculty what will constitute a “reasonable” accommodation within their context. This definition should set the boundaries as to what the department, unit, and school recognizes are the limits for granting accommodations for students. Faculty can then work within these parameters, and stay reasonably consistent and fair/equitable in their granting of accommodations to all students.**
2. **Departments, units, and schools should share their definition of a “reasonable” accommodation with all faculty and students.**
3. **Departments, units, and schools should review their definition of a “reasonable” accommodation on a regular and consistent basis (yearly, at a minimum), and make corrections or updates when appropriate.**

4. If cases arise where “reasonable” is not clearly or sufficiently defined by a department, unit, and/or school, they are encouraged to support their faculty in making decisions determined to be in the best interest of their students and courses.