September 16, 2018

Thomas Halverson, Chair  
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning  

Dear Professor Halverson:

The Faculty Council on Teaching & Learning is charged with responsibility “for all matters of policy, both academic and non-academic, relating to improvement of teaching and learning in the university; including distance learning, educational outreach, and summer quarter, and the use of educational technology in instruction” (Faculty Code, Section 42-33). Activities historically performed include addressing a prioritized list of student and faculty-related concerns, inquiries, and interests relating to the effectiveness and overall well-being of pedagogy at the UW, especially by way of inviting key administrators and stakeholders to council meetings for providing supplementary information, and for receiving council and student guidance on the topics at-hand.

Our recommendation is that the council identify specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year’s meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and / or topics for discussion include:

• Evaluate if more can be done to facilitate religious accommodations for students, as requested by the ASUW Student Senate.
• Continue to oversee development of Goals for the use of Learning Analytics at the UW.
• Evaluate if the “Saturday Finals” issue can be can be remedied or its severity reduced.
• Continue work from last year investigating what diversity and equity-informed pedagogy is already being practiced at UW campuses, how these efforts support the student learning experience, and how they further the teaching and learning components of the UW Diversity Blueprint.
• Continue the exploration of the use of course evaluations as a formative feedback mechanism of teaching performance and student learning. This work should support the newly formed task force studying course evaluations at the UW.

After your first council meeting we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council’s goals on the Faculty Senate website to communicate the important work you are doing on their behalf.

Sincerely,

George Sandison  
Chair, Faculty Senate