



September 1, 2017

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 2017-18 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:

- Continue to analyze potential policy or service changes necessary to help UW-IT support faculty and students, potentially through information technology solutions, new online academic tools, or discontinuation of existing tools and services. Make efforts to ensure timely transitions of pedagogical tools and/or software, and encourage timely awareness of any service changes, also considering tri-campus implementation/awareness.
- Aid in governing/setting policies for the use of learning analytics at the UW.
- Consider items from former chair Mary Pat Wenderoth:
 1. Rotating final exam schedule- each year- not each quarter;
 2. Setting the start of winter quarter on a Monday vs Tuesday or Wednesday;
 3. Discuss challenges associated with using Student Evaluation of Teaching in merit and promotion decisions.

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,

Thaisa Way
Chair, Faculty Senate
Professor, Landscape Architecture

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