

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

May 5th, 2016
10:30am – 12:30pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from March 31st, 2016
 3. Concerns about fee-based programs (Amy Hagopian)
 4. UW EO-PCE (Rovy Branon)
 - a) "Continuum College" - branding exercise discussion continued
 - b) role of FCTL in EO-PCE
 - c) update faculty code sections (c. 1989) covering EO-PCE
 5. UW-IT/Academic & Collaborative Applications (Tom Lewis, Karin Roberts, Henry Lyle)
 - a) GPS tool for students
 - b) Catalyst Tools retirement discussion
 - c) Turnitin revisited: data now available
 - d) Deskmail retirement/Office365 General Availability
 6. CTL activities
 8. New chair (Wilkes)
 9. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

Wilkes called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2) Review of the minutes from March 31st, 2016

The minutes from March 31st, 2016 were approved as written.

3) Concerns about fee-based programs (Amy Hagopian)

Amy Hagopian (Associate Professor, Department of Global Health) was present to bring some issues to the council relating to UW's fee-based degree programs. Fee-based programs and their classes do not receive direct financial support from the State of Washington, and are funded entirely by student fees. Hagopian stated that 56% of masters degree students at the UW Seattle campus are in fee-based programs. She noted the Engineering and Business schools run their own in-house fee-based programs, with others ran by UW Professional and Continuing Education (PCE). She brought a handout with more information (Exhibit 1).

Hagopian mentioned that students in fee-based programs are not able to receive financial aid via programs funded by state tuition revenue (as opposed to students in normal degree programs), which can place a financial burden on students.

She referred the council to a section of the handout relating to Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Research Assistants (RAs). She noted that students in fee-based programs may not receive tuition waivers associated with TAs, RAs, or scholarships, sometimes creating difficulty in being awarded these opportunities. She explained state-based students are often favored during hiring for TAs or RAs over fee-based students, and in at least one instance, a student was not able to receive a scholarship she was awarded due to her fee-based status.

An opinion was expressed that students are competent adults who understand the cost of their education and are aware of what they are paying for. Some light discussion ensued. It was noted some programs have the choice of either changing to a fee-based structure, or “dying out” as a program.

Hagopian noted one solution might be to make all the UW’s master programs fee-based, taking state funding out of the equation for those programs. After a question, Hagopian noted that most faculty are likely aware of these concerns.

There was a suggestion that Dave Eaton (Dean and Vice Provost, Graduate School) and Rebecca Aanerud (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Planning, Graduate School) be invited to discuss the issue the next time it is on the agenda.

Rovy Branon (Vice Provost, Educational Outreach) explained finding a way to normalize fees is one goal of PCE. He noted PCE is completely self-sustaining, and is not able to use funding mechanisms that are not self-sustained. He explained that PCE fees are very explicit, and noted that as fee-based become more normalized at the UW, the conversation needs to change and the topic of fee-based programs needs to be considered across the board. He noted that other universities are also facing this same problem.

Wilkes thanked Hagopian for bringing the issue to the council.

4) UW EO-PCE (Rovy Branon)

Continuum College discussion

Branon gave an update on the proposed name change of UW Educational Outreach (UW-EO) to “UW Continuum College,” which was discussed in the last meeting. He explained that by working with the marketing design firm Hornall Anderson, they were able to craft language stating how UW Continuum College fits in with the “Be Boundless” campaign/slogan of the UW.

Branon explained the “UW-CC” acronym problem expressed by members in the last meeting, as well the other pieces of feedback gleaned in the last meeting, were taken back to UW-EO and the organization took that feedback seriously. He noted the online domain name “UW-CC” was not taken due to this

input. There was some discussion of how students often identify more with their department, or major, than with their overarching colleges, which might help to ease the transition when the name change for UW-EO is implemented.

Branon explained UW Continuum College will operate under a new strategic framework. He noted the cost of education is something that must (and currently is) being considered by PCE. He noted one priority is to expand programs and enroll more students, which will help with continued costs and ultimately keep costs lower for students. Branon noted that filling the capacity of courses and programs already in existence is another major goal. He added also that mechanisms are being put in place to further aid faculty in the development and delivery of non-credit offerings.

Branon noted communicating the outward value of PCE externally is another goal, as well. He explained student interest in PCE programs is growing, and a plethora of questions are received daily concerning varying facets of the organization. He noted the complexity of UW Continuum College (UW Educational Outreach) needs to be reconsidered for this reason and others.

FCTL Subcommittee on Educational Outreach

Branon noted he would like to reactivate the FCTL Subcommittee on Educational Outreach to deal with several topics. He noted the UW Scholastic Regulations Chapter 109 "Continuing Education" needs to be investigated and potentially amended, as it has become dated. He noted would also like the opportunity to run new ideas by the subcommittee to gain initial feedback, specifically to discover if a larger base of faculty input should be gathered in regards to certain initiatives.

Tom Lewis (Director, Academic & Collaborative Applications, UW-IT) explained he used to serve on three separate faculty councils relating to educational outreach, and eventually each of those were folded into the FCTL, and so the FCTL has the authority to address teaching and learning within the UW's accessible programs.

Wilkes and the council thanked Branon for the update on the rebranding of UW-EO.

5) UW-IT/Academic & Collaborative Applications (Tom Lewis, Karin Roberts, Henry Lyle)

"GPS" student online tool

Lewis explained a new online tool is being developed in an effort to meet the needs of students and faculty. He asked the council to consider if the tool seems useful, and if access should be given to students, to university advisors, or both.

Henry Lyle (Business Analyst, UW Information Technology) explained his role is to discover technology solutions to meet student and faculty needs. Lyle explained an online application called "GPS" is being developed to help undergraduate students make informed decisions when applying to UW programs, by allowing the viewing of data on GPAs and distribution by major of students who were recently accepted into varying programs. He noted many similar private online applications are already in existence, with

the data garnered through public records requests. He noted these applications tend to allow a few free “looks” or searches, before a paywall appears.

Lyle showcased the application to the council. Once inside the application, the user is able to sort the data by campus and college. From there, a search is narrowed, and the user can view median GPA and distribution by major for students accepted into varying academic programs. He explained that in addition, the application allows the user to see the most commonly taken courses, as well as what students (sorted by varying GPAs) received as a grade in those courses. Functionality is also built-in to the application to view comparisons of data between colleges, courses, and so on, with accompanying visual representations. He explained an additional feature is that the user is able to filter data by academic year, with the ability to view data from several years past.

Lyle explained more resources will be built in to the application eventually, such as contact details for academic advisors. Lewis asked for feedback from council members.

Taylor (president’s designee) noted university advisors should vet the tool before it is launched; several members agreed this to be a good idea.

Another member noted the tool must be “put into context” when/if released to students. Turner noted that a student may not know that holistic admissions at the UW allow for students of varying backgrounds and GPAs to be admitted to otherwise unattainable programs, and a student may choose not to apply to certain programs if this tool is used with no context.

There was some discussion of the online tool effectively granting students the ability to “game the system” by selecting easy courses wherein high grades are distributed widely across a breadth of student GPAs. It was noted, for example, that an undergraduate student might be able to map their way through a major, taking only the “easiest” courses.

Wilkes emphasized that the tool must be paired with a conversation/consultation with an academic advisor, so students understand what they are seeing. He noted the tool is clearly very useful.

Alcantara remarked he sees the tool as useful in granting admission-to-major information for prospective students. He noted he worries about potential misuse of course data.

Branon suggested that perhaps, similar to a paywall, a “see an advisor” wall might pop up for students after a certain number of uses, to encourage advisor consultation.

It was noted the tool would also be useful to parents of UW students in planning (financially) for the cost of their child’s education, as that cost tends to compound if a student is not accepted into their first-choice major. Olavarria expressed concern that the tool encourages careful, calculated academic planning in lieu of academic exploration. He noted by launching this tool in this state, the university is effectively making a statement that will need to be “owned.”

After a question, Lewis explained the main problem the tool addresses was stated precisely by students, and it came down to not having important knowledge about courses and programs when making enrollment decisions.

Lewis noted the concerns are well-received. He explained he would give another update on the new online tool in a future meeting.

Catalyst Tools retirement discussion

Karin Roberts (Manager, Assessment, Academic & Collaborative Applications) listed off some of the current Catalyst tools for members. She explained retirement of some Catalyst tools is being considered following a directive from UW-IT leadership and other UW governance groups. She used a PowerPoint during her presentation (Exhibit 2).

Roberts explained the process her office has been using to conduct the process to determine tools to retire, which includes the broadcasting of surveys, interviewing users, meeting with committees, and testing for usage. She noted currently, her team is attempting to identify alternatives to those Catalyst tools that are not as widely used. She listed a few Catalyst tools that will definitely not be retired due to high usage and/or niche uses:

- Web Q
- Gradebook

Roberts noted data shows that usage of Catalyst tools overall has been steadily falling over the past six years at the UW. She noted Catalyst tools have seen a 50% decline since the launch of *Canvas*. She explained some of the alternative and common uses of tools that might otherwise have waning usage (Slide 11, Exhibit 2).

Roberts noted 50% of survey participants responded that 3-6 months is an adequate amount of time for migration to occur. She explained surveys also show that many who use Catalyst do so because there isn't a necessity to change. She asked for feedback from members.

Discussion ensued. Wilkes asked if Canvas tools can be used for administrative purposes. The answer given was no. Bookstein noted that during migration to new tools, it would be beneficial to have a short list of reasons (that are non-negotiable) explaining why those Catalyst tools are being retired, to give faculty some background; he explained he would also like a single page of instructions on how to migrate to whatever tool will act as a replacement. Other members generally agreed these to be good ideas.

Roberts thanked members for their feedback.

Turnitin revisited: data now available

Lewis explained UW licensing of the online tool Turnitin (an Internet-based plagiarism-prevention service) is under a yearly contract. He noted an assessment of Turnitin and its usage at the UW has been

underway due in part to increased costs of licensing the service in the future, but also due to other factors. He noted he would like to ask the council if it seems reasonable to proceed with an alternative plan. He explained this assessment included examining usage data, and talking to instructors from a variety of departments and campuses. The guests used a handout during the presentation (Exhibit 3).

Roberts noted there were two significant findings in the assessment: many instructors were using Turnitin simply to discourage plagiarism and encourage academic integrity, and many other instructors reported using Turnitin as teaching tool relating to providing citations in scholarly works.

Taking these use cases into consideration, UW-IT reviewed other anti-plagiarism products, and landed on "Vericite" as the best alternative. Products were evaluated for cost, usability, Canvas integration, flexibility in reporting, and ability to select reference databases for comparison. It was noted Turnitin costs were expected to increase by approximately 10% in the next licensing period.

Lewis asked for feedback from members.

Gillis-Bridges asked if UW student works would be made part of the Vericite document database when checked for plagiarism. Turnitin allows for an opt out of this process, she explained. The answer was not immediately known, though the guests explained they would find out.

Wilkes asked how many FCTL members would be concerned about the use of Vericite at this time; no objections to use of Vericite were raised. He noted in his own view, as long as the product works, instructors likely will have no problem with it. Discussion subsided. Lewis thanked the council for feedback.

Deskmail retirement/Office365 General Availability

Lewis explained at some point in the future, the UW Deskmail service poses a security risk, as the software was developed in-house years ago and is now dated. He noted currently, all faculty can use UW Gmail in lieu of Deskmail. Lewis explained that due to the concerns over UW Deskmail, Microsoft Outlook Online will be made available to all UW faculty, staff, and students. He explained the new service would be announced to the university. After a question, Lewis explained there is no timeline for retiring UW Deskmail, as UW Medicine uses it in high frequency.

6) CTL activities

Kalikoff (Director, Center for Teaching and Learning) noted the draft guide to evaluating teaching in tenure and promotion cases will be changed in accordance with feedback given by several reviewing bodies. She noted when the document is finalized, she hopes the FCTL will vote on its approval in the June meeting of the council.

7) New chair (Wilkes)

Wilkes noted member Dan Turner will serve as chair in the next academic year (2016-2017).

8) Adjourn

Wilkes adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: **Faculty:** Jennifer Taggart, Dan Turner, Jeff Wilkes, Kimberlee Gillis-Bridges, Timea Tihanyi, Kathleen Peterson, Ellen McGough, Jaime Olavarria, Fred Bookstein
President's designee: Ed Taylor
Ex-officio reps: Terry Ann Jankowski, Eldridge Alcantara
Guests: Rovy Branon, Tom Lewis, Nana Lowell, Christine Sugatan, Beth Kalikoff, Henry Lyle, Karin Roberts

Absent: **Faculty:** David Masuda, Jan Spyridakis, Brenda Zierler
Ex-officio reps: Lucas Gordon

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – theproblemwithfeebasededprograms_hagopian_fctl_spring2016

Exhibit 2 – FCTL- Catalyst -May16

Exhibit 3 – turnitinassessment_fctl_spring2016