

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

June 4th, 2015
10:30am - noon
Gerberding 142

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from May 7th, 2015
 3. Discussion and vote on recommendation regarding CEC access by students and faculty (see below*)
 4. FCTL annual report text
 5. Planning for next year
 6. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

Wilkes called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

2) Review of the minutes from May 7th, 2015

The minutes from May 7th, 2015 were approved as written.

3) Discussion and vote on recommendation regarding CEC access by students and faculty

The council continued its discussion on the UW Course Evaluation Catalogue (CEC) from their last meeting. Wilkes noted a possibility that the council may vote to pass a resolution urging the university to provide Course Evaluation Catalogue information to students by way of some designated venue, in lieu of the fact that CEC information (which shows aggregated student ratings of courses and professors for a vast array of offered UW courses) will be made unavailable in the upcoming academic year (2015-2016) because of difficulties in budgeting and data-scraping.

The council discussed the draft resolution (written by Wilkes), which consists of three main recommendations:

- a) FCTL recommends that the Course Evaluation Catalog be transferred from its present legacy system to a secure Tableau environment housed on UW enterprise computing, thus making it available to faculty and students but secure from “scraping” by persons outside UW (as proposed by T. Lewis last meeting);
- b) FCTL recommends that CEC summaries on MyPlan, as discussed and approved at previous meetings, be adopted only as an interim measure, to be removed and replaced by appropriate links to the full CEC database once the transfer of CEC to Tableau is completed;
- c) FCTL urges the Provost to supply any additional resources required by UW-IT and OEA to accomplish these revisions to CEC within academic year 2015-16.

After discussion, the council learned by way of Nana Lowell (Director, Office of Educational Assessment) that recommendation “b” is no longer plausible, as the project would have been piloted by UW-IT, and the organization has made clear they no longer have an intention to go through with it.

Given this information, the council held a vote to approve the resolution, with the omission of all language located within recommendation “b.”

The resolution was approved by majority vote of the council.

Comments were made concerning the importance of students being able to utilize UW course ratings for gaining the best possible understanding of the courses and professors available to them before finalizing their class schedules.

4) FCTL annual report text

Wilkes explained to the council that in his role as council chair, he is charged with drafting an annual summary of the council’s activities, also known as the council’s annual report. He asked that council members provide input on potential activities to be included in this document.

Report from Subcommittee on Teaching Effectiveness

McGough noted the Subcommittee on Teaching Effectiveness has evaluated technology resources for students and has nearly finished drafting a report on their findings. She explained the group has found through use of surveys and investigations of already-gleaned data that there are many excellent technology-related resources for students on campus, though they have located “gaps” in faculty’s ability to effectively incorporate these into their courses and general teaching. The subcommittee is working on detecting additional, more-specific gaps, as well as tactics to fill them, it was noted.

Lowell expressed an interest to work with the subcommittee in improving student learning, as the Office of Educational Assessment and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) are currently working together to provide additional resources for faculty in their teaching.

McGough expressed a desire for the entire council to discuss the topics currently being deliberated by her subcommittee. Wilkes agreed this would be beneficial, and an idea was discussed to have a “sort-of online-learning day” for council members by utilizing the council’s meeting-time block. McGough noted the subcommittee is ready to gain further council guidance on questions and topics that should be analyzed further.

5) Planning for next year

Wilkes explained his design for the council in the next year surrounds focusing on only one, or possibly two topics, with the intention of taking some focused, meaningful action. It was noted incoming Faculty Senate Chair Norm Beauchamp has tasked the council to include “The Husky Experience” in its deliberation of topics for the upcoming year. The council has also been tasked to investigate potential possibilities and ramifications of inducing Activity-Based Budgeting into the fiscal management of UW’s summer quarter by the ABB Review Committee, the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB), and university administration.

Activity-Based Budgeting

Rovy Branon (Vice Provost, Educational Outreach) made some comments surrounding how deliberation of potential changes to management of summer quarter has been found to be a very large topic, and Jerry Baldasty (Interim Provost, University of Washington) has plans to task an administrative executive committee to address the topic. Branon noted there are plans to have this administrative body consult regularly with the FCTL, as well as an additional unnamed body.

The council and guests discussed relevant questions and possibilities to be considered while reflecting on the topic of inducing ABB-modeling into UW's summer quarter, a few of these were:

- To what degrees does the university want to encourage faculty to teach during the summer?
- Some departments do not want to encourage their junior faculty to teach during the summer for varying reasons.

Lowell noted there are several additional questions to be considered when discussing this topic.

Scheduling/spaces

The council held some discussion concerning the work of the learning spaces assessment committee, as some FCTL members are also members of that body. During discussion on the latest improvements in learning spaces, flexible seating arrangements were noted to be found as very important in the preliminary creation of new classrooms, along with magnetic whiteboards to allow improvised posting of exhibits, and inclusion of a main overhead projector to support traditional-style pedagogy.

Lewis explained that one of the efforts Phil Reid (Associate vice Provost, UW-IT Academic Services) has engaged in is "future-proofing" new buildings. Historically, there has not been enough funding to effectively do this, though now, it is somewhat standard to imbed equipment into new buildings to support heightened technology-use.

Tom Lewis (Director, Academic & Collaborative Applications, UW-IT) noted there are asbestos concerns when renovating buildings. Some members remarked that asbestos control has been a problem in the past, especially when demolishing or renovating very old buildings.

Turner explained that the Subcommittee on Learning Spaces is working on scheduling classroom-use to be made more efficient. He explained three main changes under consideration for revising scheduling practices:

- i. a 50-hour week scheduling window instead of a 40-hour week
- ii. "block scheduling" as opposed to current scheduling practices
- iii. Responding to the complaints of the ten-minute window between class sessions

A member explained there is no scheduling proposal being considered that will "cut instructional time." Moreover, the groups working on new scheduling models incorporate existing data on days and times of the week wherein students learn most effectively before making recommendations. He added that a report on the committee's findings will be made available and is currently being drafted.

6) Adjourn

Wilkes adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Jan Spyridakis, Jennifer Taggart, Dan Turner, Jeffrey Wilkes (chair),
Brenda Zierler, Ellen McGough
Ex-Officio reps: Terry Ann Jankowski, Eldridge Alcantara, Robert Corbett
Guests: Rovy Branon, Tom Lewis, Nana Lowell

Absent: **Faculty:** David Masuda, Bruce Nelson, Jaime Olavarria
President's designee: Ed Taylor
Ex-Officio reps: Hailey Badger