

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY  
Thursday, May 17, 2007 2:30-4:00 p.m.  
224 Mary Gates Hall

Chair Baldasty called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Faculty Council on Educational Technology: Plagiarism report
  2. Minutes
  3. Discussion on Ten Year Review
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**1. Faculty Council on Educational Technology: Plagiarism Report**

Chair Baldasty introduced the guest speaker, Werner Kaminsky, Chair of the Faculty Council on Educational Technology (FCET). Kaminsky handed out an FCET report on plagiarism that he has presented to the Senate Executive Committee and the Secretary of the Faculty Senate, Gerry Philipsen. Kaminsky related a story of a UW professor who two and a half years ago had a student submit to him a paper that he had written himself 20 years earlier. This was the start of the investigation into plagiarism, which Kaminsky sites as involving approximately 30% of the student body. He identified several problems that lead to plagiarism:

- Not much is expected from High School students
- Students are not prepared at the university to understand plagiarism is a crime in the real world.
- The speed of the internet and the habit of using sites with no citations.

He added that faculty also plagiarizes which is an uncomfortable truth and often arises out of ignorance and habit.

Kaminsky emphasized that a solution should not be to punish students, but to help and self-educate them. He laid out a four-part recommendation for action:

- Provide all new students with an information packet, with discussion, that covers Intellectual Property Rights and the consequences of Plagiarism.
- Develop a “Code of Honor” that addresses plagiarism.
- Provide students technical assistance in how to properly cite sources.
- Have students self-monitor their papers for plagiarism with the use of a computer program.

Kaminsky commented that testing for plagiarism depends upon the field that you are in. He did not recommend that faculty test for it because they will be subject to possible retaliation, i.e. bad class evaluations. He suggested that students should test themselves, and described a commercial service called Turnitin.com that FCET is considering trying

with a free two-month pilot program. Kaminsky noted concerns about UW student papers being kept in a general database. He said that FCET had pressured them to agree to store the papers in a separate database.

Council members discussed several issues broadly about the proposal:

- Whether the document was meant for students only, or for everyone.
- Concerns with introducing a Code of Honor to a school that doesn't currently have one, and how you might go about doing it.
- Why plagiarism isn't being addressed by faculty now.
- Problems with introducing plagiarism during new student orientation and why using Freshman Interest Groups to distribute it instead might work well.
- U.S. Copyright mentality

Council member Wenderoth noted that most students don't really understand plagiarism. They know that it's bad but don't recognize it in their own work. She pointed to the library's workshops as helpful tools in addressing plagiarism.

A discussion ensued about students' rights when they submit papers to the database.

Baldasty suggested that the council endorse the plagiarism proposal and note that it builds support with faculty and students, starts with a small phase-in, and addresses the concerns raised about copyright. Council members voted to endorse the proposal, with 7 in favor, and 1 objecting. Baldasty agreed to send Kaminsky the council's comments, caveats, and suggestions for wording.

## **2. Minutes**

With no comment, council members approved the April 19, 2007 FCIQ minutes.

## **3. Discussion on Ten Year Review**

Baldasty noted that his department is in the process of undergoing a 10 year review. He described the kinds of questions within the template and asked the council to tell him what they would like to see in it about teaching. Council member Carline suggested that course objectives and how they are measured should be part of the review template. Council members engaged in a discussion about learning goals and how they are typically measured using grades, course materials covered, or an accumulation of student ratings.

Carline inquired if there is anything in the course review on how teaching is supported in a department. Baldasty noted that there is currently no measurement for this in the template. Carline requested that the review ask in what ways do you engage faculty in talking about learning goals? He noted that it should also include a question about Instructional Technology (IT) support.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu, or 206.543.2884*

**Present: Faculty:** Baldasty (Chair), Carline, Edgar, Martin-Morris, Salehi-Esfahani,  
Ward, Wenderoth

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Jacobsen

**Absent: Faculty:** Gillis-Bridges (excused), Kim, Underwood

**Ex-Officio:** Taylor, McManus, Rohani-Rahbar, Shields, Trudeau (excused)

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Arora, Ford, Lewis, Lowell