

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY
WEDNESDAY, April 15, 2009, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Pat Wenderoth called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Class C resolution passed SEC and student photos are now available
 2. UW SOTL symposium April 21st
 3. Working groups for faculty - CIDR
 4. Documenting best teaching practices
 5. Changes to CEI (Challenge and Engagement Index)
 6. Invitation to Curriculum Committee to join us
 7. Other business
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Chair Mary Pat Wenderoth called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Class C resolution passed SEC and student photos are now available

Wenderoth reported that she presented the Class C resolution on student photo lists at the last Senate Executive Committee meeting, and it passed unanimously. It will go next to the Faculty Senate for a vote on Thursday, April 23rd. Wenderoth noted that the student photos are already available to faculty who can simply click a little silhouette icon on their MyUW page to get student photos with their class list. Tom Lewis noted that the student photos will also be available in synoptic view in the Catalyst grade book. He also suggested to Wenderoth that she write a note of thanks to Sara Gomez, Vice Provost/Chief Information Officer, and Bill Yock, Associate Vice Provost, Enterprise Information Services, Office of Information Management for their work in making the class photo list happen.

Action: Don Janssen made a motion to have Chair Wenderoth write a thank you note on behalf of the council to Gomez and Yock. The motion was seconded, and approved.

Wenderoth raised the issue of students getting updated photos at no cost and said she would talk with Todd Mildon about it. Phuong Nguyen noted that the ASUW Senate also passed the resolution.

2. UW SOTL symposium April 21st

Wayne Jacobson reported that the UW Symposium on Teaching and Learning (SOTL) will be held next Tuesday, April 21 in the HUB ballroom. Mary Pat Wenderoth will be the keynote speaker at 2:30 p.m., and the poster session will begin at 3:30 p.m. Jacobson noted that it was the best response yet to the program with over 50 poster sessions to be presented. He explained that they are currently working to film a 2 minute video clip of each poster that can be posted online.

Wenderoth emphasized how more useful the video clip will be than the static pdf used in the past in helping to connect participants' names to their faces. Wenderoth envisions building a teaching network through symposium participants.

Council members discussed getting the word out about SOTL. There will be a story about it in the next University Week, and Jacobson said he will contact The Daily. Jacobson also noted that they have spoken with the advancement person in the Graduate School. He spoke about the importance of archiving the really good stories out there about teachers who really care. Wenderoth suggested that they contact the development person from each of the departments, schools and colleges of the faculty members presenting to have them attend the symposium. Wenderoth shared an idea for workshops on how to do a project for SOTL and how to present it in a poster. Lewis offered the help of the UW technology students who teach tech workshops.

3. Working groups for faculty – CIDR

Jacobson introduced a series of CIDR workshops designed to help UW faculty weather changes triggered by the budget crisis. The topics were created in response to concerns faculty expressed in a recent CIDR survey on the kind of changes they were anticipating. Jacobson outlined the four working group topics: course redesign, assessments, designing assignments that are meaningful and manageable, engagement in large classes, and writing. The workshops are designed to give instructors an opportunity to raise their own questions, find out what their colleagues are doing, as well as get feedback on their own ideas. Lewis noted that his department is hearing from more faculty looking at technology to help with the threat of fewer teaching assistants. Jacobson noted the idea of using the web because of the challenges in scheduling a large group of people. He spoke of the value in getting instructors to see that they don't have to reinvent the wheel, and find ideas already in use for dealing with larger classes. Jacobson was asked about the size of "W" course sections. He noted that John Webster would be the most knowledgeable person on that topic and he will be addressing the groups on writing. It was suggested that Webster could be invited to the council to address the writing course issue.

4. Documenting best teaching practices

Wenderoth updated the council on the course that she and Eugene Edgar created and area voluntarily teaching this quarter as a means for documenting best teaching practices. The course is called "YouTube Goes to College." There are 16 students in the course from a wide variety of disciplines. The students' goal is to document what is best teaching and what is best learning at UW. They will interview, using a flip camera, faculty and students. Scott Macklin from the School of Education is helping students with their camera techniques. Wenderoth noted that the class is very interesting is helping students to figure out what questions to ask. She was asked how students found the class. It seems students simply found the class by surfing the web and the fact that the courses are listed as Education 401F. Wenderoth described all the technical aspects of camera work that students are learning along with the fact that they must get permission to film anyone who speaks on camera. She noted that she thought the course was listed as a VLP general education course. Wenderoth noted that it is important to keep the course current and would be valuable as a template to be used to study what is taught in the Law or Medical Schools, for example.

5. Changes to CEI (Challenge and Engagement Index)

Wenderoth noted that Nana Lowell was not here today. She will ask her to talk more about the Challenge and Engagement Index (CEI) at the next meeting. The CEI score can be found on course evaluations at the bottom right hand corner. Wenderoth explained the history of the CEI and how it is meant to measure course rigor and reliability. She felt that faculty don't understand the score and that it needs to be more informative. A discussion began about the CEI scale, how faculty interpret the numbers, and the usefulness of the index as raw numbers in showing changes faculty members are making in courses.

6. Invitation to Curriculum Committee to join us

Wenderoth reported that she is still trying to get the Curriculum Committee to speak to the council about the form for new course submission. She would like to make a general inquiry about the changes they've made over the years and whether the changes are working out. She noted that if they can get new courses off to a good start in terms of instructional quality, it will be easier to make any changes to them later. A discussion began about student access to new course postings, getting the course form linked to the catalogue, and the importance of faculty being able to get their course form linked to multiple sites with one effort. Lewis noted that the old main frame systems at the university often make it difficult to move information around the web for updates. He spoke about *Kuali Student*, a next-generation student administrative system being developed by a consortium of higher education institutions, world-wide. Lewis pointed out how it will enable course descriptions and allows flexible ways to update information. He recommended inviting Todd Mildon, University Registrar, or Sara Gomez, Vice Provost/Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management, to come talk about the project. Craig Allen spoke about the Law School's efforts to get instructors to write more general course descriptions and keep in mind their syllabus and learning objectives, in order to remain flexible. Wenderoth noted that course descriptions reflect the overall content of the class and then the learning objectives. She noted that it would be good to have someone speak to the council about *Kuali Student* either this year or next.

Wenderoth also noted that Tom Lewis has some technology information to share. Lewis first described an interview of primary investigators from across all disciplines on where their research is going and how technology has played a role. He noted the increasingly blurred line between teaching and research. The interview has been written up into a 10 page paper. The second set of data is from the Learning and Scholarly Technologies' spring survey of faculty, teaching assistants, and students. Wenderoth selected the latter topic as the most important to hear about first, and she will put him on the next agenda.

7. Other business

A suggestion was made to find new council members from departments that will be hit hard by the budget cuts such as English, Mathematics, and the Health Sciences.

A question was raised about the effectiveness of the online grading tool. Members discussed design issues related to Gradebook and the steps involved in sending only final grades online. Lewis noted that 49% of grades were submitted on time last quarter. Wenderoth praised the online grading tool for having a good first roll out.

Action: A motion was made to approve the minutes for March 5, 2009. The motion was seconded, and approved with no comment.

Deb Raftus alerted council members to an email that will be sent out to all faculty from the Dean of the Library concerning budget cuts to the materials collection. She noted that subject librarians will speak to departments about strategies for coping with the cuts. Raftus also described a pilot project for this quarter in which the libraries will take requests for an article in print, and then scan it and send it out electronically. She noted it was like an interlibrary loan service and that people were very excited about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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

Present: Faculty: Allen, Janssen, Salehi-Esfahani, Wenderoth (Chair)

***Ex Officio* Reps:** Raftus, Nguyen, Zarelli

Regularly Invited Guests: Lewis, Jacobson, Sugatan

Absent: Faculty: Edgar, Underwood

President's Designee: Taylor

***Ex Officio* Reps:** Nkeze

Regularly Invited Guests: Lowell