

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Instructional Quality
Tuesday, March 29, 2005

Synopsis:

1. Recognizing excellence in teaching among lecturers (Ingebritsen)
2. Pick-A-Prof (Jeffords)
3. Transparency in Overload Policies
4. Faculty Conversation proposal
5. SOTL update

Chair Jan Carline called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The minutes were approved.

Transparency in Overload Policies

Students would like to see the overload policy for each class stated on the time schedule so they will know when they register whether overloads are allowed or not, and understand the procedure for getting into a class on an overload basis. Each professor seems to have a different set of rules.

Matt Winslow of the Registrar's Office said that they have asked all departments to do this, but have left it to the departments to follow through. The Registrar's Office could order that this be done, but it would be a lot of information on a lot of pages. Christine Ingebritsen, Acting Dean of Undergraduate Education, said she could mention this at a Board of Deans meeting and encourage accountability.

Carline commented that Undergraduate Education is working on a system that would have faculty put all this kind of information, including Learning Objectives, on an electronic time schedule. This might be a good place for the overload policy. Ingebritsen will pursue this with the students.

Recognizing Teaching Excellence

Carline related an incident where a notice sent out for nominations for the Distinguished Teaching Award appeared to limit nominations only to those who taught undergraduates. Ingebritsen explained that the staff member who sent out the notice added "undergraduate" in error, and apologized for the oversight. The Distinguished Teaching award is open to everyone.

However, this oversight brings up the issue of teaching awards in general. Ingebritsen wants to recognize more faculty, since there are so many high quality faculty at the UW. Additional awards might be based on levels of interest per school and college as well as an overall award for the entire UW. In some ways, this is a retention issue – the call from Gerberding Hall notifying a faculty member that they have won the Distinguished Teaching Award is a transforming moment. FCIQ could partner with the Teaching Academy and OUE in encouraging teaching awards, Ingebritsen said.

Carline said FCIQ has advocated more teaching awards in the past, but Arts and Sciences was reluctant because they did not want to encourage competition among faculty. Wayne Jacobson said that many departments have TA awards, but no corresponding award for faculty. In Social Work, Susan Kemp said, the students do a ballot for their choice of teacher. So does the Jackson School.

It might be a good idea to leave the Distinguished Teaching Award "as is" and add other awards. Could the Teaching Academy be opened up to recipients of other awards?

After discussion, Carline said FCIQ will revisit its former position on awards, come up with a recommendation, and forward it to Ingebritsen. ASUW could also take a hand in this, by advocating with the schools and colleges.

Office of Undergraduate Education Update

Ingebriksen said George Bridges leaves for Whitman College July 1, and she has been named Acting Dean. It will probably take a year or more to find a new Dean, especially since the UW Provost position is vacant. She encouraged FCIQ to bring to her all concerns about Undergraduate Education.

Changes may happen. It's possible that OUE, OMA and Student Affairs might be merged. Ingebriksen will keep the Council updated on this and other developments as they arise.

SOTL Update

Wayne Jacobson reported that 45 faculty members from 22 departments are participating in the upcoming SOTL Showcase. FCIQ members should spread the word, so attendance is good. Jacobson will send out an invitation to all faculty through the Faculty Senate Office, and will invite the Regents.

Faculty Conversations Proposal

FCIQ has applied for a President's Diversity Fund grant to hold a series of faculty conversations on classroom climate for diversity. Susan Kemp presented the finished proposal to FCIQ. If the grant is awarded, an FCIQ member will be the co-PI, with Undergrad Education as the fiscal agent. Decisions on the grants are scheduled for April 8. Kemp will keep the Council informed.

Pick-A-Prof

Susan Jeffords visited FCIQ to discuss a Website called Pick-A-Prof.com that contains grades awarded by UW professors. The grades were obtained by the Website under a Public Information request. A Teaching Assistant found this Website and was outraged to find class grades on the site, but there is little that can be done because it is public information.

Jeffords asked FCIQ to look into the matter and come up with a recommendation as to what might be done. Questions are:

- How do we feel about this?
- Should the Public Information law be changed to exclude grades?
- Should the UW stop generating the information? If this is done, the AG said the University could stop giving the company this information.
- Is there anything wrong with sharing this information?
- Could the information be made available in an educationally sound way; i.e., in context?
- Is there a way to tell how many students are using the Website? If OEA advertised on the site, they could probably ask for traffic information.
- Could the UW publish this info, in context, to mitigate the effects of the Pick-A-Prof site?

After discussion, it was decided that FCIQ will look at these questions and the Website, and come up with some recommendations for Jeffords. As always, this issue feeds back into the issue of a comprehensive, revamped course information system that would already contain all this kind of information. Carline suggested that this task should be taken up next quarter. Kemp agreed, commenting that FCIQ could begin the thinking work about what the University wants to provide. Before the April 14 meeting, Carline said, FCIQ members should visit the Pick-A-Prof site and look at it.

The meeting was adjourned at 2.55 p.m. *Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.*

Present: Carline, Coe, Mai, Gillis-Bridges, Kemp, Jacobson, Crown, Lane, Lowell, Holmes, Jeffords

Absent: Kasonic, Kim, Greenwald, Wenderoth, Parks, Brooks, Trudeau

Guest: Zach Tobin, ASUW, Christine Ingebriksen, Dean OUE, Matt Winslow, Assistant Registrar