

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY  
TUESDAY, March 11, 2008, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
129 Odegaard Library

Chair Mary Pat Wenderoth called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1. Approval of minutes**
- 2. UW-SOTL update**
- 3. Review of new Catalyst tools**
- 4 Update on Photo Class list**
- 5. Update report on how to recognize Teaching Excellence**
- 6. Discussion of status of General Education requirements**
- 7. New Business**

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**1. Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. UW-SOTL update**

Council guest Wayne Jacobsen updated the council on the May 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Teaching and Learning (SOTL) to say that several proposals are in and that the deadline for submission is next Monday, March 17, 2008. He noted that most proposals arrive at the last minute. Jacobsen also announced that the keynote speaker for the symposium will be Tom Hinckley from the College of Forest Resources.

**3. Review of new Catalyst tools**

Special guest Bill Schaefer, Project Manager for UW Technology, spoke about the new Catalyst online tool Common View. Schaefer described Common View as a collaborative workspace environment for faculty and staff. Using a computer screen and online tools, Schaefer walked the council through the process of creating a first workspace demonstrating the ease and use of the workspace environment.

Several questions were raised about the relationship of Common View with other online Catalyst tools such as Simple Site and Web Q. Schaefer explained how Common View would overlap with some other online workspaces. He noted that in the future it will tie into existing databases such as the library, and student and net identifications. Using Wenderoth's Biology 462 course for spring quarter 2008, Schaefer demonstrated the concept of "views," creative ways to create work on one page that looks the same on another. Wenderoth asked about the online "Collect It" tool for homework and whether it was necessary to repeat that feature in Common View. Schaefer explained how to add a link to the Collect It site through the instructor's course description that populates the site with a link. He noted that Common View employs a "rich cross-pollination of databases."

A discussion began about technology from a student's viewpoint. It was pointed out that students have many URLs to remember. A future possibility would be to have a link between the student's enrollment in a course and the course website, so that students would only have to go to their MyUW page. Schaefer noted that a Catalyst vision is to have Common View linked into the UW central databases. He explained that the files that you create reside on Catalyst. Schaefer also spoke about being able to personalize the space in the future with the use of color. He spoke about the look of a page and the use of "widgets" as defining elements to make a page unique. An example was given of using an image of Mt. Rainier to connect with a course in ecology.

Council member Doug Underwood addressed the issue of faculty members finding time to figure out new technologies. He noted the time constraints he faces with service requirements and other departmental obligations. A very long and thoughtful discussion ensued about the value of computers in the classroom, and the use of technology to teach in general. Talk focused on technology as information overload and the difference between accessing information and knowing what to do with it. Council members discussed ways to introduce thinking categories into the technology. Jacobsen suggested getting early adapters of Common View on board to show how they used it in their course. He said that he felt it could be used to teach critical thinking but it must be presented in a way that shows faculty how they can use it, in order for them to take the next step. He asked Schaefer to contact CIDR for help on this.

**4. & 5.** These agenda items were tabled until the April meeting.

#### **6. Discussion of status of General Education requirements**

Chair Wenderoth commented that she will try to get someone to talk about how general education requirements are structured. She noted that she will talk with advisers to find out about general education requirements in each area. Wenderoth spoke about wanting to get at the "IQ"-instructional quality-in FCIQ, and how the Challenge Engagement Index, an assessment of how challenging students found their courses, provides insight into it.

#### **7. New Business**

There was no new business today.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu or 543-2884*

**Present: Faculty:** Janssen, Underwood, Ward, Wenderoth (Chair)

**President's Designee:** Taylor

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Lowell, Jacobsen

**Absent: Faculty:** Allen (excused), Baldasty, Edgar (excused), Salehi-Esfahani (excused)

**Ex Officio Reps:** Hahn, Holmes (excused), Nkeze (excused)

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Lewis (excused)

**Special Guest:** Bill Schaefer