

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY  
THURSDAY, January 29, 2009, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Pat Wenderoth called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Fang Lin, a software engineer from MyUW will ask us for a critique of the Teaching Page.
2. Amanda Hornby, UW Libraries Undergraduate Instruction Coordinator will tell us about her role at UW Libraries.
3. Let's Talk Teaching at UW club- new teaching event ( MPW)
4. CIDR quarterly forum Feb. 12.- ( W.J.)
5. Recent legislation introduced in Olympia about textbooks (MPW)
6. Update on Student photo presentation to GPSS ( MPW)
7. Other business

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Wenderoth asked council members for any corrections to the minutes from January 15, 2009. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**1. Fang Lin, a software engineer from MyUW will ask us for a critique of the Teaching Page.**

Wenderoth introduced Fang Lin, MyUW software engineer, and Janice Granberg, Technology Manager, UW Technology. Lin and Granberg were asked to speak to FCIQ members about the MyUW Teaching Page, to understand what goes into it, how the content is decided, and what input this council might have to make it a better page.

Fang noted that the Registrar's office originally defined the MyUW teaching tab, and that Catalyst designed the order of the boxes along the top, based upon general use patterns. She also noted that on the right side is My Class Resources, the personal content box for each faculty member currently teaching. Lin explained how the box content was refreshed last year, and how Catalyst and the Office of Information Management work together with MyUW.

Lin was asked where a class description would go on the teaching page. Lin explained how once the class has been added to the page it is possible to update the class content. Wenderoth noted the current problem is that not every course has an instructor course description (ICD), and that while she understands why some faculty have not provided them, they are very valuable to students when they are selecting their courses. Wenderoth asked who determined the format for MyUW. She explained the difficulties she experiences in getting her class list in a format that recognizes the 0 at the start of their student numbers, a glitch she sees they will have for the next

couple of years. Wenderoth asked who she could contact concerning the student database problem; Granberg said she would get Wenderoth the name of a contact.

Don Janssen inquired about the possibility of having MyUW show his next quarter courses by the end of finals week. He explained how he just wants to see his class list for the upcoming quarter. Lin replied that before, once a student registered for your class it would show up on your schedule. Now however, because of a design decision, course information is not updated until the start of the quarter. Lin noted that they are hoping to form a MyUW advisory group to advise them on the teaching page. Wenderoth expressed her support for that idea.

Wenderoth noted that the MyUW teaching page brings a lot of groups together: the Registrar, who controls the student database and sets priorities, MyUW, which provides the portal for data, and Catalyst, which designs the web pages for faculty use and conducts usability tests. Lewis explained how his student database team must work under the rules and priorities set by the Registrar's office, which are sometimes at odds with the work of Catalyst. He suggested that Wenderoth invite the Registrar, Todd Mildon, to speak to the council. Jansson suggested that Classroom Support Services (CSS) needs to update its system to include important room information, such as the location of all emergency exits, when he clicks "room info" on his MyUW teaching page. Wenderoth said she would invite Roberta Hopkins, Director of CSS, to speak to the council on that issue.

Wenderoth pointed to the column on the left side of the MyUW teaching page as information that can be very valuable. She asked who decides which blocks are included, what order they go in, and what goes into them? No one seemed to know the answer. Wenderoth asked members what they would want to change or add. She also noted that perhaps this would be good for the advisory group. Jacobson described lists like that as not transparent, a little long, which makes it difficult to know where to look for information.

Wenderoth underscored her liking of the advisory group, noting it could have 3-4 faculty members, some advisors, and members from the Teaching and Learning Consortium. She said she will work with MyUW to help figure out an advisory group, in order to help turn the teaching portal into a kind of "one-stop shopping" for teaching, especially when new faculty fellows come in. Wenderoth thanked Lin and Granberg for speaking to the council today.

## **2. Amanda Hornby, UW Libraries Undergraduate Instruction Coordinator will tell us about her role at UW Libraries**

Amanda Hornby, Undergraduate Instruction Coordinator, UW Libraries, introduced herself and described her new position. She handed out to council members a one page description of some of her goals in undergraduate instruction and some of the resources available to teaching and research assistants. Hornby noted that she is also the chair of the Libraries' Teaching and

Learning Committee, tasked to manage the library portion of the faculty fellows. It is a new role and she expressed a desire to work with FCIQ on her faculty fellows program. She explained her background, and her desire to work with CIDR and FCIQ on teaching and learning initiatives. Hornby noted that one of her passions is to help students learn how to integrate research skills with writing, quantitative skills, technology literacy and other forms of knowledge production. She spoke about her interest in developing more online learning modules and references for undergraduates.

Wenderoth raised the issue of the overwhelming amount of information that is available now and how UW faculty often don't know where to go to find what they want. Hornby said that one of her goals is to develop a teaching and learning portal for librarians, which could be customized for faculty. Wenderoth noted the value in how the libraries could provide some of the resources needed that will be lost in departmental budget cuts. Hornby was asked about "walk-in workshops." She explained how she conducts workshops on how to use Google, and how to avoid unintentional plagiarism, among other topics. She invited council members to attend one and offered to send a link to "walk-in workshops." Hornby noted that her interest in developing online learning modules is driven by the fact that students are turning to the internet for their information. She was asked about search databases and whether she works with students to teach them about primary sources. Hornby explained that many electronic databases are making the digitalization of back files a priority but that it really depends upon the discipline and the coverage available. She was urged to teach undergraduate students about the limitations of databases. Wenderoth thanked Hornby for her visit to the council.

### **3. Let's Talk Teaching at UW Club-new teaching event (MPW)**

Wenderoth gave an update on the Let's Talk Teaching program. This program is sponsored by the UW Teaching and Learning Consortium which is an informal group consisting of the heads of various units on campus that deal with teaching and learning issues, such as Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA), Center for Instructional Development, and Catalyst.

Wenderoth described their most recent idea as an effort to provide an informal place for faculty to talk about teaching and learning. The meetings are held at the UW Club the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. At each meeting there will be two consortium members at a table in the UW Club, as an available resource for faculty. Wenderoth said that she and Janice DeCosmo, Associate Dean, UAA, were present for the first meeting. She noted that for the remainder of the year, the consortium will provide members to sit at the table and be an available teaching resource for faculty during their lunch time. Wenderoth noted that the faculty resource is being advertised on the UWIN web page banner as well as in a UWeek article.

#### **4. CIDR quarterly forum Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> (W.J.)**

Wayne Jacobson updated the council on the February 12<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Forum on Teaching and Learning presentation by visiting faculty member Andrei Straumanis. He noted that Straumanis will speak about using small group inquiry activities to teach large classes, and give a quick demonstration of the techniques he uses in his organic chemistry course. He also has an open invitation for faculty to observe his large organic chemistry class. Wenderoth said that she attended his class last week and noted how well it worked. Jacobson said the event is listed as a CIDR event with an RSVP link

Jacobson described the enthusiastic comments CIDR has received, along with the reservations. He explained how Straumanis collects data on how well his students are doing, to see how they fare in their larger chemistry courses, so that he's checking on their retention rate. Wenderoth noted how minority students are often lost because of the way chemistry and organic chemistry courses are taught. His approach is more learner-centered model, and should help students make it through the chemistry series. Namura Nkeze noted that some students did not do well using that format. Jacobson acknowledged that not all learners do well with that method.

#### **5. Recent legislation introduced in Olympia about textbooks (MPW)**

Wenderoth shared a piece of legislation under consideration in Olympia now. The bill would require UW faculty to notify students about required course materials at least four weeks before the start of the class. The bill will enable students to look for cheaper textbooks. A discussion began about the merits of the bill, the textbook ordering process, and ways to raise awareness of the issue without penalizing faculty, so as to help out students. Wenderoth shared her desire for a MyUW teaching page with a link, "textbooks," and another link that would indicate whether you had ordered your textbooks. Doug Underwood noted that students can register for night classes up to the day before they begin, so that it is difficult to estimate the number of needed textbooks. A discussion began about how to work with the bookstore to track book ordering information. Lin noted that she would contact the university bookstore to see when most book orders come in, and see if it is possible to get the little textbook reminder on the MyUW page.

#### **6. Update on Student photo presentation to GPSS (MPW)**

Wenderoth reported that her presentation on the student photo class list to the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) went very well. She noted that they agreed to put forth a resolution to show their support because they felt it would greatly enhance students' learning environment.

#### **7. Other Business**

Wenderoth announced that the head of Disabled Student Services would be on the agenda for the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. She said that the council will look into how and in what ways demands for DSS services are changing, and whether technology might help.

She also noted that she had sent an email to the University Curriculum Committee about changes to the course curriculum and the introduction of new courses.

Wenderoth reported that she had spoken with Nana Lowell about best practices, and suggested getting faculty whose course evaluations are in the top 10% to share their teaching innovations. Jacobson noted that some of the best innovators don't get the best ratings. A discussion began on how best to capture teaching innovations of faculty members. Ideas included using student nominations for great teachers, Alumni Association faculty nominees, as well as teacher ratings.

Wenderoth began brainstorming about how to actually record teaching innovations. Ideas ranged from interviewing faculty members and having graduate students do the write up, to pursuing a more multi-faceted approach involving a visual format such as You Tube. It was felt that hearing a broader range of good teaching ideas would be more useful than relying solely upon student evaluations. Lewis suggested that the council invite Harry Hayward (Director of Electronic Media and Special Programs, Media Relations and Communications) to see how he might collaborate on a project. Jacobson suggested that Wenderoth speak with someone in the Advancement unit because university donors are drawn to what goes on in the classroom. It was also suggested that they film weekly interviews that highlight people who talk about their experiences with an innovative teacher. The format would be short, informative video clips, which would allow people to glean useful classroom innovations. Wenderoth reported that the Teaching and Learning consortium presented an idea for an open classroom in which faculty would identify a class for others to visit. The UWeek and the Daily were mentioned as useful sources to get a student point of view on good teaching. In order to address the labor issue, John Sahr suggested the creation of a class project in which students would do the work. Wenderoth noted that she will speak to Harry Hayward, and someone in Advancement.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

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

**Present:**       **Faculty:**   Allen, Edgar, Janssen, Underwood, Wenderoth (Chair)

**President's Designee:** Sahr (for Taylor)

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

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Lewis, Jacobson

**Absent:**       **Faculty:**   Baldasty, Salehi-Esfahani

**Ex Officio Reps:**   Raftus

**Regularly Invited Guests:** Lowell

**Special Guests:** Fang Lin, MyUW software engineer; Janice Granberg, Technology Manager, UW Technology; Amanda Hornby, Undergraduate Instruction Coordinator, UW Libraries