

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITY  
Thursday, January 15, 2009, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Pat Wenderoth called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Update on ad hoc committee on Academic Rigor –Don J.
  2. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning call for submissions-Wayne J.
  3. Resolution to support University efforts to provide photo class lists – Mary Pat W.
  4. Update on review of FROG – Nana L.
  5. Update on 10-year review process –Mary Pat W.
  6. Review of new course application form (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwcr/instructions.html>)
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Chair Wenderoth asked members for any changes or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes for November 19, 2008 were approved as submitted.

**1. Update on ad hoc committee on Academic Rigor –Don J.**

Don Janssen gave an update on the final report coming from the ad hoc Committee on Academic Rigor. He outlined the three parts of the report and some of the committee's recommendations. For regular UW classes, they focused on courses that are not perceived as rigorous. Janssen noted that Nana Lowell helped to convert the Challenge and Engagement Index (CEI) to a common 7 point scale so that it is easier to track the raw data. He reported that in general, majors are appropriately challenging. Lowell was asked if there would be regular reports on academic rigor. She noted that there is no commitment yet but that it could be added to high-low faculty reports as a resource to identify possible mentors as well as those who might need mentoring. A discussion began about the usefulness of sending a list of outlier courses to department chairs, or to deans, and the potential consequences of departments asking for top CEI scores. Janssen briefly described the committee's findings and best practices recommendations for special topics and independent study courses. He pointed out as a problem, instances in which faculty are supervising large numbers of students in independent study courses in one quarter. A discussion began about the nature of independent study courses, how they might be legitimately created from a canceled class, and what course of action they should take. It was suggested that they bring the issue to the attention of Pat Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, as well as to undergraduate advisors. Janssen noted that he will be getting feedback from department chairs. Lowell noted that regular reporting could happen once they update their database, and that the CEI score, and other useful data, could be added to general reporting information. Janssen said that the report should be ready by the next council meeting.

**2. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning call for submissions-Wayne J.**

Regular guest Wayne Jacobson handed out a flyer on the Center for Instructional Development and Research Winter Quarterly Forum on Teaching and Learning. He highlighted features of the talk by Dr.

Andrei Staumanis, a visiting faculty in the UW Department of Chemistry, on using a lecture-less approach to teach organic chemistry. Jacobson asked everyone to get the word out.

Jacobson announced the upcoming Scholarship of Teaching and Learning conference to be held April 21<sup>st</sup>. He noted that the plans are in the works. Jacobsen said that the call for submissions has gone out through the general faculty list but that word-of-mouth works even better, and encouraged members to spread the word.

### **3. Resolution to support University efforts to provide photo class lists – Mary Pat W.**

Chair Wenderoth distributed copies of a draft class C resolution in support of University efforts to provide photo class lists. She explained her past efforts working with the Registrar to garner support for the idea. Administrators have told her that they are not opposed to the idea, but that it isn't at the top of their list, and they would like to see more undergraduate and graduate student interest and support for it to push it to the top. Wenderoth described the concept of class photo lists and how it is currently done in the Biology department. She explained how the cost for photo class lists will be the initial start-up costs associated with creating a code for it. Wenderoth outlined the support she has received for the idea from student groups such as ASUW and GPSS, along with concerns about possible abuse or bias. She asked members to read through the resolution and then answered questions. Wenderoth was asked whether there is evidence that use of photo class lists work and if there will be an opt-out option. Wenderoth cited some examples of success with the photo class lists, and explained why an opt-out feature is not useful. When asked whether the university could get a code from another school, she explained that our current code is too old and that a new system is needed in order for it to work. An issue arose around the issue of students intentionally changing their appearance for those photos to present a different image. It was noted that the fee for updating a class photo is \$50. Wenderoth noted that she is trying to keep costs down, and suggested that because technology changes so quickly it might be possible for students to get an updated university photo (not their card photo). She emphasized that it will be important that they make sure the person in the picture is not a ringer, or doing something inappropriate, and that it must be an "official place," like showing an id card to take an exam. A discussion began about the potential prejudice of a picture and how to get around the issue.

Wenderoth asked FCIQ members to endorse the resolution and asked for a motion to approve sending it to the Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate. A motion was made to approve the class C resolution. The motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.

### **4. Update on review of FROG – Nana L.**

Nana Lowell reported that she has not heard back from her committee members yet, and they need more time. She noted the helpfulness of Catalyst's and CIDR's work.

### **5. Update on 10-year review process –Mary Pat W.**

Wenderoth reported that she had received a note from Jim Anthony (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, The Graduate School) about the schedule for academic programs reviews this year. He has

invited one person from both Faculty Council on Academic Standards and FCIQ to attend the charge meetings and site visits for the reviewed programs in order to observe the process. She noted that she will likely attend about half of the scheduled meetings and will look to keep the council informed of the assessment process. Janssen asked for clarification of the meetings, noting that he thought it meant the initial orientation and one follow-up meeting. Delonna Zarelli asked if graduate students could attend and was told that the Graduate and Professional Student Senate would have a representative there so it was likely that she could attend. Jacobson noted the major changes made to the review process. Lowell addressed how the size of the changes made to the review process precluded addressing the timeline issue, in which programs are reviewed in the order in which they were created. She noted that student learning outcomes were added, which is something FCIQ could check on and give guidance as they generate learning goals.

## **6. Review of new course application form**

Wenderoth handed out a new course application form, with instructions, and asked members to look at it. She proposed that they invite a member of the University Curriculum Committee who reviews the forms to speak to the council. David Sayrs, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Advising, was mentioned as a possible contact.

Wenderoth asked if there was any new business. Doug Underwood inquired about the status of the issue on faculty members not being allowed to accept book royalties for classes that they teach. He spoke at length about the developing crisis in the publishing industry and the effect on textbook costs. ASUW representative Phuong Nguyen noted that WASHPIRG is pushing for the use of open textbooks as a cheaper alternative. Members discussed the issue of textbook expense and whether they should start a subcommittee to look into it. Underwood expressed an interest in heading up the committee and asked for university contacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

**Present:**           **Faculty:**   Allen, Edgar, Janssen, Underwood, Wenderoth (Chair)  
                          **Ex Officio Reps:**   Raftus, Nguyen, Zarelli, Nkeze  
                          **Regularly Invited Guests:**   Lewis, Lowell, Jacobson, Sugatan  
**Absent:**           **Faculty:**   Baldasty, Salehi-Esfahani  
                          **President's Designee:**   Taylor