

## **University of Washington Faculty Council on Educational Technology**

The Faculty Council on Educational Technology met Thursday, June 9, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in 36 Gerberding. Co-chair James Kitts called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m..

### **Synopsis:**

1. Agenda, announcements, minutes
2. Updates by task groups –
  - Automated Plagiarism Check
  - Wireless Implementation/Policy
  - Core Priorities
  - Performance Contracts
  - Ex-officio seat for Rep of Tech Fee Committee?

### **Approve agenda, announcements, minutes**

The agenda was approved, the minutes were approved. The council extended thanks to James Kitts for his service as chair during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Kalpna Kanal thanked FCET members for their individual input to the FCET Annual Report. She will submit the finished report to the Secretary of the Faculty.

Emeritus Faculty rep Bob Albrecht announced that he will be unable to serve on FCET next year. He will advise Pat Doherty, UWRA director, so she can appoint a replacement. Albrecht said he has enjoyed his FCET membership and supports the work the Council is doing.

### **Task Group Updates**

**Plagiarism Task Force:** The Plagiarism Study proposal has been well-received by both the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality (FCIQ) and the Faculty Council on Student Affairs (FCSA). Consensus is that the project is worth doing. Jan Carline (FCIQ Chair) would like to form a task group with two members from each of the three councils to develop the project, which has also received favorable comments from the Attorney General's office (Clark Shores).

Wayne Jacobson, CIDR, emailed Kitts several recommendations for resources on plagiarism detection, and said CIDR will be glad to consult on the pedagogical implications of preventing plagiarism. John Webster (English), has been doing some interesting work on plagiarism prevention and would be a good resource, as would Spencer Schnaffner, a senior TA in English. Jacobson also mentioned Anne Zald, UW Libraries, who has information on several plagiarism initiatives launched this past year by the libraries.

### **Wireless Implementation**

Arnie Berger reported that Oren Sreebny, head of the ATAC-WAG group involved in wireless installation, has agreed to add a paragraph to the ATAC Website stating that UW faculty need to develop a policy on classroom standards for the use of wireless technology. Berger checked the Website recently, but the paragraph has not yet been added.

The wireless rollout is in its first year, with Seattle campus classrooms slated for rollout in 2008 (year three of the project). Berger said there is growing interest within other Faculty Councils, such as FCIQ, FCSA and Educational Outreach (FCEO), in developing a policy on classroom use of wireless before wireless technology is installed in classrooms.

Kanal mentioned that she has recently seen an article that describes a way to block wireless in the classroom without interfering with it in the surrounding areas. She will find the article for FCET's information. Kitts has heard this as well, and would like to talk to those who teach where there are existing wireless implementations (the Law School, etc.). Perhaps FCET could find out more about local wireless policies and how they are working.

Cara Lane said PTTTT is now doing student focus groups and is learning some interesting ways students are using wireless. She would like to report on this at the first FCET meeting in Fall Quarter.

### **Core Priorities**

Kay Pilcher provided the Council with two versions of the latest draft of the FCET core priorities, which provide more of a focus for immediate Council work than does the extremely broad charge to the Council expressed in the Faculty Code. Core priorities are an internal document that can be revisited from time to time, so they serve as a "reality check" for Council tasks and concerns.

After brief discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to accept Version 1 of the core priorities, with the addition of one bullet point, as follows:

#### **Faculty Council on Educational Technology Priority Areas of Interest:**

The FCET pursues information, develops recommendations for policy, and prepares reports or legislative proposals, when appropriate (and in accordance with University Handbook Sections 42-33 and 42-45), in the following areas:

- Innovative and successful use of technology in education
- Assessments of the impact of existing and new technology on teaching and learning
- Training and support for faculty who wish to integrate technology into their courses
- Ways to encourage faculty to incorporate technology into their teaching
- Faculty access to classrooms and equipment that permit the use of technology in education
- Other issues that may arise involving the use of technology in education

The core priorities will be added to the FCET Web page and the Annual Report.

### **Performance Contracts/Agreements**

Sean Brixey told the Council that performance contracts considered by the State legislature appear to have been tabled for the time being. The contracts, which would have linked State funding of the UW to academic metrics, were downgraded to "agreements" and then dropped from the legislative agenda. However, the issue could arise again at any time. For this reason, Brixey has drafted some edits to the current contract language; these edits should be included if the subject of contracts surfaces again. Brixey will forward this to Kanal so it can be preserved.

At present, Brixey said, the proposed contract language binds the faculty and the University to metrics of performance but does not include any allowances for those who are trailblazing new educational methods. This tends to dampen educational innovation, since metrics for new approaches need time to catch up to those of more traditional methods. Faculty should be encouraged to be pioneers and get merit for it, not be penalized. The contracts would over-ride current promotion and tenure requirements.

Brixey also believes that the proposed contract language gives more implied power over the UW to the legislature than is presently the case. If the idea is resurrected, FCET should be on record as saying the contract is not well written and should be changed. Brixey said that this 1.5 page document could change

the entire fabric of the UW, so it needs careful attention. FCET needs to retain a file with the last copy of the contract and the changes FCET would like to see, so they can be included if the contract proposal is ever revived.

### **New Business**

Kitts suggested that a FCET member should sit on the Tech Fee Committee and a member of the Tech Fee Committee should be an ex officio member of FCET, or should be a regular FCET guest.

Werner Kaminsky would like a list of the common initialisms and acronyms used by FCET.

Kaminsky proposed an agenda item for Fall Quarter: FCET should look into the possibility of obtaining QWEST DSL service for faculty and staff, without the MSN package. This would save each person with a QWEST account about \$20/month.

Brixey will email the ATAC-WAG committee every month over the summer break to keep tabs on the progress of the wireless rollout.

Kanal will email the FCIQ and FCSA chairs about forming a plagiarism study subcommittee with representatives from the three councils. Berger or Brixey, and Kaminsky, will be FCET reps to the subcommittee.

Lane will be working on the student survey all summer and will present her results to FCET in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. *Minutes by Linda Fullerton, Recorder.*

**Present:** Berger, Brixey, Kaminsky, Kanal, Kitts, Albrecht, Lane, Plicher

**Absent:** Gravlee, Leggott, Rojas, Roth, Sinanan, Lewis, McMurrer, Szatmary