

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Educational Technology
Monday, December 5, 2005
36 Gerberding Hall

Kalpana Kanal called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve minutes
3. Chair's Announcements
 - a. Scheduling future meetings
4. Open Announcements
5. Define project plan and form subcommittees for the following issues:
 - a. Automated Plagiarism check
 - b. Wireless Implementation/Policy
6. Student Survey Results – Cara Lane
7. New Business

1. The agenda was approved.

2. The minutes from November 14 were approved.

3. Chair's announcements:

Kanal mentioned that she had distributed the instructions for entering availability on the new web calendar via email. She would like times added by Dec. 9 for the next two quarters. A request was made by some council members for a later starting time of 9:30 am and Kanal has agreed to change the time.

4. Open Announcements:

At the last meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of purchasing software to ward against plagiarism. Berger stated that it isn't software that he was referring to but purchasing a service that would check for plagiarism.

5. Define a project plan and form subcommittees for the following issues:

a) Wireless Implementation/Policy

Miller, who is a member of ATAC, said that this group discussed the issue of wireless capabilities in the classroom. Faculty feel a loss of control when they cannot monitor what their students are doing in the classroom. Faculty would like to be able to control the environment in their classrooms. ATAC reviewed the UW Bothell policy which allows wireless laptops in the classrooms. Berger indicated that this policy was enacted without faculty input and faculty have no knowledge of what students are doing. Miller said that, unfortunately, the wireless connections cannot be individually turned off but can only be switched off on a building basis. Everyone agreed that since we cannot tell students not to

use laptops that there needs to be a general policy in place. Miller will check with ATAC members and determine if any progress has been made. Shawn Brixey will replace Greg Miller on the ATAC board for the rest of the academic year while Miller is on sabbatical. A subcommittee was formed to investigate the wireless question. It consists of Shawn Brixey, Kalpana Kanal, Arnie Berger, and Greg Miller.

b) Automated Plagiarism Check

Kanal posed the question: What does FCET want to do about the issue of plagiarism?

Kaminsky stated that plagiarism should be handled by each individual faculty member. Faculty need to give students a clear idea about plagiarism and how faculty can identify something that is plagiarized. Faculty need to make students understand the issues and that it is not honorable to use the work of someone else.

Berger mentioned that consequences are the responsibility of individual faculty. He stated that he is more interested in what students learn and how they think critically. He is not in favor of increasing the work of writing papers but would rather use catalyst to submit papers electronically and have them sent to a service to check for plagiarism.

Brixey mentioned that the University of California uses a service to check for plagiarism. The AG's office has informed us of the procedure to conduct a pilot project so student rights are not violated. FCET would need the academic units to approve of using a plagiarism service.

A subcommittee was formed to look at research about plagiarism issues. The subcommittee will review the UC data, look at other test projects, and do some background research. They will make a recommendation about doing a pilot project and using a service to detect plagiarism. The subcommittee members are: Kanal, Berger, Kaminsky, and Lane.

6. Student Survey Results.

Lane distributed a handout showing the results of the 2005 Educational Technology Surveys: Faculty and Student Findings. Following are some highlights:

- Faculty responses were 32.8% and student responses were 28.2%.
- From a student perspective, 80% of courses should have a web site. This was the number one issue.
- From a faculty perspective, the UW should provide more opportunities to use educational technologies. Also, all classrooms should be consistently equipped with the same furniture, supplies, and the appropriate technology.
- The consensus was that if the classrooms were wireless, more students would bring laptops to class. A student comment is that "the things that will make wireless powerful will be new applications that begin to use that connectivity to

do new things.” Faculty feel that “it is partly because we don’t have wireless that we don’t have models for what to do with it.”

The complete and final report on this survey will be distributed in January, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. Minutes by Coralie Watters, Administrative Assistant, UW Educational Outreach.

Present:

Faculty members: Berger, Miller, Kanal, Gravlee, Leggott, Brixey, and Kaminsky

President’s designee: Szatmary

Ex officio members: Shaw, Mesling, Ward, and Mart

Guests: none

Absent:

Faculty members: Spielberg, Tweedie, Conroy, and Morton

Ex-officio members: Lewis