

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Educational Technology  
Monday, November 14, 2005

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

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from October 24
3. Chair's Announcements
  - a. Review the plagiarism and wireless issue
4. Open Announcements
5. Discussion on the following topics and goals for the coming year
  - a. Automated Plagiarism Check
  - b. Wireless Implementation/Policy
6. New Business

1. Agenda. The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes. The minutes from Oct. 24 were approved.

3. Chair's Announcements:

Concerning the UW undergraduate experience, Kanal asked the question, "What is one thing that could be changed when teaching undergraduate students?"

Kaminsky feels that the main issue in teaching undergraduates is figuring out where students are academically. An instructor needs to decide what students already know, what is their level of knowledge, and where do you start in the curriculum. Instructors need more background information on students or some sort of student profile. He also stated that students come to class experiencing a new environment and new faculty. Some students are afraid of faculty and hesitate to participate in discussions. The use of anonymous e-mails and catalyst chat rooms can assist the shyer students to get information.

Lane stated that she asks students questions to try and gauge their level of knowledge. Students may do well on the SAT but they may not be at college level in their writing skills.

Szatmary commented that instructors could pretest students to judge levels of information but funds would be needed to develop tests and administer them.

Tweedie stated that AP tests give instructors an idea of knowledge levels but many students do not participate in AP programs.

Miller said that there needs to be a 2-way communication between students and instructors. Instructors need to determine what students know, what students like, and

what the expectations of students are. There are ways to manage communication with technology and the use of daily quizzes.

4. Open Announcements:

Lane announced that they will be looking at the results of the faculty/student surveys on educational technology. The final results will be published during Winter Quarter.

Miller reported about teaching an undergraduate distance learning course using cameras to videotape lectures. This course provided flexibility to students but was cost prohibitive because of the necessary equipment and because we had to hire a technician to record the lectures. When he was out of town, he could see the lecture online and could get immediate feedback.

Kanal suggested that we would need a university-wide financial commitment to get lectures recorded and be placed online.

5. Automated Plagiarism Check:

Clark stated that the FCSA is in general consensus and agrees with the problems of plagiarism according to Arnie Berger's document. However, they feel that there are ways to get around plagiarism issues without purchasing expensive software. The FCSA would like to see the use of preventive measures. Faculty and students need to be educated about the use of references and footnotes and assignments should be structured accordingly. We need online resources for instructors. Instructors need to be trained to create new information and tests and educate students to site resources before the UW purchases expensive software. Plagiarism is a teaching methods issue. Currently, there are no resources to get plagiarism software. We also need to look at plagiarism by disciplines.

Carline agrees that more needs to be done on campus to define and detect plagiarism. He is concerned about plagiarism policies, faculty education, and student awareness and education. The FCIQ is not in favor of expensive software programs to detect plagiarism. Much of the plagiarism on campus goes undetected. A subcommittee of faculty members needs to be created to discuss plagiarism procedures and policies. Both student and instructor behavior needs to change in this area.

Miller stated that he attended a workshop about this issue. The message was that the nature of the assignments was important to curb plagiarism issues.

Tweedie said that an instructor can't possibly create assignments that students cannot find on the web. He does more testing in the classroom. He also said that we need to be aware of legal issues. More instructors ignore plagiarism because it is a hassle. You can submit plagiarism cases to the Board but it is not followed through and does not pose a viable threat to students.

Kaminsky said that a pilot study would be helpful so instructors could help students. Communication with students is important to discuss honor codes. Students need to know what is expected of them.

Lane tries to use creative assignments to avoid plagiarism although this requires more effort for the instructor.

Mart says that some students plagiarize out of laziness or have no time to write papers. He feels that students know the difference between writing and plagiarizing. There is nothing stated in student orientations but he claims that students are aware of plagiarism issues. Some students get warnings and then usually don't repeat the same behavior.

Kanal commented that faculty needs to communicate with students to discuss the plagiarism issue. Students cannot be punished. This issue involves more than looking at expensive software. We need to look at polices and training for faculty.

Szatmary agreed that instructor development should be provided. Instructors can develop assignments that create steps in writing such as outlines, drafts and papers. Student learning objectives need to integrated in the course plan and implemented by faculty.

#### Wireless Implementation/Policy:

Wireless implementation will be discussed at another time. The other councils need to be involved in this issue. There also should be faculty input for any wireless implementation. The question arose because UW Bothell implemented a wireless capability for students without faculty approval. Students attend class with laptops and there are no policies in place. Szatmary suggested that Kanal contact Mike Eisenberg in the Information School and ask him to attend a future FCET meeting to discuss the wireless issue.

6. There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. Minutes by Coralie Watters, Administrative Assistant, UW Educational Outreach.

#### Present:

Faculty members: Miller, Tweedie, Kanal, Kaminsky

President's designee: Szatmary

Ex officio members: Lane (for Lewis), Ward, Mart

Guests: Clark Pace, Chair of the Faculty Council on Student Affairs, and Jan Carline, Chair of the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality.

#### Absent:

Faculty members: Berger, Spielberg, Conroy, Leggott, Brixey, Gravlee and Morton

Ex-officio members: Shaw, and Mesling