

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

The Faculty Council on Educational Technology met **Tuesday, November 13, 2000** in 36 Gerberding. Chair William Zoller presided.

**PRESENT: Faculty** DeYoung, Zoller. *Ex officio* \*Jordan. *Regular guests* Scott Macklin, Nana Lowell.

**ABSENT: Faculty** Aldea, Diaz, Leggott, Liu, Mizokawa, Porter, Riley, Sarikaya. *Ex officio* Bjorkstam, \*Beach, Schmitt and Szatmary. *Regular guest* Tom Lewis.

**Minutes from October 17, 2000** were not approved as a quorum was not raised.

**Discussion of University of Michigan Faculty Technology-Use Survey**

Scott Macklin, Director of the Program for Educational Transformation Through Technology (PETT), began the discussion by advising the council that the U of MI survey had been reformatted for use by the UW. There is a great deal of enthusiasm surrounding the survey and Macklin said that great pains were being taken to ensure that the survey received an excellent response rate. A hard copy of the survey will be sent to faculty via campus mail and there will be an email sent as well so faculty can simply click on a URL and reply to an online questionnaire. Lowell added that the survey team discussed doing an email version of the survey but ran into formatting and confidentiality problems. DeYoung noted that email surveys are often difficult to fill out as well.

Zoller asked if the survey would be anonymous and Lowell replied that they were still discussing this. Macklin added that the survey team was leading towards an anonymous survey. DeYoung commented that she could not imagine the faculty having an issue with the survey not being anonymous. Lowell responded that it might be best to give faculty the option of anonymity. Macklin noted that, in a meeting he had at the Medical School, the Chair of the Med School had insisted that the survey be anonymous. Medical School faculty are barraged by surveys from pharmaceutical and other medical-related companies.

Zoller announced that he is writing an article for U-Week regarding the FCET and would like to devote a large part of the article to the faculty technology survey. The article will appear during the first or second week of January.

Lowell said the survey committee was also considering whether to place demographic questions at the beginning or end of the survey and whether or not it is acceptable to ask faculty their age. One council member suggested asking faculty when they received their doctorate. Zoller said he has been urging other faculty members in the Chemistry department to use MS PowerPoint in their classes but most older professors resist. He thinks it is important to know the age breakdown of the faculty who respond to the surveys. Lowell posed the question: "What will we do with the information once we have it?" She also wondered if departments would want to provide ideas for implementing changes relating to technology use.

Macklin pointed out that the U of MI survey asks faculty how they prefer to learn about technology; most answered that they want to learn locally, in a comfortable environment, from someone they know. Macklin also advised that PETT and other organizations at the UW were trying to find ways to track use of web-based faculty intellectual property as a basis for merit and tenure review. DeYoung submitted that her department chair says the most important thing for

her to do is to publish books; there is a clear de-emphasis on web-based publications. She added that she believes most faculty feel that, in the short term, technology use slows them down. Zoller asked what type of incentive faculty would like to see the University provide regarding technology use. Lowell said the survey committee would like to include such a question on the survey and she asked council members to help word the question. The web is obviously not a refereed journal so how do you add value to web-based publications?

In response to DeYoung's comment that many faculty see technology use to be too time-consuming in the short term, Jordan mentioned the Catalyst Tools that streamline many technical processes so faculty can do their "real work." Lowell observed that technology might not save you time, especially in the short term, but it will allow you to do different types of things--to be a more effective teacher and to reach students better. Zoller reemphasized that we must open the door for incentive for faculty to use technology. *Zoller asked the Recorder to email all FCET members and ask them to review the U of Michigan survey.*

Lowell noted that the survey will not go out as an eighteen-page document--it needs to be scaled down. She asked if FCET members could suggest ways to shorten the survey without losing the kernel of what the survey is trying to find out.

Faculty Senate Chair Mary Coney joined the meeting, introduced herself, and thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the council. She asked if there were anything she could do to help the council meetings run more smoothly. Zoller replied that the council was having a difficult time reaching a quorum and asked if Coney had any suggestions for how to increase attendance. Coney replied that Zoller and the Recorder might take a look at those council members who have not been able to attend any meetings and ask if they would like to be replaced. Obviously, there are going to be members who have scheduling conflicts and the only way to remedy this is to either reschedule the council meetings or find members who can attend at the allotted meeting times.

Coney was also asked what she thought about the issue of anonymity regarding the survey. Coney suggested offering the option of anonymity so that faculty did not feel like someone was "checking up on them." She also agreed that the University needs to work harder to encourage full professors and "late adapters" to come up to speed on technology use in teaching. Macklin commented that the survey will be a good way to gather baseline data that can help create a cultural atmosphere of openness regarding technology use in teaching. DeYoung submitted that the HEC board has something on the table for the next legislative session relating to technology on campus; the faculty need to have their position clearly defined. Zoller said he read that there would be 1.5 million dollars in the next budget for technology on campus to establish better communication between students and faculty. The UW needs to lead the way in technology but right now it is lagging behind.

Macklin noted that, while there are serious needs in terms of upgrading the infrastructure on campus, some areas of the UW like Catalyst and Uwired are winning awards for their advances in using technology in teaching. DeYoung observed that the missing piece is the faculty; older faculty who are traditionally more reluctant to use technology in their classes need to be given the incentive to implement some changes in the way they teach. Chamberlain asked if there were departments on campus who are more on top of teaching with technology who could advise FCET on some of the core issues related to technology in the classroom. Macklin responded that the Geography and Psychology departments were in many respects leading the way in using technology in the classroom. DeYoung added that she is certain there are huge pockets of people with advanced technical skills on campus who are not being utilized.

Coney applauded FCET's efforts to facilitate the faculty technology use survey and mentioned that the Faculty Senate Office did a survey of WOT faculty (Without Tenure for Reasons of Funding) a few years ago and found it to be a great help with opening up dialog. Many faculty had never heard of WOT until the survey went out. Macklin said he would like to include WOT faculty in the survey and asked if the Faculty Senate Office had of list of WOT faculty. Coney replied that the Provost's Office would be the place to get that information.

Zoller said he would make an announcement about the survey at the November 30 Faculty Senate meeting and he asked council members to please take a look at the draft survey that Macklin and Lowell brought and respond to Zoller with suggestions on how to improve the survey.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Minutes by Todd Reid, Recorder.