

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
**FACULTY COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

The Faculty Council on Educational Outreach met at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, **May 2, 2005**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair William Erdly presided.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the March 2, 2005 FCEO meeting were approved as written.

**Discussion and action items resulting from the FCEO meeting with Tim Washburn**

Erdly said that, as a follow-up to the council's meeting with Tim Washburn, Assistant Vice President, Enrollment Services, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Richard Wilkes – who is on the task group developing a “Faculty Resource Guide for Course Development” – could meet with the chief undergraduate curriculum committee to see what kinds of Distance Learning courses the committee has approved, and what characteristics those courses have that made them acceptable to the committee. Wilkes said he has received from Washburn some course descriptions of Distance Learning courses that Washburn found to be well structured. Wilkes added that, once he has had an opportunity to scrutinize the course descriptions, he will share his findings with the council.

Erdly noted that the DL designator expires in June 2005. [See the following for the text in the University Handbook: Volume Four, Part III, Chapter 9: (Continuing Education): Section 3. (Credit Programs); D.]:

[D. UW Educational Outreach (UWEO), through its Distance Learning Program, also offers DL-suffix University credit courses to matriculated and nonmatriculated students, without regard to their relative proportions. After June 2005, UWEO may only offer University credit courses in distance-learning format that have been designated as DL-suffix courses. The provisions of subsections D.1. through D.6. shall continue to apply to non-DL-suffix distance-learning courses offered through June 2005 by UWEO, but are superseded by other Code provisions in application to DL-suffix courses.

Distance Learning courses are available to matriculated and nonmatriculated students. Distance Learning offers credit courses which are a part of the University of Washington's current curriculum. The courses are listed in the Distance Learning Catalog. Students may apply a maximum of 90 credits of

Distance Learning coursework towards the credit requirements for graduation. Grades for Distance Learning courses appear on official University of Washington transcripts but are not included in the calculations of grade-point averages. Matriculated students should consult academic advisors before enrolling in a Distance Learning course. Students may enroll in Distance Learning courses throughout the year and have up to 12 months from the date of registration to complete the coursework.]

Erdly said, “We need to draft new legislation and say to the Faculty Senate, ‘Keep the language in the University Handbook as it now appears,’ or make a new recommendation if we wish to see the policy changed. Should we recommend an extension of the existing legislation? And if so, for how long?” Erdly reminded the council that Washburn pointed out that there are only 60 credit courses thus far with Distance Learning designation.

Szatmary added, “The rest of these DL courses are currently in the pipeline.” Szatmary noted that not all schools and colleges are enthusiastic about Distance Learning.

Erdly said, “We might do a two-year extension, and ask for a study or review of DL courses to be done. For instance, we would want to know the percentage of DL and traditional courses, the completion rates of DL courses, and the grades given out in DL courses. We would want these outcomes on undergraduate DL courses only.” Zierler said, “We need to compare [the outcomes of DL courses] to existing standards in undergraduate courses.”

Erdly suggested: “We could make it a three-year extension, and get aggregate data, going back in time to gather the data.” Berger demurred: “There is plenty of data already. A lot of institutions have proven, and are continuing to prove, that Distance Learning is effective.” Erdly did not disagree, but stressed that the council “needs to bring data forward from this institution”. Zierler said, “It is in part political; it is a matter of advocacy.” Berger insisted: “We need to remove the stigma [affixed to Distance Learning in many people’s minds]. Yes, let us recommend the extension.” Erdly observed that the earliest Senate Executive Committee Meeting to which the council’s recommendation could be brought would be the first SEC meeting in Autumn Quarter 2005.

Szatmary said, “My recollection is that Tim Washburn wanted some way to track DL courses. But now, he has different ways to do this. The real debate was whether to have a Distance Learning degree. No one contested that DL courses were valid.” Warnick said, “People in the Faculty Senate *will* debate this. And if it is voted down, we will have to go back to square one. It is best to collect data on questions that are likely to come up in a Faculty Senate Meeting.” Erdly concurred: “Yes, you will have upwards of 200 people with varying views on Distance Learning at a Faculty Senate Meeting.” Warnick further noted: “There is a movement to combine technology in instructional modes, but many people are still suspicious [of Distance Learning].”

Erdly reminded council members that Washburn, when visiting the March meeting, said there is not enough data available at present to conduct a substantive study of DL outcomes. “We need to just get a benchmark for now,” said Erdly. Wilkes added: “And we should survey what other institutions have done, and are doing, with Distance Learning.” Berger said, “We can say: ‘Here is a list of what other institutions are doing.’ ” Warnick added: “Yes, it just needs to be filled out.” Erdly remarked: “We need to add to this data the information that faculty will be asking about. This is an educational process for faculty members and others. If we do extend the DL designation, we should do so for at least two years, perhaps three years. I’ll talk with Lea Vaughn about this process.”

Erdly said this issue brings up a tri-campus issue: “expanding beyond a brick and mortar context”. Berger said, “It would be interesting to interview people who have gone through DL programs.” Erdly agreed, but cautioned: “People will then ask about those who dropped out of DL courses.” Zierler said, “Our DL courses [in Nursing] have to be approved by our curriculum committee, and by several other vetting committees as well.” Wilkes, however, pointed out: “But some people irrationally feel you have to smell your students [be in a traditional classroom setting] for a course to be effective.” Erdly said, “It is important that we put together current processes that assure quality issues, and determine how many matriculated and nonmatriculated students are in DL programs. It is a big issue; we need data.”

### **Discussion and action items resulting from David Szatmary’s presentation**

Szatmary said there are ways FCEO can support Educational Outreach. One thing the council can do, he suggested, is to encourage faculty to serve on Educational Outreach committees. And

FCEO can offer what Szatmary called “a macro perspective” on Outreach issues. “It can definitely help in that way,” he stressed.

**Proposed University Week article from FCEO**

Erdly said he will write an article for University Week highlighting the council’s interests and achievements. This is part of the series of articles by faculty council chairs appearing throughout the academic year in University Week.

**Planning activities for each task group.**

**a) Faculty Resource Guide for Course Development (Erdly, Szatmary, Wilkes)**

Erdly said Wilkes will digest Tim Washburn’s material (the course descriptions of Distance Learning courses) and put it on the Website he created for the council.

**b) Summer Quarter (Warnick, Goldsmith)**

Warnick gave a full report on Summer Quarter in the February 2, 2005 FCEO meeting. She said, “Summer Quarter is coming along quite well.” [For specifics on Summer Quarter, cf. the February 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes.]

**c) Library / Resources (Deardorff)**

To repeat what Deardorff told the council in the February 2<sup>nd</sup> FCEO meeting, the Libraries provides a number of electronic reserve courses for Educational Outreach classes, and there is a lot of development in that area. Also, the Libraries is buying a lot of E-books for DL courses. And Deardorff also pointed out, at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, that the Libraries will be consulting with David Szatmary on funding and other issues.

As for resources, Szatmary said discussions are being held on a possible program for older adults, a program that would be run by older adults. The program will have a \$100,000 start-up and may receive a \$1 million endowment “down the road” if it is successful.

It was reported that Electrical Engineering may be proposing an undergraduate Distance Learning degree.

And statewide surveys are being conducted with business and political leaders to see what they envision and desire with respect to economic development in the state. One survey is for the general public; another is for graduating seniors. Additionally, one-on-one interviews with political and business leaders will be conducted. Erdly said, “Educational Outreach is significant in the context of regional economic development issues.”

**d) Content Reuse: Intellectual Property Rights, Technological Issues (Erdly, Szatmary, Zierler)**

Erdly said Content Reuse “is still to be initiated”.

**e) Transfer of Courses / Credits (Eberhardt)**

Erdly said transfer courses are linked to the Distance Learning designator issue, and will be discussed at greater length in subsequent FCEO meetings.

**f) Faculty Representation (Erdly, Szatmary)**

To repeat what Erdly said to the council in its February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, FCEO is represented on David Szatmary’s committee, and can link to other councils and committees to foster and safeguard its legacy.

**g) Bottleneck Courses (Wilkes)**

Erdly said, "The issue of bottleneck courses has been vetted this [academic] year."

"Many of these suggestions we just want to formalize in our Resource Guide," Erdly noted.

**Next meeting**

The next FCEO meeting is set for Tuesday, May 31, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor, Recorder

**PRESENT:** *Professors* Erdly (Chair), Berger, Warnick, Wilkes and Zierler;  
*Ex-officio member* Szatmary.

**ABSENT:** *Professors* Brock, Carlson, Collins, Daniali, Eberhardt and Goldsmith;  
*Ex-officio member* Deardorff.