

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Educational Outreach (FCEO)
Friday, May 1, 2009 10:00 a.m.
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Leslie Breitner called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes from the March 13, 2009 meeting.
2. Report from the Chair
3. Discussion on distance learning
4. Adjournment

1. Approval of the minutes from the March 13, 2009 meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Chair

Chair Breitner informed the Council that she had lunch with other Faculty Council Chairs last week. They received notice that due to budget cuts to the Office of University Committees, support for the Councils would be greatly diminished next year. She stated that one of the ideas discussed at that meeting was to have some Councils merge with other Councils. Breitner asked the Council how they felt about the possibility of merging with another Council or being eliminated altogether.

The members discussed this issue and generally felt the FCEO should remain intact as it stands now and that their charge is more important than ever, given the state of the UW's economic circumstance. Erdly pointed out that Educational Outreach (EO) is an important subject and this Council serves as a connector council to all of the other Councils discussing EO. Wells pointed out that there is some degree of overlap among the Councils. Breitner agreed that this Council should remain intact however the charge should be reviewed. She does not think this Council should continue to focus on being watchdog for the EO unit.

2. Discussion on distance learning

In an effort to distinguish online learning from educational technology from fee based learning Chair Breitner and Meijer-irons will construct a survey. Items will include questions regarding support for and understanding the tools available to faculty to be able to develop a course online. Breitner suggested maintaining narrow focus. Wells suggested identifying and defining three things: distance learning, online learning and fee-based learning. There was a group discussion around these definitions. Wells identified potential barriers as personal, departmental, school, institutional.

Wilkes suggested distance learning (DL) be defined as not being physically in contact with students. He also suggested that course content, student-teacher and student-student contact is primarily done electronically. DL courses are those in which teacher-student and student-student interactions are predominantly not face to face.

The Council embarked on a discussion on barriers to developing distance learning courses. They identified support, resource and the challenge of adding fees to courses in support of DL. Members discussed various technology and course fees and their revenue streams.

Szatmary stated that he is currently sitting on a committee dealing with course fees. He noted that there is someone in planning and budgeting to oversee course fees. Additionally he identified a clearing house to get approval for adding new course fees. In the upcoming Fall Quarter there will be a seven course distance learning/online experiment being offered which have an online learning fee attached to the courses. He is looking forward to see how it will be received. Szatmary informed the FCEO that the fees will be used for infrastructure and support but will also for faculty salaries. There was a brief discussion on faculty salaries.

The FCEO discussed formulating a survey and wanted to identify potential outcomes. They decided identifying barriers to DL as the main goal of the survey. Guest Cara Lane suggested the Council start with department chairs and leave room for more open ended responses. Zierler felt we are targeting the wrong group. She felt the major piece is the financial model and thought they should ask college chairs to supply the current financial model for supporting DL in their units. She feels that time, support and fees are going to be the biggest issues and that needs assessments have already been completed. She noted that lot of schools have been using dl for a long time.

Szatmary suggested the FCEO make a request to the Administration to create UW Distance Learning Group. It could be valuable to share expertise and direction across the campus. He noted there are already groups established both on main campus and in Bothell. He feels there is a need to unite as an institution and explain to the public that this is the direction we want to go and that this makes sense and why. Szatmary stated he thinks there is a need to have representation by all parties and this group would represent a unified stance. He feels there is a need for a formal group. The Council generally agreed with Szatmary. Szatmary stated that he will talk to Provost Wise about a UW Distance Learning Group and its support from this Council

Regarding the survey, Chair Breitner suggested they ask more, not less faculty in an effort to cast a wider net and get a broader response. The Council decided to leave the issues around fee-base learning out of the survey for now as that is a separate issue altogether. The goal of the survey will be to identify an audience interested enough to be contacted in the future. This Council is seeking expertise and willingness to serve.

