

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Faculty Council on Educational Outreach met at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, **April 6, 2001**. Chair Roger Simpson presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes for March 2, 2001 were approved as written.

Approval of Distance Learning legislative proposals #1 and #2

All voting members present approved a reworking of DL legislative proposals #1 and #2 in which condition #11 of Proposal #1 is eliminated, and Proposal #2 reads as follows:

Proposal #2:

Of the 45 non-DL credits required for a UW undergraduate degree, no more than 10 credits may be waived for an individual student, except as part of an approved program, minor, or degree. Distance-learning programs, minors, or degrees (whether entirely new, or a distance-learning version of something already approved) must be approved by the same process that approves non-distance-learning programs, minors, or degrees. These proposals should identify the reasons why the offering needs to waive the University minimum, based on audience, access, or unit academic mission, describe the relationship of the new program to existing degrees, and define the goals and oversight necessary to ensure institutional standards.

Thus, Proposal #1 contains its original 10 conditions, and Proposal #2 combines, and changes, what previously had been condition #11 and Proposal #2.

Discussion preceding the vote on the Distance Learning legislative proposal

Simpson noted that the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, in its meeting on March 30th, voted to approve the Distance Learning legislative proposals #1 and #2 as worded in the version distributed to FCEO members prior to today's meeting.

As for the Senate Executive Committee meeting on April 2nd, Buck said the legislative proposals only came up near the conclusion of the meeting. FCAS chair Doug Wadden read the proposals to SEC. The Task Force was complimented on the work it had done on the proposal, but no substantive discussion followed.

The Task Force will present the legislative proposal as "talking points" at the Faculty Senate Meeting on April 19th. Buck said actual code changes also will be presented for purposes of discussion at the Senate Meeting (to show how "the narrative would translate"). The Task Force could focus on the "designation" code changes, he added.

Szatmary said if the changes are not done this year, they probably "won't be done next year." He said he was in favor of the proposal inclusive of the first ten conditions, but not with condition eleven or proposal #2 as it is currently written.

An issue of concern for the council is the notion of control over distance learning courses being taken away from the academic units and placed in the hands of the Faculty Senate. Many council members believe the control should remain in the academic units. Though a contrary opinion offered is that there needs to be an oversight body, and since the Faculty Senate represents the

faculty, a Faculty Senate appointed faculty council would be the correct body to conduct such oversight.

Another issue of concern is proposal #2. The sense of the council is that, as written, it definitely would not pass a Faculty Senate vote, and that it is ill-defined as stated. This led eventually to Buck's rewording of the proposal and its incorporation in the first proposal (under condition eleven; cf. above).

Treser said if people get confused over the presentation of the proposal, they will "put the whole thing down." Treser said he would not strike or modify condition eleven at this point.

Szatmary said, "If we don't allow units to decide which proposals will be theirs, in online learning, we lose something." Simpson said that, while departments should certainly be able to decide which distance learning courses they want to have, and to implement, there nevertheless is a desire on the part of many that these courses have some kind of oversight.

Treser said there appears to be a problem for the Faculty Senate in trusting individual units to make proper decisions on distance learning courses. In reply, it was pointed out that Academic Standards has a legitimate concern that any new or revised course or program have some oversight, whether it is a distance learning or regular residence course or program in question. (SCAP, the Subcommittee on Admissions and Programs, and a subcommittee of FCAS, currently reviews every new or revised academic course or degree program.) Kieckhefer raised a concern that distance learning revisions should not need more review than is currently given other alterations to a course.

Kiyak said there could be a proactive review every three years (of any new distance learning course) by the offering unit. But she said the "self-interest of each department" is cause enough for oversight by some group outside the department as well. "There has to be some kind of policing." Treser said, "Yes, but we need some kind of infrastructure to get distance learning through the first few years. And there is departmental oversight of any new program in that it must go through the departmental curriculum review process." But others remain convinced that oversight is needed outside the department offering distance learning. "Some people are suspect," Simpson said. Kieckhefer noted that we currently trust faculty not to alter the course in significant ways although we know that would be possible. It would likely be faculty within the offering unit who would raise a concern if this occurred whether the course be a traditionally taught version or a distance learning version.

After lengthy discussion of the legislative Proposals #1 and #2, and of condition #11 of Proposal #1, the council as a whole favored Buck's idea of leaving Proposal #1 with its original 10 conditions, and combining, and changing, condition #11 and Proposal #2 to form a new version of Proposal #2 (thus eliminating the designation "condition #11" from Proposal #1). Buck drafted the new wording of Proposal #2 given above, which all voting members present approved.

Next meeting

The next FCEO meeting has been re-scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall. (Please note this in your calendar.)

Brian Taylor, Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Simpson (Chair), Buck, Kieckhefer, Kiyak and Treser;
ex-officio member Szatmary.

ABSENT: *Professors* Daniali, DeYoung, Jenkins, Jorgensen and Zoller;

ex-officio member Huling, Marcovina, Rogers, Root and Slater.