

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

The Faculty Council on Educational Outreach met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, **January 5, 2005**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair William Erdly presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the December 7, 2004 FCEO meeting were approved as written.

Event to be held to educate UW community with Catalyst and other features of the online environment – David Szatmary

Szatmary said an upcoming event will help familiarize faculty and others in the UW community with Catalyst and other features of the online environment. More specific information is forthcoming.

Distance Learning legislation in 2002 on CL-suffix courses

A working subcommittee comprised of Erdly, Daniali, and Brock was established to define the parameters of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of DL-suffix courses. The council vote was unanimous to establish the subcommittee. Szatmary offered the proviso: "If you are looking at whether or not DL-designated courses are useful to students, you would need to ask faculty." Erdly said, "There are several parts to this, including perceptions of Distance Learning and course quality issues. The subcommittee should review all options."

At the outset of the discussion leading to the vote to establish a subcommittee, Erdly referred council members to page three of the 2002 Class "B" Distance Learning Legislation handout; specifically, to the wording: "After June 2005, UWEO may only offer University credit courses in distance-learning format that have been designated as DL-suffix courses." Szatmary noted that an "interesting change" has taken place. Deans no longer have authority to approve undergraduate Distance Learning degrees. The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) must approve undergraduate DL degree programs. Szatmary said 20 DL courses have been approved thus far by the UW Curriculum Committee, and more will likely be approved in the near future. He also said there is great interest among students in online courses, but that another funding model will be needed to support DL courses.

The question was asked: Should students pay an extra fee (\$200 per course would be necessary) for faculty and operational costs in DL courses? Erdly noted that there already are lab fees for many courses. He said a great many faculty believe it is still important to add a DL indicator if a course "goes through the process". Szatmary told the council that Tim Washburn [Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Services] wants the DL designation on the transcript to enable Admissions to track DL courses, and to help evaluate them. Warnick said, "I'd like that information on the transcript." Daniali said he has just finished teaching a DL course, and found that it "is a time-consuming interaction". He spent upwards of ten hours a day teaching and running the course. It was, however, a "rewarding experience", he added.

Erdly asked if the council had a consensus on having or not having a DL designator on the transcript. He pointed out that the line between regular onsite courses and Distance Learning courses is not as distinct as it once was. Wilkes said a definite long-term goal should be to have matriculated students take DL courses in a transparent way, without special arrangements or supplementary payments. He added: "I'd like to know if a student took a DL course. Distance Learning standards in many universities are very low, for instance." Warnick said students "are trying to get credits any way they can." Szatmary said that graduate level courses are not DL designated, and that certain faculty members do indeed feel that undergraduate courses should have a DL designation. "Probably, students are performing now at the same level in both DL and regular courses," he observed. Erdly said, "That's what I found too. And many regular courses are, *de*

facto, very DL-like.” Warnick said it would be best “to be conservative on this issue, for undergraduate courses.”

Erdly asked, “Would we like to formalize a study of this issue, and get data together? It *is* time for a status report on this issue, at the very least.” Szatmary said there are, at present, 20 approved DL-suffix courses under the provision of the 2002 Faculty Senate legislation, with others to come. Erdly suggested, “We could do a pilot study of those 20 courses.” Berger suggested that “just focusing on Distance Learning is counterproductive.” Erdly asserted, “Not everyone is convinced that Distance Learning works. We need to do a fair, scientific study for faculty to have this data.” He recommended that the council endorse a preliminary study to be conducted on the 20 DL-designated courses that have been approved under the new legislation. “There will be several different outcomes: quality outcomes, and many others.” Szatmary asked, “Is the DL designation a negative? Does it indicate a lesser course? The quality in DL courses *is* there. Arnie Berger’s stated results in the DL course he taught show it.”

Erdly said each department has to decide whether Distance Learning can be used in the last 45 credits. It’s at the discretion of each department. Szatmary said the issue “is the negative feeling about Distance Learning.” He said this will assuredly change over time.

Erdly referred the council to page 9 of the Distance Learning Legislation handout: “In addition to the initial review, DL-suffix courses must be reviewed in the third year by the appropriate curriculum review committees of the school or college.” Szatmary said the courses actually are reviewed annually. The shake-up came with the transition from the “C” designation (the “C” standing for “correspondence”) to the DL-suffix designation, he added. Most units said, “Fine”.

Identify FCEO Proposed Actions (listed in the 2003-04 FCEO Annual Report)

At the conclusion of today’s discussion on potential FCEO proposed actions (culled from the 13 issues developed in the Annual Report), the following subcommittee areas and members were identified:

- *Dimensions: Resource Guide for Course Development and other topics* (Erdly, Szatmary, Wilkes)
- *Summer Quarter* (Warnick, Goldsmith)
- *Library / Resources* (Deardorff)
- *Content Reuse: Intellectual Property Rights, Technological Issues* (Erdly, Szatmary)
- *Transfer of Courses / Credits* (Eberhardt)
- *Faculty Representation* (Erdly, Szatmary)
- *Bottleneck Courses* (Wilkes)

In the “Dimensions: Resource Guide for Course Development” area, Szatmary said he has considerable data on development resources for faculty in the Resource Guide, and can work with Erdly in this area.

Warnick volunteered to head the subcommittee on Summer Quarter; she will ask Goldsmith if she can volunteer as well. Erdly noted that Summer Quarter is “open submission”, and that non-matriculated students can take courses in Summer Quarter. “So there are lots of features about Summer Quarter that make it distinctive.” He said a question that arises is whether Summer Quarter courses are of the same quality as courses in the other three quarters. Also, the courses are shorter in Summer Quarter. Another question that arises is whether or not there is a different level of faculty teaching Summer Quarter courses. Szatmary added that, with respect to curricular issues, many students enroll in bottleneck courses in Summer Quarter. He said a question to be considered is: What courses could be taught in Summer Quarter that might be unique to Summer Quarter? Summer Quarter, in many instances, could perhaps be more experimental in its curriculum than could the other three quarters, it was suggested. It also was noted that

there are special funding issues connected to Summer Quarter. Warnick said she would produce a “fact-finding report” for the council.

Eberhardt said he would serve on the “Transfer of Courses / Credits” subcommittee. Deardorff, will give an “informational” report on the “Library / Resources” area. Erdly’s report on “Content Reuse” will include information on intellectual property and technological issues. He will invite Malcolm Parks, Associate Vice Provost for Research, to visit the council to discuss this area. And Wilkes will report on “Bottleneck Courses”.

Next meeting

The next FCEO meeting is set for Wednesday, February 2, 2005, at 8:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

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

ABSENT: *Professors* Brock, Carlson, Collins, Goldsmith and Zierler.

Brian Taylor
Recorder