

**Faculty Council on Educational Outreach
Annual Report
2006-2007**

William Erdly, Chair

FCEO was successful in passing Class B legislation specifying the removal of the “DL” – or distance learning – designator from undergraduate transcripts. Our committee also facilitated contract negotiations between ELP (English Language Program) lecturers and Educational Outreach (EO). Both activities required considerable effort, planning, meetings with other faculty councils, contract/handbook reviews and revisions, presentations – and communication with faculty, administration and students to ensure high quality outcomes. Other business included monitoring and reviewing regular issues of importance to EO and faculty including reviews of the EO Annual Report, new certificate and degree offerings, and proposed partnerships with other institutions.

First, the passage of Class B legislation to exclude the DL designator from undergraduate student transcripts is the culmination of three years of work. The results of this legislation require the DL designator (used for courses delivered using distance learning technologies/methods) be removed from *official* transcripts; however, the DL designator will still be used for internal reviews of course quality and other UW institutional research activities. Several concerns from departments about this change related to the perceived quality differences between DL education versus classroom-based education. These concerns were addressed through DL research by FCEO as well as revisiting the course approval and review processes. FCEO concluded that processes are in place to ensure UW course quality; this is accomplished via effective coordination and regular departmental review required of any UW course. Courses with the same course number should meet similar learning goals and quality standards – regardless of course format. FCEO also proposes that course delivery methods be clearly designated in the catalog and time schedule in the near future. It is important that students are aware of which courses (or sections of a course) are taught using distance learning or other off-site learning method(s). Other faculty councils may be interested in this issue as it has resource (e.g., room scheduling, lab requirements, testing, and/or faculty support requirements) and course quality/monitoring implications.

A second major activity concerned proposed revisions to the UWEO Extension Lecturer contracts for ELP faculty. Specific concerns were raised relating to 1) proposed changes in the contract by the AG’s office; 2) processes for review and approval of ELP contracts; and 3) faculty status of ELP lecturers. FCEO chaired a subcommittee – including FCFA representation – to review and resolve contract issues between ELP lecturers and EO administration. This entire process was successfully completed within a very short, but intense, timeframe to support immediate faculty and departmental needs for summer quarter – and upcoming annual contracts. FCEO will continue to work with ELP personnel committee representatives to review their overall status and provide a recommendation to FCFA and Faculty Senate leadership.

Other FCEO issues included a review of policies related to fee-based degree programs that have embedded certificates. Concerns related to “double counting” of degrees and certificates were reviewed and resolved. Students are now required to complete additional work beyond the core degree requirements to earn industry/discipline-specific certifications. Additional FCEO activities that are recommended for continuation in 2007-2008 include:

- 1) Creation of an FCEO-handbook and/or resource guide for faculty/administration related to starting/maintaining distance learning course and self-sustaining programs. This document should be prepared as Class C legislation.
- 2) Review recommended changes to the IEO handbook.
- 3) Provide guidance on strategic planning activities for UWEO (including review of potential EO program offerings for proposed “UW North” campus as well as international initiatives...).
- 4) Participate with other UWEO-related committees such as the Continuing Education Board of Directors, UWEO Visiting Committee, and the UW Operations Committee/Advisory Group.