

Faculty Council on Educational Outreach (FCEO) **Annual Report 2005-2006 – Bill Erdly, Chair**

FCEO activities continue to grow as the University expands academic courses and degree-programs throughout the region and the world. Increased dependence on self-sustaining programs, the development of new global partnerships with other educational institutions, the pervasive use of technology to deliver course content, and our commitment to maintaining high academic quality and standards in our educational outreach offerings require thoughtful consideration and action by the membership of FCEO. In the previous two years, FCEO re-established its mission and goals; in 2005-2006 we focused on establishing strong connections with other faculty committees and key administrators in order to move forward on a long list of initiatives formulated by FCEO.

A primary focus was discussion and activities related to preparing Class B legislation that would exclude the “DL” (Distance Learning) designator from student transcripts. Justifications for this include

- 1) DL designated courses may be evaluated differently by external organizations and/or universities, who may question why UW distinguishes these courses from our regular courses;
- 2) other universities do not make a distinction between their classroom-based and DL courses;
- 3) it is the responsibility for each program, department and/or school to ensure that academic quality standards are met, regardless of the form of delivery of their courses;
- 4) the distinction between DL courses and classroom-based courses is becoming very blurred as faculty use many different technologies and teaching strategies within their individual courses; and
- 5) students wish to have some indicator in the time schedule that indicates the amount of in-class versus DL activities they should expect for ANY course. Detailed reviews of the University Handbook and sections related to the use of DL designators and policies were completed. Recommended changes have been identified and will be prepared for review in 2006/2007.

A series of meetings with representatives from the Registrar’s office resulted in the charge to evaluate student data and overall outcomes for courses already identified as DL Courses. FCEO recommends that the DL designator continue to be used internally, so that we may receive outcomes data for student performance. A series of specific outcomes indicators was discussed and summarized for future reporting from the Registrar’s Office.

The chair of FCEO participated in FCTCP discussions related to degree coordination between UWT, UWS, UWB and UWEQ programs. The strategic planning process and potential competition between FCEO-related degree programs was discussed. It was determined that the overall academic strategic planning processes must continue to improve coordination and communication between UW campuses and programs. While the tri-campus review process is informative to faculty and administration, it does not provide information related to how new initiatives may affect existing degree programs at this time.

Committee members served on the selection committee for the Faculty Contributions to Lifelong Learning Award. We also participated in the Global Affairs retreat sponsored by the Provost’s Office, as outreach is critical for this new initiative.

Additional presentations and Q & A occurred between FCEO leadership and FCAS. These discussions were informational to ensure that proper processing and review of new FCEO-sponsored degree programs followed normal procedures for review and approval. FCEO-sponsored programs were confirmed to follow normal new program procedures and that academic standards are monitored and maintained by the degree-sponsoring department.

FCEO continues to work on other initiatives related to:

- 1) Creating of an FCEO-handbook and/or resource guide for faculty/administration related to starting/maintaining distance-learning courses and degree programs. This document should be prepared as Class C legislation.
- 2) Coordinating of strategic planning activities for new FCEO-related programs.
- 3) Improving recognition for faculty effort related to outreach activities – particularly as it relates to promotion and tenure.
- 4) Identifying methods to incorporate UW research activities within distance learning and other outreach activities.
- 5) Defining transfer/articulation agreements and degree pathways for students who take EO credit courses.
- 6) Identifying opportunities and options for the participation of emeritus faculty in EO course/program development and delivery.

We look forward to another productive year!

*Prepared by: Bill Erdly, Ph. D.
Chair FCEO 2004 -- 2006*