

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Educational Outreach
Thursday, November 17, 2005

Bill Erdly called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes from Oct. 27.
 2. Announcements
 3. Distance Learning designation on students' transcripts
 4. Adjourn and next meeting
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1. Brief introductions were made. Lillie Karelja is the newly elected representative from the ASUW. The minutes from October 27 were approved.
 2. Announcements:
 - David Szatmary talked about the Distinguished Contribution to Lifelong Learning Award. This award will be given to a UW faculty member who has been engaged in lifelong learning activities that have been innovative, creative, and have resulted in positive benefits for students. There is a \$5000 monetary award. The selection committee will meet after January 15. Szatmary will send an e-mail to the committee asking for nominations and ask for volunteers to serve on the selection committee.
 - Szatmary is chair of the Student Services and Operations Committee. The committee discusses issues relating to fee-based programs, SDB, and student services. The committee looks at tasks from the other committees and tries to make them work operationally. The other committees are 1) Enrollment, 2) Affordable Access and Financial Aide, and 3) Tuition and Fees. Szatmary would like to add a faculty member to this Operations committee. Bill Erdly has agreed to serve. The major accomplishment of the Operations Committee last year was a decision to add an overhead to fee-based degrees to pay for services in the Libraries, Disability Services, Registrar's Office and Financial Aide Office.
 - Faculty Councils need to get involved in UW policies. One of the issues has to do with compensation for faculty who teach in fee-based programs. Do these faculty qualify for excess compensation?
 3. Main Focus: Craft a draft response and recommendation regarding DL designation on student transcripts.

Erdly distributed a handout titled "Task Force on Distance Learning – Legislative Proposal." Discussion continued about the policy of tagging distance learning courses with a DL designation on a student transcript. FCEO and FCAS will work together on the DL policy but FCEO will make a recommendation. The recommendation and the pieces of language need to be finished by February, 2006. The tagging of distance learning courses needs to be studied from a student and faculty prospective. Quality control for DL courses needs to be addressed. Blended courses seem to be popular and have high integrity. Deardorff asked if

there has been department feedback on tagging DL courses and if the community colleges have a policy about these courses. The feeling was that community colleges do not place a designation on DL courses.

Szatmary stated that DL courses began in 1912 and enrollment in distance learning has increased across the country. However, it has been too costly at the UW to integrate these courses in the time schedule for matriculated students because of the cost of curriculum development and infrastructure issues. The tuition cap does not work for DL courses and students cannot include them in their load. At the UW, graduate DL courses are not tagged but undergraduate courses are. Szatmary referred to a book titled, "The No Significant Difference Phenomenon." There are pages of information listing DL offerings. Most institutions do not tag their DL courses. These courses are considered equivalent to all others but are offered with a different format. Szatmary agrees with Olavarria that departments are making DL courses equitable by reviewing and approving the curriculum.

Olavarria feels that there is a renewed interest in distance learning courses. DL offers an alternative to those students who cannot attend campus. Currently, students do pay more for DL courses but hopefully, this will change. Why should there be a DL designation? Departments are working to make these courses equivalent. Olavarria stated that he teaches PSYCH 202 online during the summer. I have over 200 students who are alert and attentive. I receive interactions online. The UW should have both online and onsite options. Szatmary stated that the critical piece is how students learn. Some students take online courses and some prefer classroom. Taking both formats is beneficial.

Szatmary said that UWEO created an experiment with 3 faculty. The faculty were asked to teach onsite and then online and compare the 2 formats. The faculty indicated that the students performed the same and the workload was the same. There were some very different instructor tasks. Even though there was no classroom time the online preparation was more. Szatmary will bring the results to the next FCEO meeting.

Erdly said that the process of interacting effectively with students is important whether it is distance learning or classroom and the mix of onsite and online courses is beneficial. Instructors teach differently now and everyone uses technology. Faculty are constantly changing formats, lessons, and methods.

Currently, distance learning course are sent to the departments/colleges/schools and then to FCAS for approval. The FCAS would like to work with FCEO to establish a policy for distance learning courses and whether or not they should be tagged with a DL designation. A joint meeting would be beneficial.

Erdly agreed that we need to work with FCAS. This committee needs to write a statement/observation about DL courses and take it to the FCAS with examples and course comparisons.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15. The next meeting is scheduled for December 15 at 1:30.

Minutes by Coralie Watters, Administrative Assistant, UW Educational Outreach.

Present:

Faculty: Erdly, Olavarria

President's Designee: Szatmary

Ex officio: Stevens, Karelja, Deardorff

Absent:

Faculty: Brock, Eberhardt, Keifer, Kyes, Rogers, Warnick, Wilkes, Zierler

Ex officio: Campbell