

University Of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., December 13, 2012
26 Gerberding Hall

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of Minutes for 15 November 2012 meeting
 3. Classrooms, New Tech., etc.
 4. New Business
 5. Adjournment
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Bill Rorabaugh.

2. Approval of Minutes for 15 November 2012 meeting

The minutes from the November 15th meeting were approved as written.

3. Classrooms, New Tech., etc.

Roberta Hopkins, Director of Classroom Support Services, was introduced to the Council to discuss the numbers and usage of classrooms on campus. She provided numerous statistics:

- The count of general use classrooms have not increased over the past few years
- The largest classrooms (over 251 seats) have the highest average scheduled weekly hours of usage, at 38 hours per week, increasing the average for all classrooms.
- Between 64 – 74 percent of seats are occupied in general use classrooms, with larger rooms having a higher occupancy rates than smaller rooms.

These trends suggest that classrooms are increasingly full, due to lack of additional rooms created and increased student numbers, and class sizes are growing. UW has a higher number than the national standard of class utilization (weekly hours of scheduled use multiplied by seats used), mostly concentrated within central classrooms. This information would support the argument that UW needs more classroom space. The option to extend hours of operations to free up more space for classes was debated; some courses convene in the evening, or Saturday.

Hopkins described the distribution of course sections by meeting day and duration. She noted that less than 10 percent of such schedules have strange meeting/length patterns, despite efforts towards standardization of schedules which have improved the classroom scheduling experience for faculty and students. Discussion followed on UW's "free for all" scheduling strategy, allowing courses to be scheduled at odd schedules or extended times. Some small enrollment sections are reserving larger rooms than they need, and it was suggested that ensuring room assignment based on appropriate class size could free up more space. The Council also considered the impact of classes which meet virtually.

It was suggested that Chairs or Deans of academic units be notified if course sections are allocated classrooms that are larger than needed, in hopes of freeing up more classroom space. Another suggestion was to determine if particular schools regularly book inappropriately sized classrooms, and follow up with such schools. Hopkins described peak demand for classrooms, noting that the most

popular ending time for classes fall between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30. p.m. The Council considered potential impacts of more equally distributing class times.

Building renovations during the 2011 – 13 biennium were presented. These efforts were largely to address growth in student housing on West Campus, by improving technology in West Campus classrooms, particularly in Condon, and Gould Halls. 2013-15 Biennium renovation requests were described, totaling \$14.643 million. In anticipation that not all requests will be funded, renovations were tiered into top, second and third priorities. Potential renovations were described in Gowen, Smith, Eagleson, Miller, Mueller and Loew Halls and the Electrical Engineering, Social Work and Music Buildings.

Hopkins emphasized the need to address technology issues, in particular, Infrastructure costs to support Tegrity, address the growth demand for HDMI connections for presentations, transitioning from overhead projectors to document cameras and lack of data projection capabilities in small classrooms.

Council members suggested transitioning to SmartBoards, rather than projectors or simply LCD screens, however concerns were expressed on proper usage and security for such technologies, and potential for faculty confusion with too cutting-edge technologies. Christopher Ozubko offered to enter Hopkins into contact with Microsoft, who is working on \$1,500 SmartBoards, to discuss potential piloting at UW. Hopkins was encouraged to improve ease of transition between projectors and writing on whiteboard/chalkboards, improving lighting for faculty to read notes or better projectors which are visible in ambient light. An issue was identified within fixed motorized whiteboards in the Electrical Engineering Building, which are constantly stuck.

Discussion continued on whether there may be spaces on campus which could serve as lecture halls in the future, such as departmentally owned or special function spaces. The size of the room and cost of conversion would be useful to know, in order to ascertain potential additional space. Some areas may be far away, such as the UW Tower, or overly expensive, such as spaces within the new residence halls.

4. New Business

The UW Smart Grid project was briefly discussed, noting the addition of electric meter readers on each building. Gerberding Hall in particular was noted to have severe energy deficiencies. This allows the University to possibly decrease operational costs, in light of the increasing cost of electrical bills. A plan may be in the works to charge building occupants for electricity usage. Lighting and heating are the main drivers of these costs.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. by Chair Rorabaugh.

Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Rorabaugh (Chair), Christie, Balick (Sabbatical), Stecker, Gates, Ozubko
Ex-Officio Reps: Zuchowski, Vardy, Byrne
Guests: Roberta Hopkins, John Sahr

Absent: **Faculty:** Proksch
President's Designee: Kennedy
Ex-Officio Reps: Coslett, Goldblatt