

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy
February 27, 2014, 9:00 am – 10:30 am
Gerberding 26

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Introductions
 3. Review of the Minutes from January 30, 2014
 4. Use of Similar/Same Degree Names Across Campuses
 5. Integrated Social Sciences (ISS) On-line Degree
 6. Criminal History/Background Check – Processes and Support Q & A
 7. Good of the Order
 8. Adjourn
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Erdly at 9:00 a.m.

2. Introductions

Members introduced themselves to the council.

3. Review of the Minutes from January 30, 2014

The minutes from January 30, 2014 were approved as amended.

4. Use of Similar/Same Degree Names Across Campuses

Erdly discussed a recently-debated issue regarding degrees with similar names that exist at different UW campuses. Last year UW – Bothell’s Computing & Software Systems changed its name to Computer Science & Software Engineering along with a similar name for its minor. The proposal received a comment after the tri-campus review period from the chair of Computer Science and Engineering expressing support for the creation of the program but wanted another name adopted because it was in fact a different program. In the past the UW Tacoma and Bothell programs have been different but over time have been modified to sound almost identical. It would be fine if students identified themselves as students from specific UW campuses, but this is not the case. The chair argued that this creates significant confusion in industry about how students are prepared differently on each UW campus. Erdly emphasized the importance in having future conversations amongst units and departments in order to address these problems earlier in the proposal process.

Concern was raised that this problem keeps UW stuck in the past, rather than focusing on future development of programs and degrees. For example, the University of California system has many strong campuses, like Berkeley and Los Angeles, and it would be confusing to have a variation amongst degrees which means nothing to outsiders. The concern about different degree names sounds like an attempt to simply brand a UW campus. A follow up comment was raised that it is more important to have

a long-term policy that looks 20 years down the road. Campuses do have slightly different emphasis on curriculum along with different advising and recruitment, but if the concern is regarding a particular degree it should not be an issue. A comment was raised that this can be an issue to be reviewed by faculty, staff, students and administrators in order to assist with long-term strategic planning. A comment was raised that if everyone is on board with the same program then there should not be an issue. However, if there are variations within the program at each campus then it needs to be clear to students when they enroll. The crux of the matter is that degrees should include language if there are variations from campus to campus in order to provide transparency for students.

A comment was raised expressing concern that campuses should not be arguing over naming rights for particular degrees. A member agreed stating that nobody should have a monopoly over labeling a program. If the goal is to differentiate degrees based on a particular campus then it should be labeled on the UW transcript instead.

A suggestion was made to have this as an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss in more detail. Erdly encouraged members to gather the thoughts from groups across their campuses to provide input and feedback at next meeting. Erdly mentioned that he is very interested in student feedback on this agenda item. A comment was raised that the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) is reviewing a new enrollment management system which might be relevant to this issue.

5. Integrated Social Sciences (ISS) On-line Degree

Judith Howard (Divisional Dean of Social Sciences) and Patricia Kramer (Chair of FCAS) provided an update on the recent ISS online degree proposal. The proposal has completed the tri-campus review process and Erdly received ISS' responses last night. The council had a good discussion during its last meeting which addressed questions and concerns about this proposal.

The council's initial impression is that ISS has been very responsive to the questions and concerns raised during the tri-campus review. Erdly reminded members that the role of the tri-campus review committee is to ensure that the proposing unit has adequately responded to any outstanding issues that have been raised. The council is discussing the idea about a pre-review process during the planning phase of new proposals similar to the Notification of Intent process coordinated by the state HEC board.

Howard provided a brief overview of the ISS online degree proposal. ISS coordinated the initial planning with social science chairs to develop the key themes of the degree and requested feedback from key personnel from all UW campuses. The feedback was very positive and even resulted in the creation of a course for the proposed degree. A question was raised asking what happens if faculty from UW Bothell or Tacoma assist with the ISS degree. If there is just one or two faculty involved there will be no significant impact. However, if UW Bothell/Tacoma participation increases then there will be greater representation on the steering committee. Kramer reminded the council that the ISS degree is a UW-Seattle major and the participation of a UW-Bothell faculty member is actually categorized as UW-Seattle adjunct faculty. Although the faculty member is from UW-Bothell, his participation would be considered a Seattle-based Political Science course and he would be a representative of the Seattle campus.

At this point ISS can legitimately move forward and UW will be able to see how the program works and whether UW Tacoma or Bothell has interest in participating. Kramer also explained that the concept of the degree was well received during a recent Faculty Senate meeting. One concern that has been raised

during the review process is that the UW will not realize the effects of the program until later in the future when it hits the university, and by that time it will be too late to backtrack. Additionally, this has the potential to be a very large degree and UW already experiences many graduates from social sciences. A question was raised about reporting mechanisms for this program to retrieve data on students who are admitted. Kramer explained that FCAS has required ISS to report back in 3 years with this exact report to study student population, enrollment, applications and outcomes. FCAS has agonized over the same issues as this council which is the reason for this reporting requirement. For example, there are a group of faculty who believe the ISS online degree could draw students away from the physical Seattle campus, similar to UW Bothell and Tacoma concerns. FCAS is concerned about this problem and hopes to have these concerns addressed by the 3-year review. A comment was raised that social scientists within the program itself are interested in the outcomes as well.

A comment was raised that in comparison to UW-Seattle, if UW Tacoma/Bothell was to lose a large portion of its students (20%) it would be a much more significant impact on the campus. A question was raised asking if FCAS will be approving future online degrees while they wait for the 3-year results. Kramer explained that FCAS has no authority to control new proposals but will put them through the same process at ISS. Kramer mentioned that UW faculty did not object to the creation of the new “program-specific” student classification that would allow for this and Kramer is not sure if there will be a rush to create similar programs.

A comment was raised that once ISS launches its new program it will provide a great service to UW in examining how to design effective online offerings. This will allow UW faculty the opportunity to learn how to develop future expansions in other program. Providing online courses is a challenge, but it will be easier over time as resources and information is shared across campus. A comment was raised that the Provost joint task force on online learning is looking at this issue which is happening in tandem with these developments.

Discussion moved to how faculty will be appointed to offer courses in future programs. Some campuses have adjunct appoints so it will be easier to appoint them to similar degrees. Since the intent is to have this degree for a long time the program may create additional revenue which would allow it to sustain itself and appoint long-term faculty. A question was raised asking the estimated enrollment if all the goals are met as described in the proposal. Kramer explained the estimated enrollment would be 800 full-time equivalents with a mix of part and full-time students. A question was raised asking what FCAS will do if the data starts to show that UW Tacoma or Bothell is losing students because the program is offering a better service than what students can receive on campus. Kramer explained this is the reason for the formal review in the 5th year to study the impacts of the program. Members discussed whether the 5-year review takes into consideration the impact on all 3 campuses. A comment was raised that there may be a more robust method of dealing with tri-campus concerns in the future. Erdly suggested that this council could offer some questions to be included in the 3-year review that could address these concerns.

Kramer discussed the review process that occurred during FCAS and the particulars of the proposal (for more detailed information see recent [FCAS minutes](#)). Council members discussed several issues including lecturers, tuition, the review process, delivery of courses, types of students enrolled, questions surrounding “generally admitted” students wanting access to the program, distance learning, demographics and the UW transcript. Kramer explained that if a “generally admitted” student applies to the program they must do so as a “program-specific” student. However, if they decide to take courses

again at the Seattle campus they have to re-apply and are no longer “program-specific” students. Additionally, students would be prevented from receiving a double degree.

Erdy will send out a link to the entire council for full tri-campus review of the ISS degree proposal and requested members to respond soon.

6. Criminal History/Background Check – Processes and Support Q & A

Denzil Suite (Vice President of Student Life) provided a follow up on the criminal history questionnaire and background checks for new student applications.

Each campus is looking at the questionnaire individually. UW Seattle now has a preliminary review of new freshmen applications and UW Bothell and Tacoma is in the process of collecting the data. Data from UW-Seattle found that three applicants indicated “yes” to being convicted of a violent felony. However, after reviewing the answers in more detail it became apparent that the answers were not actually categorized as violent felonies, or even considered to be criminal matters at all. One transfer student has indicated “yes” to a violent felony but has not completed the application process at this time. Suite mentioned that those who have been convicted of violent felonies in the past are a great concern. However, Suite pointed out that by the time the individual has qualified for admissions they have done enough things to mitigate their behavior in order to be accepted. Suite anticipates that UW-Seattle will develop a potential set of intervention methods if something like this should happen.

A question was raised asking how faculty will be educated and trained if there is a sexual offender registered for a class. There is already a process in place and UW-Seattle is working with three individuals who are currently on campus. UW-Seattle works closely with UWPD and probation officers to ensure campus safety and determine when an intervention is required. Suite explained the most important concern is if an individual begins to develop certain patterns of behavior in which they are unable to control themselves resulting in UW to develop a strong intervention process. Suite mentioned that he does not see substantive issues emerging at this time.

A comment was raised that in addition to convictions the criminal history questionnaire also asks about pending charges. The UWPD police chief reports directly to Suite and UWPD will conduct a thorough background check for anyone who answers “yes” to the question. Concern was raised about applicants who do not disclose their criminal history on the application. If there is an indication that an applicant has lied on their application form there is a faculty committee that can review the application and look for any falsification. However, this is usually only triggered when the issue comes to light, like when a student is about to graduate and is asking about transferring credit from community college courses that were not previously disclosed.

A comment was raised expressing concern about teaching during overnight field trips. If there is an instance that a registered sex offender is amongst the group there is no process in notifying the faculty member and other students. Suite suggested that faculty can conduct a background check for each student before the field trips. During the last academic year Suite’s office conducted 3,000 background checks for students going overseas. Concern was raised that UW must trust that new student applicants will be honest when filling out their application. An alternative would be conducting a background check on every new student application. The main difficulty is to strike a balance of safety; however it is important to be 100% sure faculty members are not unknowingly exposing young adults to violence.

At this point in time the criminal history background questionnaire is on student applications and UW-Seattle is working on protocols for when a situation arises. The protocols will be vetted through various committees on campus.

A question was raised about students in residence halls who have a history of violence or are registered sexu offenders. UW housing has a specific process for this which has existed for many years. UW housing will meet with the student and make the determination for the appropriate housing arrangements.

Suite explained that his office will provide a short report for the Provost summarizing who his office has met with, what they saw, and their plan for moving forward.

7. Good of the Order

O'Neill reporting that she is chairing the tri-campus committee on lecturers with representatives from all three campuses. O'Neill requested the help of members to assist with the conversations occurring at UW Bothell and Tacoma campuses. The lecturer group will be making recommendations and establishing guidelines for non-competitively hired faculty at UW.

Erdly will send out an email regarding the ISS online degree proposal and requested members to respond indicating their support/lack of support for approving the proposal.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Erdly at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Erdly (Chair), Dolsak, Kucher, Mobus
President's Designee: Moy
Ex Officio: O'Neill, Resnick, McKinley, Deardorff, Leadley, Brown
Guests: Judith Howard (Divisional Dean of Social Sciences), Patricia Kramer (Chair, Faculty Council on Academic Standards), Denzil Suite (Vice-President for Student Life)

Absent: **Faculty:** Crowder, Endicott-Popovsky
President's Designee: Jeffords, Harrington Jr.
Ex Officio: Fridley, Taricani