

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy  
November 21, 2013, 9:00 am – 10:30 am  
Gerberding 26

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Review of the Minutes from October 24, 2013
  3. Introductions
  4. Use of Video Conferencing for Council Meetings
  5. Implementation of the Undergraduate Diversity Graduation Requirement
  6. Implementation of the Criminal History Question on Student Applications
  7. Tri-campus Coordination of New Degree Programs
  8. Adjourn
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**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Review of the Minutes from October 24, 2013**

The minutes from October 24, 2013 were approved as amended.

**3. Introductions**

The council has a new ex-officio member, Marnie Brown, who is serving as the ASUW representative. Members introduced themselves.

**4. Use of Video Conferencing for Council Meetings**

Mobus (via conference phone) suggested the use of video conferencing for future conference meetings. Video conferencing would be preferable because members calling in would be able to have face-to-face interaction with the rest of the council. Mobus mentioned that all three UW campuses have video conferencing centers. Discussion ensued. The council looked into this in the past but it was very expensive. Discussion ensued about possible opportunities across campus. This issue is also being addressed in the Faculty Senate.

**5. Implementation of the Undergraduate Diversity Graduation Requirement**

Kari Lerum, chair of the UW-Bothell General Faculty Organization, attended the meeting to discuss the implementation of the undergraduate diversity graduation requirement. Lerum stated that UW-Bothell has been scrambling to meet the new requirement. UW-Bothell has control of the curriculum approval and Lerum was curious how the other campuses are implementing the diversity requirement. UW-Bothell currently has the list of criteria but courses have not been vetted yet. There is concern that this increases the demand on students, specifically those in the sciences. Part of her agenda is to ensure that all the schools on campus have the correct information to identify courses that fall under the definition and support faculty who are offering the courses. Faculty members are not experts in diversity and need this information in order to be effective.

Harrington stated that UW-Tacoma was able to get a good start on implementation because a campus diversity committee worked on this issues a year ago which proposed a set of guidelines and criteria.

The committee had grappled with the criteria and was able to submit courses to the central curriculum committee. One concern was related to cultural diversity within a US context; resulting in several courses not being eligible. Discussion ensued. The chair of the curriculum committee at UW-Bothell felt uncomfortable about implementing diversity without having a full discussion by the faculty and needed clarification on the term “global diversity”. A question was raised asking if UW-Bothell will find enough courses. After a systematic review UW-Bothell will have about 12 courses identified by Fall Quarter 2014. A comment was raised that citizens grappling with diversity issues feel that students need to understand the history and concerns that impact society. At the same time UW needs to maximize the courses that are relevant to students.

Each campus identifies their own curriculum and must trust that departments are making the correct decisions. If students do not believe the course meets the diversity component they will bring attention to it. Beth Kalikoff and the Center for Teaching and Learning may have resources available to assist faculty in offering diversity courses.

Discussion ensued. A question was raised asking the extent to which UW will implant “diversity” into course that do not already include the topic. The process at UW-Seattle is identifying what currently meets the diversity requirement. Concern was raised about the 60% requirement. The 60% requirement refers to the course covering 60% of its material to “diversity” as defined in the new guidelines. In reviewing the requirements from other required designations within the Areas of Knowledge (AoK) the 60% requirement puts a large burden on AoK courses. For example, Natural World requires 70% course content and Individuals and Society requires 30%. With a 60% requirement for diversity these issues will just begin to overlap one another. Discussion ensued. Concern was raised that UW does not want to “shoe-horn” courses into meeting the requirements in order for the math to line up. Additionally, for those who teach diversity it will increase the burden on those courses to cover those students who need to take them in order to graduate. UW needs to be careful with the new criteria to ensure the content actually means something while having control of the message and content.

There appears to be two stages of rolling out the implementation:

- Identifying diversity courses
- Long-term planning

UW-Tacoma is preparing for Fall Quarter 2014 and has its eye on the Winter Quarter deadline to establish guidelines for developing diversity courses on campus. UW-Tacoma may possibly hire an employee to coordinate implementation.

## **6. Implementation of the Criminal History Question on Student Applications**

Jerry Baldasty, Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, was present to discuss the criminal history question on new student applications. During the recent Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting the committee discussed this issue which asks applicants whether they have been convicted of a violent felony or are a registered sexual offender. This issue was discussed last year and the initial approach was to use the question to determine if an applicant was a risk to the university. In reviewing admissions across the US the number of applicants answering the question affirmatively is relatively small. Work was done to compare how the questions were asked by other institutions and found that many applicants were asked by institutions using the Common Application. The Common Application asked very similar questions, but also expanded the questions to include misdemeanors. It was clarified that UW is much different because their questions are much narrower compared to other institutions.

Baldasty also mentioned that institutions received a number of false affirmatives to the question which was quite odd. The Provost has been involved with this issue and had a number of meetings across campus to discuss concerns that have been raised. As a result, admissions at UW will not make decisions on admissions based on answers to the criminal history question. Instead, UW will use an affirmative answer to create a support system to ensure they will be successful at UW.

Lerum stated that UW-Bothell has been having a long conversation about the issue and she was part of a team which created an extensive document explaining why they oppose the new process. Lerum explained that the group was very active because faculty was not consulted prior to making the decision. Baldasty explained that was not true; there was consultation with members of the Faculty Senate and discussions with faculty councils. Lerum expressed concern that it was not approved by the full Senate and hoped that issues like this would be voted on in the future. Lerum clarified that this issue changes admissions guidelines which should fall under the purview of faculty. It was a mistake that the criminal history question was implemented in the first place but Lerum appreciates the change in focus. Baldasty clarified that answers to the question will not be reviewed until after the applicant is admitted. Lerum asked how admissions can ensure that answers are not being reviewed. Baldasty explained that readers who are conducting the review do not get access to that information. Lerum asked for proof to ensure readers do not have access, to which Baldasty explained that this has always been the case. Even in the original proposal the readers would never get access. Discussion ensued. Applicants may also choose to self-disclose their criminal history.

Lerum raised another concern that applicants who review the question may just give up and not complete the application. Lerum asked if there is any data to support this concern because it would be discouraging to these individuals. There is data on those who complete the application, but not for those who fail to complete it. Discussion ensued. The application explains that answers will not be used to determine admissions and not affect UW's decision on acceptance to the university. Lerum asked for an example which Baldasty will provide at a later date.

Those who answer "yes" will have access to a safety and support plan team. Lerum asked if students can opt out or is this is required. If participation is not required then it needs to be articulated in the application. Additionally, the applicants need to know why they are being asked the question in the first place. Lerum raised concerns about confidentiality and information that can be distributed through campus notifications. Lerum asked what type of support will be available to faculty members if they are told a violent offender who committed murder is in their classroom. UW-Seattle is starting to develop a support team to address these issues. Lerum mentioned that some faculty members do not want to be notified in the first place. There are federal laws regulating notifications of sexual offenders, but not for violent crimes. From her personal experience in her neighborhood which has numerous sexual offenders, residents no longer want updates when a sexual offenders move into her neighborhood. Campus safety can make the choice, but they are not required to notify everyone on campus. Baldasty explained there are no plans to notify everyone on campus. In the past, it did not work well when UW notified campus after the fact violent offenders were enrolled in the university.

A question was raised asking if UW is taking into consideration student housing. By law there are special requirements to deal with sexual offenders. Discussion ensued. UW Housing and Food Services have been raising these questions for decades so the conversation is happening. UW-Bothell has coordinated a support team to address these issues. A comment was raised that UW-Bothell has an additional challenge because it is next to a community college with minors on campus. A suggestion was raised

that parole officers could be present on campus and be responsible for these types of students. If UW is playing a secondary role in the criminal justice system parole officers will need to be involved.

UW needs to weigh the costs and benefits of identifying these students. This highlights a broader agenda which moves beyond individualizing problem students to a larger social issue. If one looks at the rate of assaults these are not being committed by people with violent felonies. For example, UW is dealing with violence on campus, classes and parties committed by aggressors who do not have felonies. Baldasty explained there are already efforts at UW to control these issues.

## **7. Tri-campus Coordination of New Degree Programs**

Patricia Kramer, chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS), attended the meeting to discuss tri-campus coordination of new degree programs. In looking at the number of online degree programs coming through there are many questions left unanswered which has prompted Kramer to discuss this issue with the council. The biggest concern at the moment is the new Integrated Social Sciences (ISS) online degree completion which is being proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences. This will be relatively large compared to the recently-approved Early Childhood Family Studies (ECFS) online degree which has 50 students. In contrast, the ISS online degree anticipates 450 students. Kramer explained that this is big when compared to other large, traditional degrees such as Anthropology which has 650 students. Kramer is asking the council to provide feedback that FCAS can use to better evaluate the proposal.

A question was raised asking if the students admitted into this degree are fully matriculated. Last year the Faculty Senate passed Class B legislation while providing faculty an opportunity to comment. The legislation created a different "class" of student from those who are regularly admitted. FCAS is working on the students regulations this year to clearly designate the two types of students:

- Regularly admitted student
- Program-specific admitted student

The primary difference between these classifications is that program-specific students are limited to only the courses specified in the 1503 that was submitted. Kramer explained that students in the recently-approved UW-Tacoma online degree in Criminal Justice are generally admitted students and do not fall under this category. The ISS proposal is for degree completion and students must have a minimum of 75 transferrable credits before being admitted to the program.

The model of the ISS degree is designed to be very flexible. Unlike Nursing or Engineering, this program allows for a student-oriented selection of courses with an integration piece that occurs through the program. Students will choose themes with courses from different disciplines. Certain courses will fall under particular themes and students will need a minimum of 3 themes and 3 courses in any particular discipline. Kramer sees a large number of people participating in this program creating a large strategic planning problem that needs to be addressed now. While the ECFS online degree was narrow in focus, the ISS degree will be in direct competition with current traditional degrees requiring coordination across campus.

A question was raised asking for clarification of the 75 credits required to be admitted for the ISS online degree. The 75 credits can be from UW or transferrable from another institution. It is likely that many of the credits will come from community colleges particularly in areas that do not have 4-year institutions nearby. There will be a total of 180 credits for degree completion with the expectation that those who

enter the program have basically completed their first 2 years. A question was raised asking who is in charge of course curriculum. Faculty members are responsible for the curriculum and it will be the same instructors that teach the courses in the traditional day program.

The degree program will be fee-based, not tuition-based, so there is not ABB (Activity-Based Budgeting) component. However, by offering this degree it pulls faculty members away from the department to teach the courses. A comment was raised stating that since the themes are already offered by the department there should not be duplication by offering this through an online version. Discussion ensued. Some of the courses approved for online learning have been “renovated” to integrate with Canvas. The courses proposed in the 1503 include:

- Existing courses
- Courses specifically dedicated for ISS
- Courses specific for the integration piece
- Capstone course

A question was raised asking why this proposal exists in addition to the land-based program. Concern was raised that this online degree is not needed. Discussion ensued. There is a great need for higher education in Washington. As large as UW feels like, there are more people in the community who want access to higher education. Additionally, there are many people with partial degrees who need to complete them.

A question was raised asking what type of students will be admitted. Specifically, will international student enroll in the program? International students cannot enroll in the program because UW needs to validate their enrollment due to federal regulations. The goal is to allow US residents to complete a degree while not being in the Seattle area, such as active military. A comment was raised that document verification would be important, such as taking a picture of somebody’s passport. A question was raised asking if inmates in prison could enroll in the degree program. There is nothing to prohibit their enrollment except restrictions within the prison itself.

A question was raised asking who controls the admission process. ISS manages its admissions through UW Office of Admissions. Students will undergo the holistic review process and admissions will ensure applicants meet the minimum requirements. Once that is done applicants will be put into a separate pile for the ISS degree to make its decision on acceptance. This is similar to the ECFS online degree program. A question was raised asking who is overseeing this online degree. The College of Arts and Sciences put together a steering committee that includes faculty members from participating departments. This committee is thought to act as an independent “department” once it is in place. This is not something codified and has just been put together by the College of Arts and Science which is voluntary at this point. A comment was raised that it is worth considering the governance structure of the program, who sits on the committee and voting rights for members.

Initially, those who will teach ISS course will be lecturers from different departments but there is no certainty how that will be coordinated. Kramer explained that almost all social science departments have agreed to participate in one way or another.

The important question to look at now is how this new initiative will impact all three UW campuses and UW’s 4<sup>th</sup> “virtual campus”. Not only are there worries surrounding the onslaught of new degree programs but concerns about delivering this as a UW brand and recruiting new students. Discussion

ensued regarding the “4<sup>th</sup> campus”. Kramer explained that this will be a major offered by the College of Arts and Sciences on the Seattle campus, not an online degree completion program. This is simply a major offered through an online component.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Erdly at 10:40 a.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Erdly (Chair), Crowder, Dolsak, Mobus (phone)  
**President’s Designee:** Moy, Jeffords (phone), Harrington Jr.  
**Ex Officio:** Deardorff, Leadley, Brown, O’Neil, Resnick

Absent: **Faculty:** Endicott-Popovsky, Kucher  
**Ex Officio:** Fridley, Taricani, McKinley