

University Of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., November 1, 2012
142 Gerberding Hall

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of minutes from October 4, 2012 meeting
 3. Continuation of discussion on the Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Initiative
 4. Current Center for Teaching and Learning Progress and Plans for the Year
 5. Online Course Evaluation System Update
 6. Discussion of future activities for the Council
 7. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jan Carline at 10:33 a.m.

2) Approval of minutes from October 4, 2012 meeting

Minutes from the October 4, 2012 meeting were approved as revised.

3) Continuation of discussion on the Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Initiative

Carline reported vigorous discussion on the subject of the Online Undergraduate Degree Completion Initiative within the Faculty Senate. During the Senate meeting, the following questions were posed:

- Whether technically a degree or the collection of courses
 - o Arts & Sciences is working to develop goals for the program, however several degrees are already offered through UW Extension.
- Potential cannibalization on other offerings
 - o Concern was expressed as Bothell and Tacoma had originated as degree completion programs and have similar student demographics of the Initiative.
 - o Potential impact on undergraduates due to the lower price tier
- Perceived lack of consultation of faculty on the formation of this program
 - o It was suggested that this perspective may come from faculty who oppose such a program, rather than be the broad interpretation of the faculty.
- Provost Ana Mari Cauce had considered the Evening Degree program in Social Sciences to be more cohesive than it actually is
- Other discussion had characterized UW's role as an "in residence" university, and this may change the perception

David Szatmary, Vice Provost of Educational Outreach, has discussed this initiative with different departments and noted their enthusiasm for the initiative, as he was contacted by several faculty members who wish to develop courses. He emphasized that there is already an existing Social Sciences degree in the Evening Degree program, but Arts & Sciences wishes to re-evaluate the learning objectives

prior to rolling this out. FCTL discussed quality in online courses through a report last year, which challenged the notion that online education cannot be of equivalent quality of in-class instruction. This report was shared with the Faculty Senate, and the Provost. The Council could either:

- Draft a statement to the Faculty Senate leadership to emphasize that online education can be as rigorous as in-class instruction, or
- Draft a letter to the faculty to address concerns, and encourage College Councils to consider this within discussion on budget proposals being submitted to the Provost.

It was suggested that this program may help keep the University competitive in light less expensive programs, such as institutions with online degree programs, or establishing campuses in the Seattle area. Though most institutions establishing online degree programs are smaller schools, the Provost has expressed the opinion that R1 universities were the best equipped to hold quality higher level courses online. It was cautioned that online learning is not necessarily less expensive than in-class instruction, and concern was expressed on how the public may interpret lower tuition rates. Szatmary noted support for this program from the Washington State Legislature, and mentioned President Barack Obama has been supportive of programs responsive to workforce needs.

The best manner to ensure quality within such a program was debated, and questions were posed on what body will supervise the quality of the program, and how this will be monitored. Szatmary described the Evening Degree program governance structure, and noted that Arts & Sciences is investigating how curricular reviews will be conducted. A suggestion was made that governance structures within interdisciplinary programs may be relevant. Further discussion followed on the additional number of faculty that this program would bring, which would impact departments within Arts & Sciences differently and require space to accommodate additional faculty.

The roles of FCTL and FCAS within approval of this initiative were differentiated, noting that FCAS will consider the degree and processes, while discussions at FCTL are on quality and not curriculum. One remaining issue for the initiative is to gain a waiver for the 45-credit residency requirement,¹ which requires approval from FCAS, which could be recommended by FCTL.

Carline offered to present the Council's opinion to the Faculty Senate as in support of the program, as long as quality is maintained. He expressed satisfaction that Provost Cauce had informed that the program would only be launched after all issues were discussed and settled.

4) Current Center for Teaching and Learning Progress and Plans for the Year

Beth Kalikoff, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, provided an overview of the Center's progress and plans for the year. She informed of the creation of an advisory board across all UW colleges to anticipate departmental needs. Faculty and Professional Learning Communities are well attended, in topics such as engaging students in large classes, despite lacking funding to incentivize faculty to attend such trainings. The Center is exploring two new models of learning: interactive theater

¹ <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/ScholRegCH114.html#2>

as pedagogy, and teaching circles, used by UW Bothell and other institutions. She offered to discuss such new models once feedback is available.

Kalikoff noted the support of the Provost's Office for 5-6 additional "flipping the classroom" sessions, hosted by faculty who have experience in this teaching methodology, which promotes active learning. She offered to bring faculty currently using this methodology to present to the Council.

Rather than holding one-on-one consultations, CTL is attempting to provide year-round sustainable support for groups of learners. Emphasis is being made on improving assessment within the Center's efforts to understand what long-term learning that is gained by participants from programs. Other efforts noted were a "First Fridays" program, which brings together teaching assistants and faculty.

5) Online Course Evaluation System Update

Nana Lowell, Director of the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) provided an update on the online course evaluation system, which was piloted at the iSchool and UW Bothell, for a rollout in Autumn 2013. The online interface for department coordinators will also be piloted.

A main goal is to improve response rates for online course evaluations. Initially, forms will consist of the 14 currently existing forms, but will eventually allow administrators and faculty to create new forms or alter existing forms, allowing tailoring of forms to include appropriate questions regarding varied technology used in courses. These dynamic forms will be available later than 2013, and legacy forms will be maintained despite this new transition. Discussion followed on potential ways to improve response rates on online course evaluations, such as offering incentives, and debate followed on whether emphasis that the results are used by faculty was effective to improve response rates. Carline suggested that Lowell discuss this with the Registrar, as typically the University cannot require anything from students that does not contribute to the learning in the course. Other concerns may exist on anonymity of feedback, or the potential of open ended questions to be reduced to whether a student liked or disliked an instructor.

As non-response rates are greater for online or non-traditional courses, and responses tend to be either extremely positive or negative, it was suggested to find a way to adjust for this potential "non-response bias." Another suggestion was for adjusted medians to account for class size or other factors which may skew responses. The benefit of this new system is in being more dynamic, and faculty can combine their responses for online and paper surveys. It was suggested to include some way to measure how well an instructors' style works with students, for potential students to better assess whether the way an instructor teaches resonates with the way they learn.

Lowell informed that MyPlan, an online academic planning tool for students had been rolled out. Discussions raised the question of whether course evaluation information should be included when students register for courses. She requested to know if council members had any other items which they feel should be included within MyPlan course information for students. This will be discussed during the next meeting.

6) Discussion of future activities for the Council

Carline handed out a list of the potential items to discuss for the Council for this year. He requested council members' preference on discussion of items by rank.

Carline will draft a statement for FCTL regarding the Online Degree Completion Initiative, with the audience being the Faculty Senate leadership. He will send this draft out to the Council and request any potential revisions.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Carline at 11:52 a.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Carline (Chair), Masuda, Harrison, Turner, Nelson, Olavarria, Wilkes
 Ex-Officio Reps: Jankowski, Corbett
 Guests: Beth Kalikoff, Nana Lowell, Sugatan, Campion, Szatmary, Jeff McNerney (ASUW)

Absent: **Faculty:** Zierler, Yeh, Elkhafaifi (on leave), Salehi-Esfahani, Kyes, Martin-Morris
 President's Designee: Taylor
 Ex-Officio Reps: Wells