

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning
February 6, 2014, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Gerberding 142

Meeting Summary:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of the Minutes from January 9, 2014
 3. Chair's Report
 4. UW-IT: Anti-plagiarism software
 5. President's response to FCTL Letter
 6. UW Two Years to Two Decades (2Y/2D) Initiative and Innovating Education Institute
 7. MyPlan Demonstration and Discussion
 8. Availability of Funds for Classroom Upgrades
 9. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Allen at 10:40.m.

2) Approval of the Minutes from January 9, 2014

The minutes from January 9, 2014 were approved as amended.

Allen clarified that the recent email distributed to council members from Tom Lewis corrects some misunderstandings surrounding the discussion on UW's Amazon e-text initiative.

3) Chair's Report

Allen reported that the Faculty Senate recently proposed Class B legislation which updates a previously-created new class of students. Last year the Faculty Senate created two separate types of students: "regularly admitted" and "limited admission". However, because the term "limited admission" has a negative connotation the Faculty Senate recently changed the terms to "generally admitted" and "program-specific".

The recent Faculty Senate meeting had a presentation on the proposed online Integrated Social Sciences (ISS) degree. The presentation was very thorough and reassured senators about the new proposal. In particular there was concern about hiring part-time lecturers to offer the courses online. All instructors involved with the program will be full-time faculty. Additionally, the program has hired additional advisors to assist with the success of these students. Approximately half of the students taking this degree will be half-time. Discussion ensued about the anticipated volume of new students. The program is targeted for students who cannot commute to UW and have an active life outside the institution. The Faculty Council on Academic Standards has carefully vetted the program and offered useful recommendations which have been incorporated into the final proposal. A question was raised about the sustainability of the online business model. There is little information about how the program is budgeted and a comment was raised that the degree was partially funded by a grant.

4) UW-IT: Anti-plagiarism software

McNerney was not present at the meeting. Allen explained that McNerney will be reporting back on ASUW's feedback on proposed anti-plagiarism software.

5) President's Response to FCTL letter

Allen explained that the council is still waiting to hear back from the administration regarding its concerns towards hybrid learning. Taylor reported that the administration will provide a written response in a few weeks.

6) UW Two Years to Two Decades (2Y/2D) Initiative and Innovating Education Institute

Two Years to Two Decades (2Y/2D) Initiative

Jerry Baldasty (Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs) discussed UW's Two Years to Two Decades (2Y/2D) Initiative. 2Y2D began in 2009 with faculty focus groups discussing issues impacting teaching and learning. The steering committee consists of himself, David Szatmary, Bob Stacy and Beth Kolikoff. Baldasty encouraged members to attend committee meetings to gather insight on new developments across campus. The goal of 2Y2D is to help faculty deal with the changes in teaching in an evolving learning environment. An example is assisting faculty with using new technologies in the classroom to achieve "active learning" goals through hybrid courses that "flip" the classroom. UW was recently awarded \$500,000 through a grant to train 34 faculty members over two sessions, with another 25 in June 2014. Past focus groups indicate that one of the most important issues for faculty members is the length of time to transition to online course offerings. Additionally, faculty reported a strong demand for technical expertise to assist with their transitions. A question was raised about faculty concern over staff support in assisting with online offerings. Discussion ensued. 2Y2D focuses its efforts on increasing trained staff to assist with the delivery of online courses.

A question was raised about the new classroom space committee. The origin of the committee came from a request to add a new Kane Hall which was rejected because the university could not afford the new facility. This prompted UW to assess how the institution uses classrooms effectively. Committee members worked together to review current classroom space and hired consultants to provide recommendations. Currently, UW works under the assumption that classrooms are available 40 hours/week. However, classrooms are actually used 20 hours/week. In reviewing institutions across the country one method is to spread out classes over a longer period of the day to maximize the use of the facilities. The current inventory of UW classrooms is 306, and if UW effectively spreads out classroom use for 50 hour/weeks UW would only need 210 classrooms.

Discussion moved to how construction on UW incorporates into new buildings on campus. These are long-term capital planning policy issues. Concern was raised that there is no opportunity for faculty to provide input on the construction of new buildings. In particular, there is no mechanism that provides centralized monitoring of new construction across the whole campus. Discussion ensued. UW will soon be involved in a large capital funding campaign in the amount of \$4 billion. A comment was raised that the council could participate in some way to help guide the campaign.

A question was raised asking if faculty will have to double their load if classrooms are being used more efficiently. Baldasty clarified that this is not an issue about expanding enrollment but making better use of classrooms that UW already has. UW currently has 306 classrooms and can only renovate 14 per year. If UW is able to maintain only 205 classrooms then it makes it much easier to incorporate technology across the campus. Additionally, UW does not currently have a rational scheduling process. For example, classes can range from 50 – 120 minutes beginning on the hour or half-hour. As a result of this variability in class times classrooms are sitting vacant and not being used. Baldasty estimated that the average classroom occupancy is about 20% in part because so much of the usage is compressed into the 9:30am - 1:30pm time slots.

The Husky Student Experience

The Husky Student Experience is a new initiative focusing on developing the right outcomes for students when they graduate from UW. Specifically, the initiative is meant to reinforce and deepen the understanding of what their majors mean in the professional world. For example, students are reminded that the major does not just focus on their particular field of study but developing them to be critical thinkers. The goal is to allow students to think of their future career and the transferrable skills they learned in the classroom.

One important goal to ensure the effectiveness of this initiative is to have faculty help students from the very beginning by connecting their education with professional goals. For example, just because a student is a history major does not mean he/she is limited to being a historian. The initiative is meant to develop a more systematic process to help faculty work with students to become better equipped for future careers. One example is the skills developed by working in a team environment which are transferrable to the workforce. Concern was raised that faculty may not be sure how to offer these concepts to students or have the time to teach this during class hours. Baldasty explained this is where the faculty groups have the opportunity to be involved with the conversations across campus.

A suggestion was made to introduce this in student learning material at 100-level courses in order to inform students how to apply this to future careers even if they are not majoring in the subject. Another suggestion was made to encourage students to participate in short internships, or company walkthroughs, to give students a sense of the skills they need in the workforce. Baldasty explained that there are certain programs on campus that exist but UW does not have the capacity to institute campus-wide vetting of internships that students participate in.

Discussion moved to the importance of getting parents involved with their student's education. There is a growing parent engagement program at UW with the goal to educate parents about their involvement with their children's studies. For example, parents are encouraged to allow their children to approach instructors directly with problems and issues that come out of their coursework. By creating more independent students they will be able to be more successful professionally in their future careers. Allen suggested that the council can develop a subcommittee to assist Baldasty with this new initiative.

Innovation Fund

Baldasty discussed a new Innovation Fund which provides faculty the seed money to develop truly transformative methods of research and teaching. Each faculty member who is awarded the grant will have \$100,000 over 2-3 years to develop methods that create a real paradigm shift in teaching and research that is not just incremental but with major impact. Baldasty asked the council if the funding

should be focused on a particular field or broad across all of campus. The one non-negotiable aspect is that all work must be entirely different from other proposals. There are no clear examples of what “truly transformative” projects entail and Baldasty stressed that UW is looking for people with creative ideas to reinvent teaching. A suggestion was made to develop a pre-proposal process so faculty are not investing too much of their time in a proposal that would not qualify as “truly transformative”. In addition to saving time it would also encourage faculty to come up with ideas during the planning stages.

7) MyPlan Demonstration and Discussion

Darcy Van Patten (Director for Student Information Systems with Academic Services) provided a demonstration of MyPlan and discussed how instructor evaluations could be incorporated into the system to support students in their long-term academic goals.

The discussion of MyPlan is meant to examine the practice of posting instructor evaluations as an alternative to the Course Evaluation Catalogue. MyPlan was quietly released in September 2012 to advisors with a broad, campus-wide announcement in January 2013. Currently, 27% of undergraduate students are developing their academic plans using MyPlan which allows students to develop multi-year academic planning to achieve their long-term goals. Additionally, MyPlan can also be used for students to identify short-term course planning. Students are able to add courses to their plan which also breaks out the sections that they are required to take. The system also allows students to expand the courses available for each quarter and view time schedule data. The goal of MyPlan is to allow students to review the long-term requirements to complete their degree while helping them manage their university graduation requirements.

Members discussed where instructor evaluations could be located in MyPlan, such as alongside course evaluation data, section information for courses, or in the synopsis of sections. The goal is to have the information present in order for students to easily scan and use the information to support their decisions. A question was raised asking how far out MyPlan maps out long-term academic planning for students. Students can plan out their entire degree program beginning freshman year, however MyPlan is used predominantly for a 1-2 year planning range. Van Patten mentioned that MyPlan is heavily used by students in structured programs like Engineering. Additionally, students are more likely to use MyPlan when they are strongly encouraged by their academic advisors.

A question was raised asking if a student planning out a course in 2016 will have assurance that the course will actually be available. Van Patten explained that MyPlan pulls information from course catalogues and time schedules once they are published, so it is up to departments to provide the necessary information to allow students for successful long-term planning.

Discussion moved to the posting of instructor ratings. Concern was raised that students should not have to obsess over 3.7 vs. 3.6 instructor ratings when choosing courses. A suggestion was made that instead of offering a numerical value the ratings could be shown using a graphic. A question was raised asking if there is even a demand from students for instructor ratings. Van Patten explained that instructor ratings are the most frequently asked information when gathering feedback from students. A comment was raised that most faculty are concerned that they or their peers will end up at the low end of the scale which would cause students to take courses outside their intended long-term academic plans. A suggestion was made that MyPlan could provide information about the statistical distribution of each instructor rating. Discussion ensued.

Van Patten provided a tutorial in using MyPlan from a user's perspective. In planning courses students have access to a search function which can break out courses by credits and general education requirements. A question was raised asking if UW will make MyPlan mandatory for students. At this time students are just informed about MyPlan through academic advisors and orientation material. There are units across campus that use MyPlan as part of a student's graduation plan and it is likely other units will slowly move to incorporate MyPlan into long-term planning for their students.

8) Availability of Funds for Classroom Upgrades

Due to lack of time this agenda item was not discussed. A question was raised asking if there are funds for classroom upgrades. UW currently has \$1 million for technology improvements and \$1 million for classroom updates. Allen will do some additional research on the availability of funds and report back to the council.

9) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Allen at 12:00 p.m.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Allen (Chair), Nelson, Olavarria, Schwatz, Turner, Wilkes
 President's Designee: Taylor
 Ex-Officio Reps: Corbett, Jankowski, Russell Hugo (GPSS appointment pending Senate confirmation)
 Guests: Tom Lewis (Director for Academic & Collaborative Applications, UW-IT), Nana Lowell (Director for Office of Educational Assessment), Jerry Baldasty (Senior Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs)

Absent: **Faculty:** Carline, Harrison, Masuda, McGough, Spyridakis, Yeh, Zierler
 Ex-Officio Reps: McNerney