

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Faculty Assembly

Thursday, November 19, 2008

Tacoma Room

Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

In Attendance: Katie Baird, Isabelle Bichindartiz, Donald Chinn, Sam Chung, Erica Cline, Sian Davies Vollum, Chris Demaske, Joyce Dinglasan Panlilio, Thomas Diehm, Yonn Dierwechter, Marjorie Dobratz, Denise Drevdahl, Ehsan Feroz, Michael Forman, Sharon Fought, James Gawel, Cheryl Greengrove, Turan Kayaoglu, Diane Kinder, Bill Kunz, Janice Laakso, Karen Landenburger, Nita McKinley, Divya McMillan, Gregg Miller, George Mobus, Jerome Mark Pendras, Janet Primomo, Johann Reusch, Christine Stevens, Carolyn West, Charles Williams, Daniel Zimmerman

Guests: Bruce Balick, Beth Rushing, Patricia Spakes

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes May 8, 2008
3. Discussion with Bruce Balick, Chair-elect, University Senate
4. Faculty budget priorities
5. Adjournment

1. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes from May 8, 2008 were approved.

2. Discussion led by Bruce Balick, Chair-elect, University Senate:

Opening remarks:

Bruce Balick introduced himself to the Faculty Assembly. Balick explained that the point of his visit is to listen to UW Tacoma faculty concerns. Balick explained that the Faculty Senate interests are curriculum, entrance standards, and UW handbook code. Although the *Charge of the Senate* is formally restricted, it is open for dialogue about the stages of growth at UW. Of current concern are the College of the Environment; the UWS athletic program and its relation to the curriculum, entrance standards, and the Faculty Code, as well

as the governance and relationships between faculty among all campuses.

Discussion highlights

Development Phase

Karen Landenburger spoke about UW Tacoma's development phase. Landenburger noted that UWT wants the support of UW Seattle but would like decision to remain centralized at UWT. In the past it has been increasingly noticeable that UWS recognizes that UWT exists, which is a positive force to bring about change.

Bruce Balick mentioned that the Faculty Senate is concerned about whether the Code works for UWT.

Diane Kinder commented that last Spring UWT engaged in a discussion about the Schools and Colleges. Kinder asked whether this falls under the purview of shared governance. Michael Forman confirmed that the Code does not distinguish between Schools and Colleges. Patricia Spakes provided background about Colleges and Schools, and asked for clarification about the rules and playing field. Balick noted that UWS is concerned about Schools, which were not clearly defined. Part of this ambiguity relates to the President who forms Schools on a case-by-case basis.

Tri-campus

Faculty is concerned about governance rules. Does administration work on all three campuses? If so, how does UWT fit? How will this take place? There remains a level of ambiguity.

Janet Primomo confirmed that she, Johann Reusch, and Allen Wood are on a UW Faculty Council on Tri-campus Policy work group to address tri-campus relations. The work group is following up on the 2005 University of Washington Presidential Tri-Campus Steering Committee and Task Force Retreat report.

Balick suggested that UWT leadership should mandate if the faculty have a choice about aspects of this discussion that concern administration. UW Senate cannot guarantee this. This issue is local and should be handled by administration at UWT.

Academic matters

Balick discussed the Operation's Capital Planning. RCEP (Procedures for the Reorganization, Consolidation & Elimination of Programs) is a large part of the faculty code and deals with how the UW will reorganize and restructure internally. It does not deal with addressing growth. Balick noted that UWT Faculty should be part of the discussion, but will not be

part of decision making other than through the UW Senate and SEC channels where UWT is represented.

Donald Chinn asked about UWT and how it can structurally change to strengthen communication lines. Balick responded that this must happen locally.

Follow up

Forman asked that Primomo might discuss Tri-campus issues in the future.

3. Faculty budget priorities

Fiscal crisis

Forman discussed budget crisis according to how they should be addressed. This includes units, the campus as a whole, and the faculty.

Forman suggested that faculty should consider how the budget affects different elements of UW Tacoma. The budget exercise will help faculty to think about what matters. What sorts of cuts might we take? Are there themes? Or, are there areas of cuts that faculty might see related to the strategic plan? It would be useful to articulate these views. This opportunity could bring something positive.

Specific questions to consider:

Forman suggested the following questions

- 1) What areas should be protected? What does “no lay offs” mean? What about lecturer contracts up for renewal?
- 2) What happens if things get worse? In the best of cases things will not be quickly fixed. Think about the next biennium. What do we want to defend?
- 3) How do we balance this the possibility that faculty will be encouraged to create new programs and new degrees? What about FTEs in terms of what support, and of existing programs, and faculty?

Chancellor Patricia Spakes confirmed that the budget report was out today. There is a projected shortfall of five billion instead of the initial 3 billion. Legislature and Governor Gregoire have not begun talks about where these cuts will come from. Spakes confirmed that there is room for conversation about these cuts. UWT will be out in Olympia to work with legislators. The situation is serious and may last longer than originally anticipated. Spakes suggested that faculty should consider cuts of 13-15%. Spakes reminded the faculty that this has been and will remain a serious issue. Spakes noted that President Obama is looking to Tacoma for a stimulus at the local level.

Core Areas

Jim Gawel strongly suggested the faculty should think about cuts that do not

result in the loss of jobs. Gawel wants the faculty to consider how UWT can absorb this shortfall without losing fulltime or part time staff. Gawel suggested that faculty might consider taking two weeks of unpaid leave time.

Michael Kucher suggested that buildings should be brought up to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) platinum standards. Kucher suggested that for current capital projects these standards would help cut utility costs by 50%. Spakes noted that LEED standards are built into the master plan. Spakes mentioned that she will speak with Isabel Trinidad about this. Cheryl Greengrove reminded the assembly that UWT buildings have LEED standards already. Kucher clarified that higher platinum standards should be immediately addressed in order to create savings for utility costs.

Janice Laakso asked about the next faculty assembly meeting. Forman replied that there will be one early Winter quarter.

Spakes reminded the faculty that any budget suggestions should be forwarded to the Chancellor's office.

Cheryl Greengrove asked AVC Beth Rushing to elaborate about Provost Wise's remarks concerning lecturer appointments. Greengrove confirmed that faculty cannot decline the 2% salary increase. Spakes confirmed that the faculty is under legal contract for lecturers. Rushing said that given the uncertainty, "we may not be able to offer contracts."

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.