

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Faculty Assembly

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Milgard Assembly Hall - W. Philip Hall

Meeting called to order at 12:37 p.m.

In Attendance: Michael Forman (Chair), Johann Reusch (Vice Chair), Paul Allen, Zoe Barsness, Bonnie Becker, Greg Benner, Erin Casey, Erica Cline, Sian Davies Vollum, Chris Demaske, Denise Drevdahl, Yonn Dierwechter, Charles Emlet, Kelly Forrest, Sharon Fought, Rich Furman, Cheryl Greengrove, Linda Ishem, Michael Kalton, Diane Kinder, Bill Kunz, Janice Laakso, Karen Landenburger, Joan Mocerri, Amos Nascimento, Julie Nicoletta, Jerome Mark Pendras, Janet Primomo, Rommel Salvador, Peter Selkin, Christine Stevens, Cathy Tashiro, Matthew Weinstein, Charles Williams, Daniel Zimmerma, Beth Rushing

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes: 09/16/08, 11/19/08
3. Meeting changes.
4. Faculty budget priorities: Protecting core activities: instruction and scholarship, Access and standards, workload
5. Legislation: Revisions to Handbook, Article 3 Section 3, Article 7
6. Adjournment

1. Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes:

The minutes from 09/16/08, 11/19/08 was approved with corrections.

3. Meetings:

Michael Forman advised the Faculty Assembly that meetings will be extended until 2:00 p.m.

4. Faculty budget priorities:

Overview:

Forman opened the discussion by addressing the current projected Budget Reductions. Forman encouraged the Faculty Assembly to collectively express the Faculty Assembly's priorities. As an overview the Governor's budget proposal is the latest forecast from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/>. Sometime in March or April there will be a finalized plan that will be voted and signed.

Forman noted that Chancellor Spakes had made available the *Planning and Budgeting Brief*, which provides an overview of the initial proposal of budget cuts that affect UW Tacoma. Forman asked Beth Rushing whether there is currently any information available about how this specifically affects UW Tacoma. Rushing explained that there is no specific breakdown at this time.

Merit Raises

Forman addressed the issue of merit raises. The Governor's budget proposal does not include funding for this purpose. The UW would have to fund on its own or it would have to declare a financial emergency.

Faculty Assembly role and Priorities

- Protecting core activities: instruction and scholarship—in UWT Administration projections there is non-renewals in every discussion
- Access and Standards: this is central to the mission of UWT
- Workload: for faculty this is crucial and it relates to academic standards, and scholarship

Faculty Discussion

Janice Laakso asked about the frozen positions that the Provost's office put in effect, for example the affect that Elise Ralph's vacancy will have on the UW Tacoma campus. Beth Rushing advised that the Chancellor's office is working with the Provost's office about some strategies to fill this position. Cheryl Greengrove asked for clarification about which positions are being un-frozen. Beth Rushing advised that the Chancellor's office is specifying dollar amounts, not specific positions. Greengrove suggested that Ralph's position would contribute to promoting research at UW Tacoma.

Enrollment

Julie Nicoletta suggested that UWT consider not taking new students. The proper funding is lacking and taking more students will negatively impact the quality of instruction. Considering the extra \$200,000 that over enrollment brings in as a source of revenue it is not justifiable. Overloading enrollment will impact the availability of classes and impact the student's access to requirements for graduation.

Zoe Barsness noted that over enrollment will impact classes and relate to less service and less research. It also impacts the efficiency that students complete their degrees, for example, the number of sections available will be negatively impacted.

Michael Kalton suggested that the faculty consider the fundamental structural changes that may be long term, such as increased enrollment. The faculty should strategically take a “united front” in order to insure that there is a cohesive stance about the budget cuts.

Matthew Weinstein noted that the economic situation is impacting everyone and for some people there are worse situations. Forman reiterated that regardless, the faculty assembly must still make a clear statement in order to guide administration.

Cathy Tashiro suggested that the faculty assembly consider that this campus was partially founded to increase access to education and a response to the inequality within this region. The Faculty Assembly should take the “social responsibility” perspective.

Johann Reusch responded that UWT’s access mission should mean access to quality education because community colleges provide access regardless of preparation and qualification; if anything the increasing efforts and costs invested in remediation should be reduced in favor of community colleges that were created for that purpose. Reusch noted that community colleges have begun to position themselves to award bachelor degrees, something legislators are in favor of but the UW has opposed; he cited Bellevue CC as an example of already co-admitting students to a BCC-EWU BA. If this trend persisted and succeeded, and local community college would offer bachelor degrees, what would make UWT different from them, having less faculty and less established programs and resources? Students would come to UWT for high quality education, wanting a degree of the “UW Brand.” This can only be achieved by raising the admissions bar, consequently reducing unfunded enrollment growth; this is imperative in order to preserve academic standards and quality at UWT.

Rich Furman noted that UWT was already a “bare-bone operation” before budget cuts were proposed, and that access to both faculty lines and student services are needed in order to provide quality education.

Amos Nascimento noted that education is a matter of principle and as faculty long term solutions should first be considered. For example research resolves problems, such as the economic situation that we are in; with less time as a result of increased faculty-student ratio and

reduced resources, faculty are not able to focus on research.

Forman suggested a Faculty statement should address the budget crisis and ought to be drafted. This will be sent via a Catalyst survey be sent to the Faculty Assembly, which will produce the collective response to be addressed to Administration.

Action: Mike Kalton, Johann Reusch, Sushil Oswal, Zoe Barsness, and Mark Pendas agreed to draft a statement.

5. Faculty Assembly and brief introduction to a new model for meeting and actions.

Forman advised the Faculty Assembly that the Executive Council will discuss the Executive Council and its role with possibly taking over as a representative body in order to carry out governance and actions. There will still be faculty assembly meetings, but not as often.

6. Legislative changes will be proposed via a Catalyst vote and include the following:

- Revisions to Handbook, Article 3 Section 3, Article 7
- A Catalyst survey allows the Faculty Assembly voting members to vote on these revisions and will serve to remedy issues achieving a quorum.

7. Other Business

- Cheryl Greengrove noted that natural ventilation through opening windows is being proposed for Jefferson building for faculty, staff & admin offices as part of phase 3 building plan. Greengrove asked if faculty were in favor of this and they responded via consensus that they were.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.