

Faculty Assembly Minutes

January 28, 2004

12:55-2:05 pm, Tacoma Room

1. Mike Kalton, Chair, Faculty Assembly, announced that faculty/staff bowling event will take place tomorrow. He invited faculty to participate.
2. Jack Nelson presented his report. Regarding the campus' strategic plan, he mentioned that references are being checked for the two consultants who visited our campus. One consultant was not available due to schedule conflict. Jack did not approve of spending \$30-40,000 for a consultant at this time because there is no interim chancellor. He felt maybe fall 2004 might be a good time.

He mentioned that 577 FTEs might be funded for UW. There are about 1600 high demand FTEs. UWT has no real plan to absorb them. Next biennium there could be 3-400 FTEs. Clearly we need to think through new programs and carry out some planning exercises.

The new head of the Milgard School of Business is from Oklahoma State University. The Board of Regents will need to approve his appointment. The business faculty already voted his appointment.

Jack mentioned that there were four legislative issues.

- a) A bill has been introduced to mandate common lower division course numbers among state colleges. The issue for us is transfer equivalence.
- b) To allow community college students to complete more credits at community colleges and thus get a 4-year degree by doing 65-75% of the lower-division work. We will accept 90 credits and additional ones if they meet requirements.
- c) To study of branch campuses by 2005 with a view to seek funding for them at the same rate as WA state regional campuses. This would mean a 25% budget cut. This may translate into larger classes and increased teaching load. Branch campuses are the most expensive in terms of cost per student at the upper division level. The legislators did not accept the idea that UWT/B are research institutions. We will be faced with a lower funding level, perhaps between research institution (UWS) and regional campuses. Lee Huntsman said that the five campuses must be seen differently. There are high cost programs among branch campuses, such as Computer Science program.
- d) Helen Summers suggested the merger of UWB and Cascadia Community College to make Cascadia State College. The two institutions are close to each other. They could be funded the regional level. The legislature thinks this merger will compensate for the lack of education plans in the state at a time when a lot of new students are in the pipeline. The problem is that UWB and Cascadia are different kinds of institutions so the merger is not inevitable. The strategy would be for UWT to see this as an opportunity for becoming a 4-year campus but certainly not follow the Cascadia model.

Dave Secord asked why there was no higher education plan. Jack responded saying there were plans with the HEC Board but the legislators don't like them. Bill Richardson bought up the issue of access and appropriate funding. UWS is adamant about funding level and it appears that UWS is not interested in UWT/B becoming 4-year campuses. Janet Mobus asked why UWS was not interested in this development. As a 14-year old institution, UWT needs time to build and plan. We have no economies of scale and start-up funds.

On the search for Chancellor, a committee will be formed. The majority of the members are expected to be from Seattle and Bothell. Lee Huntsman will choose an interim chancellor.

3. Mike announced that the document reviewing P&T across the campus is on the website. Bob Jackson, Chair of the Faculty Council on Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure mentioned some of the things that the Council does. For example:
 - a) The FCAPT makes recommendation on individual files for promotion and tenure.
 - b) The Council works toward understanding the P&T process in terms of background, code, and policies.
 - c) It solicits advice from faculty regarding the process.

He also announced that there would be a meeting organized by Jack Nelson and junior faculty with the FCAPT facilitating the interaction. This meeting will take place on February 20, 2004: 9-11 am. [The meeting was rescheduled for March 12, 2004, 9-11 am]. The objective of the meeting is to make the P&T process fair and transparent.

4. In introducing the main topic of the meeting, i.e. the issue of research and campus identity, Mike alluded to Barbara Holland's presentation on the nature of an urban, metropolitan campus and its role in engaged scholarship. Michael Forman reported briefly the work being done by the Research Task Force. He said that the first task was to identify what kind of research, scholarship, and creative activity were being done at UWT. The second task was to figure out what resources are needed and how much we had. The Task Force will report to Jack Nelson advising him as to how research could be supported at UWT. The Task Force is currently conducting a survey on research at UWT. This survey will provide insights into what could be done if there were resources. It will also look into how different programs conceptualize scholarship and research. The Task Force hopes there will be 100% participation rate by the faculty.

Mike Kalton urged faculty to participate in the website discussion. There are of course related issues of workload, different kinds of funding for different kinds of research.

5. In further elaborating on the question of research, Mike mentioned the importance of maintaining continuity with UWS and finding some niche where we fit (and how?) in the system. One important difference is that we are not a Ph.D. granting institution. What else differentiates the kind of research do we do? Is it the quality of research? Is it quantity of research? Is it the character of our research opportunity, i.e. our fit with the UW system?

Jim Gawel followed up on the niche angle by suggesting that we tie to UWS' niche and complement Seattle with an emphasis on undergraduate research. Perhaps even a community focus. Cathy Tashiro emphasized the importance of getting influential people

from the community to support our vision of what we want UWT to be, because much of our fate will be decided in the political arena.

Dave Secord suggested that seed money be spent to attract outside funds. In agreeing with Dave, Janet Primomo mentioned the importance of Brian Coffey's Salishan Community Project. Anthony D'Costa felt that because research needs are so different among faculty members and programs that a more multi-pronged approach be used. Janet also mentioned that undergraduate research in nursing was not likely due to the short time spent by students at UWT.

Lisa Hoffman suggested that undergraduate research, while an excellent idea, tended to be limited because of their "localness". Our students come from a variety of communities in the region. Anthony suggested that perhaps MA programs could be designed for doing research that involved students. Janet felt that it was a worthwhile idea to consider.

Jim said that cost per student will be lower should we offer lower division courses as part of a 4-year campus. It would also mean that the character of UWT would change. Mike asked if UWT produces workers and UWS entrepreneurs. We need to better articulate the campus with a research agenda. Denise Drevdahl pointed out that there was low interest on campus regarding colleague's research. The RATS program at which faculty present their projects has been suspended because of poor attendance. She also mentioned that UWT's website indicates nothing about research on campus. This is a serious shortcoming, especially when it comes to hiring good, research-driven faculty. Mike thought scheduling classes two days a week might be a problem for attendance at presentations. He is aware that this is a sensitive issue but if half the faculty are not here organizing such events and interacting with faculty becomes a challenge.

Jim thought that not having health-related facilities on campus deterred faculty from spending more time on campus. With rising healthcare costs it was important for faculty to be good shape.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Submitted by:

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