

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
FACULTY ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY, MAY 3rd, 2007
TACOMA ROOM
12:45-2pm

In Attendance: Katie Baird, Bonnie Becker, Tom Carlson, Erin Casey, Donald Chinn, Erica Cline, Rob Crawford, Linda Dawson, Tom Diehm, Yonn Dierwechter, Marjorie Dobratz, Charlie Emlet, Ehsan Feroz, Michael Forman, Kelly Forrest, Sharon Fought, Jim Gawel, Cheryl Greengrove, Steve Hanks, Teresa Holt, Mike Kalton, Bill Kunz, Michael Kutcher, Diane Kinder, Karen Landenberger, June Lowenberg, Nita McKinley, Divya McMillan, George Mobus, Stern Neill, Julie Nicoletta, Gregory Noronha, Mark Pendas, Peter Selkin, Eugene Sivadas, Christine Stevens, Dan Zimmerman

Faculty Assembly Assistant: Jamie Kelley

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of minutes from April, 2007
3. Report from Patrick Pow
4. Report from the Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly
5. Preliminary discussion of Schools and Colleges
6. Adjournment

1. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes:

The minutes from April were approved.

3. Report from Patrick Pow:

There is a new Technology Sandbox on The IT webpage, under "Academic Technology." This was set up by the campus Technology Committee for faculty only. Some of the features available are: Wiki, Blogs, Moodle, MDID, ArtisoClass, Second Life, and Turnitin. Patrick gave the FA a brief description of each of these features for those who were unfamiliar with their uses.

4. Report from the Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly:

The code changes went through unanimously. These changes will give both UWT and Bothell more autonomy.

The existing Promotion and Tenure guidelines are posted on the FA website.

The EC is looking into paying faculty members to undertake the UWT handbook revisions. We are hoping to have the revisions completed by the end of the summer.

The LCVI Survey is now available online. The survey will be up and available to take until May 11th. The results of the survey will be ready when our new VCAA begins her appointment in July.

Faculty Assembly will post a slate of proposed candidates for EC. We will set up a poll on Catalyst by the end of May to be completed by the second week of June.

The Strategic Planning Committee has scheduled “town meetings” for May 8th and May 21st from 12:45-2pm. They would appreciate any faculty input on the UWT Campus Values. All modifications to the Values will be posted on the SP website.

5. Preliminary Discussion of Schools and Colleges:

The IAS department will begin searching for a replacement for Cheryl Greengrove sometime this summer. It is yet to be determined whether this replacement will be a Director or a Dean.

The Nursing program will be faced with a similar challenge.

Pat would like to go to Seattle this Fall with a plan for Schools and Colleges at UWT. She would like recommendations and models from the UWT faculty.

This decision created the need to form an Ad-hoc Committee on Schools and Colleges. The committee members are: Julie Nicoletta, Stern Neill, Bill Kunz and Karen Landenberger. The members are in the process of formulating models with strengths and weaknesses to be presented to Pat by June 30th.

Pat would like to see a plan with 3 or 4 units, with a threshold for growth. The new structure should create opportunities for interdisciplinarity, with a centralized autonomous power on the UWT campus.

The committee does not have models at this time, but would like to open up a

discussion about program groupings. They would like to have a special meeting for faculty before the end of the school year. Jamie will be setting up a faculty forum on Catalyst for thoughts, ideas, and models proposed by faculty, to further facilitate discussion of this matter.

Charlie feels that a decision about this should not be rushed due to accreditation issues, and suggests that this be a continuous dialogue over time. He feels that there could be serious long-term ramifications from making a hasty decision .

George thinks this could be tackled from a strategic standpoint, by looking at the long-term rather than rushing it.

Julie stressed that faculty need to make a decision on this, or the decision will be made for the faculty. Were this to happen, there is always the possibility that the decision would not be in the faculty's best interest. We need to keep in mind that faculty recommendations will not necessarily be implemented, but the faculty have an opportunity now, to work on this.

Interdisciplinarity is important, and needs to be built into whatever structure is chosen.

Jim raised the question of how to eliminate existing barriers and keep us more connected.

Diane feels that information gathering is a good idea, and can increase the opportunity for interdisciplinarity. This way, we will get a better sense of what to maintain or avoid in preparing models.

Tom suggested incremental changes. Julie assured him that the changes would be incremental, but that the proposal needs to go to President Emmert this autumn.

Sharon was concerned that the addition of structures and units would add more layers to further impede communication. What does the committee propose to facilitate function and communication?

Julie reminded the FA that there are currently programs at UWT with too few faculty to serve as representatives on campus committees. Sharon suggested a bylaws change to address those issues.

Divya encouraged opening up dialogue about past vs. present decisions.

Julie reiterated that we need to have a plan to Pat by Fall Quarter 2007, and that they will need to place a job advertisement for IAS at that time as well.

Stern reminded everyone of the importance of having a plan in place, so that decisions aren't made for the faculty.

Michael feels that it is crucial to articulate the future of the UW system, and determine what it is the UW is aspiring to evolve into as a university.

Julie stated that the UW is not considered a system at this point, and that the UW has not figured out how to deal with the UWT and UWB campuses.

Stern cited administrative issues that are driving this effort. He related this to aspects of the Faculty Code that are ambiguous and do not reflect existing practice. For instance, the Milgard School of Business is not listed among other schools and colleges at the UW. There is much code ambiguity, and we need to align resources to increase flexibility.

Mike mentioned that it's not how we name the structure, but how we think about the structure. How best can we, as a faculty, move into the future while focusing on our likes and dislikes about UWT?

George suggested that we determine the future of our undergraduates, and that way function could create form. What function does the UWT want to perform?

June feels that it is important to create structures to facilitate what we have liked at UWT, and what has worked for interdisciplinarity.

Tom thinks that interdisciplinarity should be a part of core freshman classes, rather than the focus of a 4-year campus.

Cheryl suggested enhancing curriculum to increase interdisciplinarity across the UWT campus. Some examples were: all faculty participate in the Gen. Ed. Core, two team-taught courses for every faculty member, every program makes it a requirement that students take 2 out-of-program courses.

Charlie feels that we need something other than a quick-fix to add layers, and that we need to continue this conversation over a long period of time.

Rob thinks we need an "interdisciplinary impact statement," addressing issues, limits, and possibilities. What are the crucial/key values in this conversation? How would this impact faculty government?

Diane said that she thought it was a good opportunity to encourage creative thinking and look at the question of faculty voice. This issue can

be addressed creatively in terms of curriculum, organization, and faculty voice. Now is the perfect time for input.

Cheryl suggests thinking “outside the box” for possible combinations.

George proposed a matrix for interdisciplinarity, with all programs under a College of Interdisciplinarity, and a cross-cutting curriculum.

Jim made the point that promotion and tenure need to be taken into consideration as well as curriculum, while Julie noted the inherent dangers of dividing up IAS.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm