

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
UWT Executive Council
Meeting Minutes
WCG 106
March 2, 2009

Meeting was called to order 12:32 p.m.

In attendance: Michael Forman, Chair; Johann Reusch, Vice Chair; Gregory Benner, Janice Laakso, Mark Pendras, Siân Davies-Vollum, Ehsan Feroz

Guests: George Mobus, Chair, Academic Policy Committee and Christine Stevens, Chair Faculty Affairs; Michael Kalton, Faculty Affairs; Linda Ishem, Faculty Affairs

Synopsis:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from February 11, 2009
3. Christine Stevens, Chair, Faculty Affairs
4. George Mobus, Chair, Academic Policy Committee
5. Adjournment

1. The agenda was approved.

2. The meeting minutes from February 11, 2009 were approved.

3. George Mobus, Academic Policy Committee (APC):

This year the APC has reviewed and approved History and Criminal Justice proposals. The third is under review now, which is a Math Minor.

The APC is currently clarifying its role with in establishing an appeals process for Admissions. Forman explained that the APC should establish an appeals policy for the evaluation of requests to waive prerequisites, forward this to the AG for approval, at which time the Faculty Assembly will move to adopt this policy. Johann Reusch noted that UW Seattle's policy for native speakers allows for a Foreign Language requirement to be waived.

3. Christine Stevens, Faculty Affairs (FA):

Stevens introduced Linda Ishem and Michael Kalton both who also serve of the FA committee. FA is working on identifying strategies and goals for addressing the workload of UWT faculty. This includes clarifying specific boundaries, especially in a time of budget cuts. In particular the FA committee wants to acknowledge the core instructional mission of UWT and its relation to faculty workload which also includes research. Along these lines, the

issue of classroom size arises because most of our classrooms are too small to accommodate large groups. The FA also wishes to endorse American Association of University Professors's (AAUP) principles in difficult budget times. These include the academic integrity of the institution, prioritizing among existing programs, fairness, and considering the workload impact of higher enrollments.

Michael Forman asked the FA to clarify that they are concerned with when addressing Faculty workload and its relation to the establishment of new programs.

Mobus explained that new program proposals, after being approved by APC, are forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating (HEC) Board. Implementing these programs is not under the purview of the APC. Mobus explained that the APC bases their judgments on the merit of the proposal and they consider that this is a three year process.

Laakso added to the dialogue concerning budget cuts. The context is that if the process of new program proposals is stopped, this will only adversely delay the proposals down the road. There is a strategy with regards to drafting and reviewing proposals, which is that they will be ready for the HEC board to implement later on.

Siân Davies-Vollum noted that considering that the process for new programs is long, they should be implemented when there are adequate resources.

Laakso noted that increased applicants and enrollments along with the amount of FTE should be considered during these budget cuts.

Ehsan Feroz asked how workload has been addressed at UW Bothell. Stevens responded that the established workload of five classes and five credits will not remain. Reusch explained that these course loads had been established by individual units and that this would likely occur the same way at UWT.

Mobus suggested that the faculty should review:

<http://www.tvw.org/capitolrecord/index.php/2009/02/tonight-on-inside-olympia-lawmakers-talk-about-budget-cuts-to-universities/>

Forman discussed new unfunded enrollments. For UW Tacoma it is unclear whether there will be flexibility regarding new enrollments. Discussions like this are taking place within the UW Senate. Important questions to consider are the suspension of merit raises, and the absence of an official policy concerning merit raises. It is important to note that the Regents and Legislature can override any decisions.

Stevens noted that the faculty wants transparency about which programs are implemented. Forman clarified that the faculty wanted to clarify the process for choosing proposals at the implementation stage. Greg Benner added that it was important to establish a process for review after the program was in place. Stevens added that resources are a primary concern and why a particular program is selected in light of the amount of available resources. Kalton

also noted that starting programs without adequate support was an important and recurring issue. There should be some clarity about the motivations for starting new programs and there should be clarity about the rationale.

Reusch noted that as a part of a corporate perspective the Administration is eager to project growth on paper despite the budget crisis.

Forman explained that the philosophy behind new programs will be addressed at the Faculty Assembly meeting. Reusch noted UW Seattle's plans for cutting positions also includes hiring new faculty and approving new programs.

Forman asked Stevens about the Faculty Affairs meeting minutes for the 2008-2009 year. Stevens responded that these minutes had been approved. Forman asked that Stevens and Kalton send an email to Star Murray, office assistant, with the approved minutes so that she can post them.

Action: Forman closed the meeting by asking George Mobus and Christine Stevens to have their respective committees choose new chairs for the next academic year.

Laakso asked about the status of restructuring proposal. Forman responded that EC would review when he has the opportunity to make some revisions.

5. Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.