

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Executive Council Minutes
June 10, 2009
CP 206C

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

Attendance: Chair, Michael Forman, Gregory Benner, Siân Davies-Vollum, Matt Kelley, Janice Laakso. Also attending were ex-officio members Chancellor Patrica Spakes and Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs Beth Rushing,

Guests: Larry Wear, Marcie Lazzari

Synopsis:

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes from May 27, 2009
3. Report from the Chair
4. Faculty Affairs Workload Proposal, Larry Wear – See Appendix A
5. Adjournment

-
1. The agenda was approved.
 2. The minutes from May 27, 2009 were approved with minor corrections.
 3. Report from Chair Michael Forman
 - A) Forman thanked the EC for their work considering the budget crisis.
 - B) Forman reminded the EC of their work on the bylaws reforms; this will allow the Faculty Assembly account for shared governance; which is part of the mission of UWT.
 - C) Executive Council representative governance should consider:
 - frequent meetings
 - Establishing stronger communication and oversight with Faculty Assembly Standing Committees
 - Standing Committees can be more proactive; this year four proposals were suggested by these committees. Faculty Affairs and Academic Policy struggled to pick a chair, which made it difficult to meet in autumn 2008.
 - D) In this meeting the EC will review the Workload Policy proposal, which is from Faculty Affairs.
 4. Faculty Affairs (FA) proposal, Larry Wear:
 - A) FA would like to establish a policy which considers budget constraints; in all likelihood faculty workload will increase. FA's rationale is that this proposal will attempt to ensure faculty compensation for increased workload. This includes multi-year lecturers and tenure track faculty. Both VCAA Beth Rushing and Vice-Chair-elect, Marcie Lazzari reminded the EC that course loads vary by unit. Wear agreed that loads vary. Forman asked whether FA

attempted to measure course loads and compensation across units. Forman explained that a formula has been used inside IAS to govern course loads. Siân Davies-Vollum reminded the EC that course loads have been an ongoing discussion within IAS.

Chancellor Spakes asked L. Wear whether someone would be appointed to monitor Workload across the UWT campus. Wear clarified that this policy establishes a precedent for workload and compensation, but it ultimately falls to the faculty member to make the appropriate claims.

Rushing expressed concern about establishing a campus-wide policy, because Directors and Faculty negotiate compensation at the time of appointment; this varies across units.

Janice Laakso suggested that the EC should send back comments to FA.

Suggestions

- Compensation should consider equity and administrative constraints.
- Benner suggested that faculty, including lecturers, negotiate their compensations within their unit.
- Forman suggested that EC and FA should collaborate to establish a workload policy, perhaps by establishing a task force to discuss issues of workload, overload, and “proper” load.

Action: The EC came to consensus that they would circulate comments within the EC and return to FA in order to work together to formulate one Faculty Workload.

Spakes suggested that the Directors from each unit should also be allowed to contribute their perspective. Gregory Benner suggested that this feedback should culminate in a process, rather than a policy.

4. Outreach to Faculty Assembly committees in 2009-2010.

A) Rushing noted that unit policy decisions must consider the impact on other units. For example, if Social Work introduced a new psychology classes, then IAS should know. Similarly, Faculty Assembly and its committees need to communicate policy decisions to all units that may be affected.

Forman informed the EC UW Tacoma a history of policy decisions are being a compiled. So far, the decisions made by the Faculty Assembly and of the various academic units have remained

ensconced in their respective units. Faculty Assembly will compile and eventually promulgate all policy decisions. For example, this year Forman directed that Star Murray (Faculty Assembly Office Assistant) to find Faculty Assembly minutes in search of policy decisions. Murray has compiled all of these decisions into one file. Review of these materials should be conducted next year either by EC or by a sub-committee of EC because these materials are not always clearly phrased. Also, it is likely that some decisions have been reversed by other decisions and that there are other inconsistencies. Once this material has been “cleaned up” it should be incorporated into the UWT Handbook under “Appendix C.” Appendix C is a new part of the Handbook which will contain the proposals currently being voted on if these should pass. The reviewed compilation of historic policies should also become part of this Appendix C.

Forman indicated that he had also directed Star Murray to compile all policy decisions from the IAS minutes. It is likely, he thinks, that many of the rules under which UWT operates were once IAS rules. Unfortunately, these rules have never been collected in one place. The result of Murray’s compilation should be a list of policies which can then be reviewed by IAS faculty and collected in one place.

Forman’s intent is that once she has compiled the listing of IAS policies, Murray will move on to doing the same thing for other units.

Spakes asked whether this project is happening within committees. Forman agreed that this was a good idea, but he said this had not been done. Forman said that Murray had collected and posted as many minutes of committees as were available. Committee policy decisions, however, do not actually become “law” until the Faculty Assembly (under current rules) has voted on them.

- B) Points for all committees to consider were suggested by Gregory Benner. First each committee should come up with questions and possible outcomes. Second, each committee should give a quarterly ‘report back’ to the EC. Third, before the committees hold their first meeting of the quarter they should construct a timeline at the Faculty Retreat.

Forman suggested that the EC might hold a separate retreat prior to the FA retreat, perhaps with the committees or the committee chairs. Laakso and Davies-Vollum agreed that this suggestion is

helpful. Davies-Vollum suggested that the emphasis on “outcomes” should be communicated to each committee.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.