

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA
Faculty Assembly Executive Council Actions 2010 – 2011

This is the second year the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) Executive Council (EC) of the Faculty Assembly (FA) functioned as a representative body. The EC held meetings approximately twice per month, and the FA held four meetings during this academic year. Typically, the FA meets once per quarter, but an additional meeting was called during winter quarter at the request of the faculty to continue discussions related to enrollment concerns vis-à-vis budget constraints.

In general, the work of the EC is to (1) support the efforts of the four Standing Committees (see year-end reports), (2) maintain ongoing communication with campus administration, the academic programs, and academic support units as appropriate, (3) ensure that the full faculty has the opportunity to vote on issues that either require their vote (e.g., bylaws changes, election of faculty senators) or those that the EC determines appropriate for a full faculty vote (even though not required), (4) maintain communication with the University of Washington (UW) Faculty Senate and other university-wide bodies, and (5) address emerging issues that fall under the purview of faculty governance.

The following describes the foci and activities of the EC during the 2010 – 2011 academic year as well as actions taken by the EC and the Faculty Assembly.

Efforts to Improve Communication

The EC is a key player in the shared governance model, and its effectiveness is entirely dependent upon the widespread support of the faculty at large and upon ongoing communication with all relevant bodies across campus. This message was reinforced at the September 2010 FA Retreat and has been reiterated throughout the year. While EC's communication and outreach to its main constituency, the faculty, seems to have improved, it may still be uneven across academic programs. EC's efforts to foster a greater sense of shared responsibility among faculty include reminding faculty that they have access to the agendas and minutes of the EC and the standing committees. Most, if not all academic programs, ask for EC and standing committee updates from their representatives. Additionally EC meetings are open (unless in Executive Session) as are the standing committee meetings (with the exception of some Appointment, Tenure, and Promotion meetings where individual files for tenure or promotion are being reviewed). Through these and other actions, EC strives to increase awareness of the central role and responsibility that faculty have to contribute to UW Tacoma's development and success.

A significant accomplishment of the EC this year has been the engagement with a variety of units across campus such as the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, the Office of Undergraduate Education, Global Honors, International Programs, Enrollment Services, the Library, Student Affairs, ASUWT, Administrative Services, and the Staff Association. Building and maintaining relationships across campus not only improves morale, but hopefully results in more informed and better decision making particularly in the current budget climate. Additionally, the Chair and Vice Chair of FA meet monthly with the Chancellor and VCAA; these conversations have facilitated administration's and faculty's commitment to shared governance.

UWT Bylaws Changes under Review

Suggested UWT Bylaws changes have been drafted and are pending final approval by the Secretary of the Faculty and the UW "Code Cops." These proposed changes include increasing the terms of service for Standing Committee and EC members to three years as well as including the immediate past chair of FA as a voting member of EC for the year following her/his term of service. Longer terms of service will strengthen institutional memory and provide a structure that facilitates the staggering of member terms. An additional proposed change relates to attendance at EC meetings: failure to attend two meetings per academic year without advance notification will require that a replacement be provided. It is anticipated that a vote of the full faculty will be conducted during winter quarter 2012.

Chancellor's Search

Early in the search for the next chancellor, faculty was actively involved in providing input to the Search Firm. The Chair of FA served as a member of the Search Committee and lobbied for faculty to have a dedicated time to meet with the candidates. The EC had lunch with each of the candidates, and there was a session for each candidate to meet with faculty.

UW Tacoma Student Conduct Code (see Attachment A)

1. Informal Hearings

As a result of collaborative efforts to improve the implementation of the Student Conduct Code at UWT, Ruth Rea volunteered to serve as an initiating officer for a three-year term to be re-appointed annually.

2. University Disciplinary Committee

The four faculty volunteers on the University Disciplinary Committee (Joyce Dinglasan-Panlilio, Janice Laakso, Greg Noranha, and Loly Alcaide Ramirez) have been asked to continue their terms through autumn quarter 2011. During autumn 2011, four faculty members will be drawn at random from three groups of faculty organized by the number of faculty in each unit (resulting in three fairly equal groups).

3. Faculty Appeal Board

Due to a retirement, UWT will need a new representative to serve on this body.

Budget Considerations (see Attachment B)

Given the constraints facing the budget of the State of Washington, a great amount of time and energy was (and still is) focused upon potential cuts to the amount of state

funding allocated to higher education in general and specifically to the University of Washington. In the October 21st EC meeting, Mark Pendras suggested that EC should consider the development of guiding principles for budget cuts in an immediate crisis while simultaneously considering the future of the campus. In consultation with Beth Rushing, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA), FA leadership decided to ask the academic directors/dean to engage in this activity with members of the Executive Council. Several meetings were held and a set of Guiding Principles (see Attachment B) were developed and later approved by the EC and then adopted by the UWT Executive Planning Council.

As part of the discussion with EC and the academic directors/dean, the Program Evaluation process being led by Interim UW Provost Mary Lidstrom was considered as well. There was lack of clarity about our participation in this process, but eventually a report was submitted to the Interim Provost by our Chancellor and VCAA.

Faculty is well-represented on the campus Budget Committee by Katie Baird, Zoe Barsness, and Marcie Lazzari. Many concerns have been voiced about the budget process itself including requests for the provision of more specific and consistent data in support of specific funding requests, clearer and earlier articulation of the assumptions underlying the various budget models under consideration, and better articulation of the decision criteria for evaluating the prioritization of each funding request.

Office of Undergraduate Education

The EC was asked by Ingrid Walker, the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE), to engage in a discussion of the UWT Core Program as well as one- and two-hundred level courses. Since the OUE does not have a designated faculty, the question arises as to faculty's responsibility for curricular oversight. The EC passed a resolution (January 5, 2011) tasking the Academic Policy Committee (APC) to develop an oversight plan for the Core. Discussions have been held throughout the year, but to date a structure and process for faculty involvement has not been determined. A small sub-committee to continue this exploration was formed (Ingrid Walker, Jose Rios, George Mobus, Rich Furman, Zoe Barsness and Marcie Lazzari). Also, George Mobus, chair of the APC, visited UW Bothell in May to learn more about their Center for University Studies and Programs (CUSP), which has responsibility for developing and approving lower division curricula. Over the summer months it was the sub-committee's goal to identify a set of possible models that might serve to guide the development of policies and procedures in regards to faculty oversight of the Core. It was the sub-committee's intent to present these models to the EC in autumn 2011 for their consideration and vote to recommend for adoption. The recommended oversight model was then intended to be reviewed and approved through appropriate administrative and faculty governance bodies.

Since this report was initially drafted in May 2011, the decision was made by Chancellor Friedman to place the Office of Undergraduate Education, including the Core Curriculum, under the stewardship of IAS. According to IAS Director Larry Knopp, he "will over the next several months lead the academic directors, appropriate representatives of the Faculty Assembly, OUE personnel, and other key stakeholders in

conversations about the future of the Core and of oversight of the general education needs of students.” (E-mail message to the UWT community, August 22, 2011)

Teaching Evaluations

Ehsan Feroz, a member of the EC representing the Milgard School of Business, raised questions regarding the appropriateness and validity of the standard UW teaching evaluation form to determine teaching effectiveness. Similar questions and concerns have been raised over the years. Since no EC member was available to assume further exploration of this issue, it was tabled.

ASUWT

Husky Principles

At the request of ASUWT leadership, EC reviewed and voted to adopt the Husky Principles and encourage faculty to include them on their syllabi. These principles promote high standards of honesty and integrity, the dignity and rights of all persons, freedom of thought and expression, ongoing intellectual and personal development, critical thinking and discovery, and efforts to improve the university community and the world. These principles were likewise supported by the campus Executive Planning Council.

Support of Student Lobbying Efforts

John Wheeler III, ASWUT Legislative Liaison, asked to meet with members of the EC to seek their support of student advocacy efforts with the legislature related to protecting baseline funding for higher education. We discussed the actions that faculty members could take as state employees and agreed that we would encourage our colleagues to support funding for higher education through communication with state legislators (under the guidelines for lobbying efforts).

Academic Advising

At the November 18, 2010 EC meeting, VCAA Beth Rushing announced that the implementation of the centralized Advising Center was moving forward. Even though there were still lingering questions about the potential effectiveness of this move, both Marcie Lazzari and Zoe Barsness agreed to serve on the Advising Center Implementation Group (previously known as the Advising Systems Taskforce which Marjorie Dobratz, Zoe Barsness, and Marcie Lazzari served on over the summer of 2010). As members of the Advising Systems Implementation Group, Barsness and Lazzari requested the collection of pre and post student satisfaction data as one way to evaluate the effectiveness of the move to centralized advising. To our knowledge, minimal data have been collected.

Tri-Campus Issues

Janet Primomo, who has served for many years on the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy (FCTCP), presented to the EC the FCTCP’s final report which represents a thorough and detailed discussion and assessment of tri-campus issues. The EC plans to study this report in more detail to identify avenues to address the most significant areas of concern. Each year the Vice Chair of FA, as well as two other UWT representatives,

serves on this Council. As a positive step, JW Harrington, UW Faculty Senate Chair, invited representatives from UW Bothell and UW Tacoma to give brief presentations at a Faculty Senate meeting (March 10, 2011). Continuing to raise visibility and to promote understanding of all three UW campuses is critical, especially in light of issues raised by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

An immediate concern is how to secure representation on the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting (SCPB). Currently, the UW Bothell and UW Tacoma are not formally represented on the SCPB since the faculty code does not guarantee any official representation for either of the smaller campuses on this body. Three years ago, as a consequence of conversations between the FCTCP and faculty senate leadership, an informal commitment was made by the UW Senate leadership to assure that the smaller campuses were represented on this body. During the past three years, Dan Jaffe (UWB) has therefore served as one of the six at-large faculty representatives who sit on the SCPB. Marcie Lazzari and Zoe Barsness have both had conversations with JW Harrington, the incoming SCPB Chair, about the importance of representation for the smaller campuses on the SCPB. JW Harrington has indicated his intention to honor the informal commitment made by previous UW Senate leadership to assure at least one representative from either the UWB or UWT campus being appointed as one of the six at-large faculty representatives on the SCPB. Since the current representative from UW Bothell is serving the last of his three-year term, efforts will be made to recruit a UWT faculty member to fill the up-coming open at-large faculty position on the SCPB. It seems important, however, to consider appointing one person for each campus as our issues are not necessarily the same, and it is difficult to maintain communication.

Election of Faculty Senators

Given the Faculty Senate restructure in spring 2010, UWT was allotted four Senate seats (in addition to the FA Chair who also sits on the Senate) that represent either the campus at-large or a program(s). Terms of the four currently serving senators (Denise Drevdahl, Michael Kucher, Amos Nascimento, and Garth Novack) end in 2011. These senators are not eligible for re-election either by choice or term limits.

The EC voted that solicitations for nominations would ask individuals to represent the campus at-large, and once elected to decide which programs they will “represent” for communication purposes. In retrospect, this decision was misguided as we have only succeeded in filling three of our four seats (Chris Demaske, Michael Forum, and Ankur Teredesai). By not requiring programs (or a set of smaller programs) to select a senator, there is no way to incentivize a program(s) to choose a senator. A special election will be held when a fourth member is identified.

Library Issues

Charles Lord, Associate Dean of the University Libraries and Director of the UWT Library and Learning Resources (including the Teaching and Learning Center), met with the EC to share current changes and issues related to the Library and to seek faculty support of the Library’s overall vision. These types of discussions are very important in facilitating the understanding of why certain decisions are being made. It had been our

intent for a Library representative to facilitate a discussion with the FA, but adequate time was not available.

Recommendations for 2011 – 2012

Updates from work conducted over the summer are indicated in *italics*.

- Secure permanent funding for one course release per academic year for each of the chairs of the Standing Committees.
This issue is under discussion with Chancellor Friedman.
- Develop positive working relationships with the new chancellor, Debra Friedman, and with the next VCAA.
Given our interactions to date, we feel very positive about the future of shared governance at UWT.
- Conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the FA EC representative model of faculty governance.
- Adopt a faculty oversight model for the OUE.
As noted above on pp. 2-3 of this report, FA representatives will work with Larry Knopp and others to guarantee representative faculty voice and involvement in the coordination and decision making associated with general education and the Core from all academic programs across campus.
- Continue discussions related to the challenges of engaging faculty in shared governance.
- Revisit the decision to have UWT senators represent the campus at large.
- Maintain relationships and communication with units across campus.
- Re-visit the effort to have an ASUWT and Staff Association representative serve as ex-officio members of the FA EC.
- Organize and co-sponsor with Academic Affairs a “Roundtable Retreat” focused upon teaching and research. Tracy Thompson has suggested one topic related to plagiarism that would include the Student Conduct Code and the use of appropriate technologies, and Ehsan Feroz has recommended bringing in a keynote speaker.
This effort is in the planning stages. The Roundtables will be held on Friday, October 21, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. – noon in the Milgard Assembly Room, Philip Hall. PLEASE HOLD THE DATE!

Respectfully submitted:
Marcie Lazzari, Chair
Zoe Barsness, Vice Chair
May 24, 2011/August 31, 2011