

**Final Report from Executive Council, 2013 – 2014**  
**Jill Purdy, Chair**

The Executive Council (EC) is the representative body of the Faculty Assembly, the governing body of faculty at the University of Washington Tacoma. The EC is elected from the faculty and is directly accountable to the faculty. The Executive Council provides leadership in addressing all domains of faculty authority under the [Faculty Code](#) as well as professional and personnel issues affecting the faculty. Key areas of responsibility include (1) educational and scholastic policy including admissions and graduation, (2) student conduct and activities, (3) faculty appointment, tenure, promotion, and welfare, and (4) advising the Chancellor on campus budget and resources. (For a complete review of the legislative authority of the faculty, please see [UW Executive Order IV](#)).

To accomplish its work, the Executive Council oversees three standing committees ([Faculty Affairs](#), [Appointment, Promotion & Tenure](#); and [Academic Policy and Curriculum](#)) and one ad hoc committee ([Paulsen Chair](#)). The Chair of Faculty Assembly serves as chair of EC and additionally represents Faculty Assembly in the UW Faculty Senate and on the UW Faculty Senate Executive Committee. During the 2013-14 academic year, the EC met thirteen times and the Faculty Assembly met three times. The work of Executive Council is reported regularly to Faculty Assembly through monthly [newsletters](#). A summary of the activities of Executive Council during 2013-14 appears below, organized according to the responsibilities outlined above.

**1. Educational and Scholastic Policy**

The Executive Council made significant efforts to support and enhance the educational excellence of UW Tacoma through a number of forward-looking initiatives. Our three Campus Fellows teams composed of faculty volunteers presented recommendations related to student [writing](#), [quantitative literacy](#), and [online learning](#) at UWT, and EC began work to oversee implementation of those recommendations. EC members advocated for and participated in campus-wide academic planning to develop an educational rationale for planned growth within and across academic programs. EC reviewed and approved policy for establishing schools at the Tacoma campus, and approved the proposal for a School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. In preparation for growth, EC worked with the Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee to clarify procedures for new course and program reviewing, offering training for faculty and staff on these procedures. EC oversaw the formation of faculty councils in Global Honors and Undergraduate Education to ensure unit-level oversight, and has set December 31, 2014 as the deadline for all academic units to have [approved bylaws](#) in place.

In recent years faculty involvement in the Admissions process had declined, thus EC reestablished the faculty's voice in admissions policies and practices, making this a key agenda item for the Winter 2014 Faculty Assembly meeting. Subsequently, an [admissions task force](#) of faculty assessed admissions procedures and offered recommendations to EC that it will attend to in 2014-15. EC voted to establish an ad hoc committee of faculty to review admissions appeals.

EC mourned the passing of Chancellor Debra Friedman and discussed numerous ways to recognize her contributions to campus. As the search for a new chancellor began, EC made a recommendation to the

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UW President to [revise Executive Order 20](#) so that greater representation of faculty and staff is possible in future searches. President Young accepted this recommendation, issuing an interpretive memo on July 31, 2014 that exempts future Chancellor searches from the requirements for Dean searches that restrict the number of campus faculty who may sit on the search committee. Sessions for [faculty input on the chancellor search](#) were held in the spring and faculty are encouraged to participate in candidates' campus visits during autumn quarter.

**2. Student Conduct and Activities**

The fall and winter Faculty Assembly meetings devoted time to explaining the new [procedures for reporting student conduct concerns](#) developed in conjunction with Dean of Students and conduct officer Ed Mirecki. EC is now receiving regular reports and is monitoring the number and disposition of academic integrity violations such as plagiarism and cheating. In the interest of developing a shared faculty culture around the handling of such issues, the Faculty Assembly website now includes detailed [resources on academic misconduct](#). In addition, EC was engaged with the AACRAO consultants and campus process around improving student success and retention.

**3. Faculty appointment, promotion, tenure and general welfare**

EC continued its work on lecturer concerns, working with the [Lecturer Affairs](#) subcommittee of Faculty Affairs to develop and review employment policy. Executive council approved draft legislation for lecturer promotion procedures that, if passed by the entire faculty, will be included in Appendix A of the UWT Faculty Handbook. EC will move forward with this legislation in fall 2014.

Faculty morale and campus climate were central issues of concern for EC. EC charged Faculty Affairs with assessing faculty satisfaction with the [merit review](#) process and provided this report to campus in advance of spring 2014 reviews. EC also reviewed merit increases from spring 2013 for disparities related to [gender](#) and [rank](#). On a different front, a team of faculty analyzed the results of the [COACHE faculty survey](#) and created an [action plan](#) for improving faculty satisfaction.

**4. Budget and resource advice**

The Executive Council commenced its first year of providing budget advice for the campus. EC reviewed proposed faculty hires from across campus and assisted with prioritizing them. The growth of the campus in faculty, students, and physical plant was of great concern, with a significant portion of the spring Faculty Assembly meeting dedicated to this topic. EC discussed information shared by Vice Chancellor of Finance Administration Harlan Patterson regarding tuition, state allocations, financial aid, facilities, and instructional costs and offered advice aligning these to the campus mission and faculty/staff capabilities and workload. At the University level, EC members provided feedback on the proposed UW faculty salary policy. Finally, Executive Council oversaw the Faculty Assembly budget, which for the 2013-2015 biennium added a full-time classified staff member and funding to support [academic excellence](#) initiatives.

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Given its broad purview, Executive Council plays an important role in connecting academic planning with resource planning at UWT. EC noted that academic vision should guide the development of facilities such as the Tacoma Paper & Stationery building, and future resource allocations for faculty offices, classrooms, teaching/learning support, and online technology. It is vital that EC continue offering a campus-wide faculty perspective on these issues that are central to the future of UWT.