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University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning
October 8, 2020
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom

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Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Review of the minutes from June 4, 2020
3. International student access concerns (Tom Lewis and Erik Hofer)
4. Council Charge Letter
5. Organizing/managing/completing FCTL's work within a virtual environment
6. Good of the Order
7. Adjourn

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1.   Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m.

2.   Review of the minutes from June 4, 2020

The minutes from June 4, 2020 were approved with amended changes.

3.   International student access concerns (Tom Lewis and Erik Hofer)

Tom Lewis and Erik Hofer spoke to the council about FCTL review on an issue related to international students https://itconnect.uw.edu/learn/tools/international-availability/ .
There is growing concern regarding UW domestic and international students learning remotely in various geographical locations outside the US. Current services and tools available to students taking courses in the US may not perform as well, or at all, due to China's online firewall. Teaching tools have also been blocked and are unavailable to students in China. This often places faculty and IT providers in impossible situations.

There was discussion around the implications of student learning safety in countries where the national government censors information or have US State Department embargos. Academic freedom is a politically sensitive topic in many classrooms right now.

Lewis and Hofer asked FCTL to think about some of the options UW can provide such as how much do we prioritize student safety or make resources more widely available. Hofer requested the council members to discuss a more comprehensive set of guidance to provide faculty as they approach these remote classrooms.

A member asked about Canvas tools and if applications like Google are blocked. Canvas apps usually work but Google products like YouTube may not. Third-party applications, even those which can be embedded into Canvas course pages, become inaccessible if they are blocked by a nation's firewall. The greatest unease is for students learning in countries without US Constitutional

4th amendment rights. UW IT is working to address the risks and vulnerabilities in remote learning but wants to emphasize this is not merely a technical problem (encryption, only contracting with specific companies, etc.)

Another member described their personal experience with online teaching in which they chose to alter the political science section of their course pack – they dropped a reading about democratic voting to not cause trouble for students in China. They asked if some guidance would be available soon. Hofer noted there is no such thing as a perfectly secure system, but UW is working to balance the risk to students in cases of possible student imprisonment versus academic freedom to discuss sensitive topics. UW IT is limited by legal jurisdictions and budgets. Zoom and Canvas are encrypted learning tools but there might be cases of students logging into their courses using monitored connections. Students may also download course material which is banned in their current country location.

A member asked if there is information on the number of students learning abroad. UW IT can locate where a student logs in, based on their UW NETID. About 700-1,000 UW students are coming from mainland China. A member suggested to invite faculty who have experienced teaching in these countries, which might be a good perspective on how to put together courses. A council member noted that their department was not focusing on this yet and they have had to individually do geographic surveys for students prior to their first class meeting.

Lewis and Hofer asked FCTL to help share this information with faculty colleagues on how this effects pedagogy and academic freedom. There are practice measures to reduce risk, such as not recording student discussions. Once a recording is made, a monitored connection could access it. Students researching in China and faculty working in China are facing problems especially in the new law criminalizing negative speech toward the People's Republic of China.

A member mentioned cross-linking to the UW Virtual Private Network (VPN) website would help students understand if and when they can use a VPN. A member noted that the Registrar's Office has published language on "Guidance to Students Taking Courses Outside the US" https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/syllabi-guidelines/. Faculty need to be careful because they cannot encourage students in China, for example, to use a VPN as that is illegal.

Chair Halverson noted that best practices, risk to faculty, risk to students, and feedback on limits by what UW IT can reasonably do could be topics for additional clarity and communication in future meetings.

4.   **Council charge letter**

The chair shared information about the council 2020-2021 charge (Exhibit 1).

The faculty senate would like to find a comfortable balance with Proctorio, the commercial software used by UW, between students and faculty. A member noted that the UWB faculty voted to collectively ban the use of online test proctoring June 2020. The approved policy required a process for making exemptions to the ban.

Another charge for FCTL is to develop reasonable accommodations which meets UW code, and is equitable to both faculty and students.

The council will work on an alternative pathway for merit review during 2020-2021. The goal is to include recognition of the exceptional curriculum design, development, delivery, mentoring/support, and student advising.

The chair will share subcommittee work with other faculty council chairs to determine if interested parties would like to collaborate.

5.   **Organizing/managing/completing FCTL's work within a virtual environment**

Chair Halverson suggested the creation of subcommittees to manage the council charges. This will allow regular council meetings to focus on progress updates, invited guests, and new business. Subcommittee work plans will be shared with the council at the next FCTL meeting on November 12th.

6.   **Good of the Order**

A member requested FCTL recruit another UWB person and two UWT people. The senate office will look into any interested voting faculty members to join FCTL.

The chair noted that the Class B Legislation on fee-based online courses, which had fallen to the floor due to COVID-19, was electronically approved by a vote of the new FCTL council prior to the first council meeting. It was successfully passed by the SEC and will go to the full faculty for a vote.

Another member noted the Center of Teaching and Learning is hosting a Teaching Remotely Pop-Up on "Timed Exams & Alternatives" - open to all UW faculty & TA's on October 13th, 2020.

A member stated there has been much critique of Proctorio, citing research which suggests Proctorio does not have a statistical impact on stopping student academic cheating. Many journalists have contacted UW about Proctorio, asking for public records rather than speaking with UW IT. Another council member noted that some faculty have been individually solicited to use Proctorio. Academic integrity has been a central reason why FCTL was charged with the issue of Proctorio.

7.   **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

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Minutes by Alexandra Portillo, faculty council analyst, xanport@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Fred Bookstein, Lynn Dietrich,
Kimberlee Gillis-Bridges, Kristin Gustafson, Thomas Halverson
(chair), Kathleen Peterson, Timea Tihanyi, Tania Hussein
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Kat Eli, Deepa Banerjee
President's designee: LeAnn Jones Wiles
Guests: Tom Lewis, Katie Malcom, Erik Hofer

Absent: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Sri Devi Duvvuri

<u>Exhibits</u>

Exhibit 1 – FCTL charge letter 2020-2021

Exhibit 1

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON
FACULTY SENATE

October 16th, 2020

Professor Lauren Montgomery, Chair
Faculty Council on Tri-campus Policy

Dear Professor Montgomery:

The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy is charged with responsibility "for matters of academic and non-academic policy between and among the campuses of the University of Washington" (Faculty Code, Sec 42-46). Activities historically performed include conducting tri-campus review as part of the approval process for proposed curriculum changes, analyzing possibilities for synergy among UW campuses, and advising and informing key administrators from all three campuses on the issues and interests of the others.

Our recommendation is that the council identify specific goals that can be accomplished by the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

The Senate office did a background review to help identify goals for your council. This included review of minutes from last year's meetings, review of discussions at Faculty Senate meetings, and selected outreach for topics. Recommended goals and/or topics for discussion include:

- Identify code changes that would create clear and consistent relationships, roles, and processes across the three campuses
- Engage in the process to craft the code change recommendations with the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs and the Senate Executive Committee
- Reconsider the remaining tri-campus structure issues identified last year and seek additional topics:
    - Major Services related to Financial Aid
    - Research equity with the Faculty Council on Research
- Work with Faculty Council on Academic Standards on policy changes that impact all three campuses

After your first council meeting, we will be available to discuss the goals your council identified. Thereafter, we will post your council's goals on the Faculty Senate website to communicate the important work you are doing.

Many thanks to you and the members of your council, on behalf of Senate Leadership and the faculty of the University, for all your time and work this coming year. I wish you all the best and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Robin Angotti

Exhibit 1

Chair, Faculty Senate