

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning

November 12, 2020

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

Meeting synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from October 8, 2020
 3. Chair's report
 4. Guest: Elizabeth Lewis/CSSC and Elizabeth Umphress, Margo Bergman (FCWA)
 5. Reconceptualizing Merit Sub-Committee update
 6. Reasonable Accommodation Sub-Committee update
 7. Proctorio/Academic Integrity Sub-Committee update
 8. International Student/Platforms Special Subcommittee update (Fred Bookstein/Tom Lewis)
 9. Good of the order
 10. 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 October 8, 2020

The minutes from October 8, 2020 were approved as written.

3. Chair's report

Chair Halverson emphasized the senate's request of councils to coordinate and support their work. Specifically, with FCTL focusing on merit and the proposed changes in the FCWA legislation related to teaching workloads.

There was discussion around a potential shift away from using "diversity/equity/inclusion" toward "anti-racist" language.

A council member shared an article from the Washington Post regarding Proctorio.

4. Guest: Elizabeth Lewis/CSSC and Elizabeth Umphress, Margo Bergman (FCWA)

Elizabeth Lewis from CSSC (Community Standards and Student Conduct) updated the council on how the student conduct office is working during COVID-19.

Lewis works with students to engage in development processes to reflect on their choices – making them aware of resources and debunking myths of current services. Their office operates specifically with UW Seattle, but the department works with UW Bothell and UW Tacoma to make the curriculum identical across campuses.

The numbers for academic misconducts have increased since moving online. There are specific concerns regarding contract cheating from 3rd party providers who help students complete assessments, in which

students submit the work as their own. The most popular program is Chegg, which students generally pay a fee to use.

These businesses have aggressively marketed to students during the pandemic. Anecdotal research has shown students have experienced increased pressure to do well in a remote environment. They believe there are no resources available and have a sense that everyone else is participating in academic misconduct, particularly during Spring 2020. The move to remote setting was shocking for students and they felt unprepared.

CSSC receives reports from faculty if their work is on Chegg. UW can investigate these reports and Chegg requests a point of contact in the CSSC office. Chegg has been good about providing information around IP address, names of students, account names, or people who viewed specific resources. They are not able to provide financial information from users. Students subscribe to Chegg for their offers of online textbooks. They also offer problematic “tutoring service” or opportunities for students to post questions which tutors review and answer in real-time. This is a violation of the UW student code of conduct and Chegg’s honor code. However, Chegg is one of the only 3rd party programs with an honor code and does not allow for use of their service in cheating. Electronic textbooks, and other positive aspects of the programs, make it difficult to ban a system entirely. UW cannot regulate a student’s use of a business online.

These 3rd party programs are not monitored by CSSC. Faculty members must determine if their materials are there, which requires an account with the program. Faculty can also request their work is removed from any of those programs directly using the digital media copyright act.

CSSC will be paying attention and participates in national assessments through the International Association of Academic Integrity. They will raise student awareness that faculty and UW are noticing this. The UW perspective is to amplify the access students have to textbooks to counterbalance the use of programs like Chegg. CSSC will work with the Academic Integrity subcommittee to continue this discussion.

Elizabeth Umphress and Margo Bergman (Faculty Council on Women in Academic) joined the council to discuss the latest draft of their Class C resolution regarding caregiving equity.

A member noted concern about contract faculty and the impacts of COVID-19 on their teaching evaluation as this information follows contract faculty to new positions. They mentioned that stand by instructors could have free reign of a class associated with the original faculty. It is up to the individual instructor to report teaching evaluations or have stand-by instructors.

Umphress emphasized empowerment of each faculty to make their own decisions. The impacts of contracts would need to be monitored by faculty and brought forth to UWHR. They encouraged promotion of this legislation to support caregivers and other facing inequities.

The practice of every course evaluation by students can be changed by administrators via the faculty code and it is at the individual unit’s discretion to set local requirements. The default now is that every quarter the course evaluations are set up for all courses every quarter. It is each unit’s purview to require every class, but if there was a stronger suggestion to not require this or more of a push from below to only get one, then perhaps this would be a good place to get relief.

Members shared their personal challenges faced due to COVID-19. Many suggested to include in the document real solutions and specifically distinguish between the various caregiver situations. Members asked if everyone is affected to some extent in caregiver or work equity and discussed if this resolution should emphasize that everyone ought to have equally decreased expectations. Umphress noted that doing so is failing to acknowledge that marginalized communities often face an increased burden. Unit leaders should assume everyone is affected and reach out to their departments to investigate tailored solutions. Council members readily agreed that there has been no top-down recognition that everything has changed.

Another member noted students are also more often put into caregiver roles and deserve the same level of accommodation as faculty.

FCWA's plan is to turn this Class C resolution into Class A legislation. Much of this situation could be faced again and it is not specific to COVID-19. FCWA noted their agreement to work with FCTL on issues related to merit and promotion.

Members noted their concern with the political divisiveness of the FCWA legislation and the advisory nature of the council's feedback, which would have no change on the current format.

The chair made a motion to endorse the FCWA legislation. The motion was seconded. The council voted to oppose an endorsement of the legislation.

The chair made a motion to support the general idea of the legislation and continue to advise on the future FCWA legislation. The motion was seconded. The council voted to approve to support the general idea of the legislation and continue to advise on the future FCWA legislation.

5. Reconceptualizing Merit Sub-Committee update

Due to time constraints, Chair Halverson requested sub-committee leaders write an update to share with council members via email. Discussion will continue in the December 10th meeting.

6. Reasonable Accommodation Sub-Committee update

See above.

7. Proctorio/Academic Integrity Sub-Committee update

See above.

8. International Student/Platforms Special Subcommittee update (Fred Bookstein/Tom Lewis)

See above.

9. Good of the order

Chair Halverson noted the merit and promotion issue needs to be quickly addressed this year. Language related to an issue like COVID-19 we could face in the future needs to be included in future legislation.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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

Present: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Fred Bookstein, Lynn Dietrich, Kristin Gustafson, Thomas Halverson (chair), Timea Tihanyi, Rania Hussein, Ruben Casas
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Kat Eli, Deepa Banerjee, Clara Coyote
President's designee: LeeAnne Jones Wiles
Guests: Tom Lewis, Katie Malcolm, Sean Gehrke, Elizabeth Lewis, Elizabeth Umphress, Margo Bergman

Absent: **Faculty Code Section 21-61 A:** Kimberlee Gills-Bridges