Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Review of the Minutes from December 3, 2013
4. Student Tutoring Centers
5. Chair’s Report
6. President Designee’s Update
7. PSO Update
8. New Business/Future Agenda Items
9. Adjourn

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Treser at 1:30 p.m.

2) Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

3) Review of Minutes from December 3, 2013

Minutes from December 3, 2013 were approved as written.

4) Student Tutoring Centers

Ann Browning, Director Academic Support Programs, was present to discuss student tutoring centers. Browning works with the Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment (CLUE) within UW Academic Support Programs. The goal of CLUE is to provide academic support to the full range of UW undergraduates by promoting the growth and development of student learning communities that are based on shared needs, interests, and mutual investment in academic success. This is done by providing tutoring services that cover a wide variety of subjects including science, math, writing and languages. CLUE is primarily located in Mary Gates Hall Commons and also host activities in the HUB and residence halls. Evening Discussion and Review Sessions, and drop-in tutoring for science and languages, are held weeknights throughout Mary Gates Hall.

Class Discussions are meant to provide an opportunity to delve more deeply into coursework by actively studying, reviewing, and discussing course topics and issues with peers in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the traditional classroom. CLUE also has a Writing Center which is an interdisciplinary, drop-in service open to all undergraduates. There have been requests to expand tutoring for writing, but with the expansion of Odegaard Undergraduate Library there have also been an increase of writing tutors. In order to avoid duplicating services CLUE will offer tutors once they see Odegaard reaching beyond
capacity to serve students. In addition, CLUE also offers Exam Review Sessions which cover course material and strategies for specific tests.

There has been past concerns about the availability of the Physics study center aligning with TA-run office hours. Currently, the focus is to support 100-level courses and there are not many places to support science tutoring without going outside office hours. CLUE is able to support tutoring up to 300-level courses but found that they were over capacity in the Commuter Commons during Fall Quarter.

There are approximately 100 tutors on staff and the majority are 300-level undergraduates. Most tutors begin during their sophomore year and stay until they graduate which allows for at least one expert in a subject area to be available at any given time. While there are several graduate students on staff, it is extremely useful to have undergraduate tutors who know the professor and subject areas. There is a lot of traffic and CLUE also offers an evening option for students to take advantage of off-time study centers. Because many students move from off-site instructional centers to Mary Gates Hall in the evening to use their resources, CLUE works to ensure the offerings can be easily moved to support these students by streamlining communication across writing centers, creating a joint system for training, and requiring tutors job-shadow their peers.

A question was raised asking if CLUE has any direct communications with faculty and specific colleges. Each subject area for the drop-in classes have a lead tutor who acts as a liaison with faculty in the particular department. The tutor will work with faculty to add notifications on their syllabi and inform students about CLUE. Additionally, the individual will coordinate behind the scenes to set up discussion sessions and handle the logistics to ensure the services are available. Discussion ensued about the need for this communication in the College of Engineering. A comment was raised that services provided by CLUE are incredibly useful and is a good way to connect with students. CLUE estimates there are approximately 40,000 student visits per year and is looking at future opportunities to expand their services.

A comment was raised stating that it is helpful to directly contact faculty in each department. Additionally, it would be nice for each advising office to know about the services that CLUE provides. Another comment suggested that CLUE could present at faculty meetings to discuss the available resources. CLUE is working to build out its website, coordinate with department advisors to identify faculty members who are teaching particular courses, and contacting advising groups that are composed of academic advisors from multiple departments. A suggestion was made to provide notifications on catalyst sites and course resource pages.

5) Chair’s Report

Treser is working with Court to identify agenda items for the remainder of the year.

The Faculty Senate has recently approved Class A legislation on Academic Freedom. While it is directed towards faculty it might also have implications for students since there is language which allows individuals to protest and voice their opinions without fear of repercussions. While not specific to students, the legislation could be perceived to be stretched to protect their speech as an academic exercise. If the language needs to be strengthened in the future additional changes could be added the Faculty Code. Another option would be to makes changes to the Student Regulations. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised that there has not been an instance that a student or faculty member has been expelled for expressing their opinion. However, there have been cases at other universities in
which this has happened. There are some ongoing legal cases that have involved faculty but those are more related to employment situations rather than academic freedom.

The lecturer issue is slowly moving along. The majority of the conversation revolved around academic freedom and the English language lecturers. Intellectual property continues to be a big issue as well as faculty salary policy.

6) President Designee’s Update

Johnson reported that classes started yesterday. The Office of Student Life typically sees activities ramp up in the winter and spring quarters. For example, ASUW student government begins along with student lobbying in Olympia. “Huskies on the Hill” (ASUW and GPSS’ lobby day) is scheduled for February 6th.

The big change for Student Life is the opening of Lander Hall. Terry Hall, which is 70 years old, has closed down and is scheduled for demolition in February. Johnson reported that approximately 700-800 students have been moved from Terry to Lander Hall.

7) PSO Update

PSO held its annual meeting in December which was attended by Betsy Wilson (Vice Provost for Digital Initiatives and Dean of University Libraries) who presented on recent technology and digital initiatives. PSO had a conversation last Spring Quarter about expanding its scholarship program for professional development to include students. The PSO board said “no” due to the method in which funds are raised, but the issue might come up again this year.

8) New Business/Future Agenda Items

A question was raised asking if Treser has contacted the Director of Admissions about the status/growth of undergraduate admissions. Treser will follow up with the Director shortly. A comment was raised mentioning that for the first time in their experience at UW, a student from UW-Tacoma wanted to transfer to the Seattle campus and had to undergo an extensive process to switch campuses. Discussion ensued. UW has an articulation agreement which regulates admissions of transfer students from community colleges and 4-year institutions.

The Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) discussed last year about having a joint meeting with FCSA to discuss issues of interest. Treser will reach out to FCAS since there are overlapping issues between councils, such as athletics and online learning. It is likely a joint meeting could occur in Spring Quarter.

A comment was raised about a recent survey related to classroom space. It would be nice to know more about the final results and why the survey was released in the first place. A comment was raised that while student enrollment is increasing, class space is not. This is a result of more buildings being built without classrooms. The survey on classroom space was sent out by Classroom Support Services with a particular emphasis on how classrooms use technology.

9) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Treser at 2:05 p.m.
Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: Faculty: Treser (Chair), Burke, Ezeonwu, Fabien, Laws, Lopez, Stroup, Svircev  
President’s Designee: Johnson  
Ex-Officio Reps: Jones Wiles, Scott  

Absent: Faculty:  
Ex-Officio Reps: Tawatao, McNerney