University of Washington
Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy
November 30th, 2017
9am – 10:30am
Odegaard Undergraduate Library 320

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
2. Welcome
3. Review of the minutes from October 26th, 2017
4. Subcommittee for Tricampus Curriculum Review
5. Student perspective on the “Connected U”
6. Good of the order
7. Adjourn

1) Call to order

Stein called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2) Welcome

Members and guests introduced themselves.

3) Review of the minutes from October 26th, 2017

The minutes from October 26th, 2017 were approved as written.

4) Subcommittee for Tricampus Curriculum Review

Stein explained a meeting will be held to coordinate the implementation of changes for the tri-campus undergraduate curriculum coordination process (approved by FCTCP spring, 2017). She noted she would update the council on an implementation plan after that meeting takes place.

Stein asked for a volunteer to participate on the FCTCP Subcommittee on Tri-Campus Review, as the council is obligated to operate under the existing framework for tri-campus curriculum coordination for the time being. Lagesse volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee.

5) Student perspective on the “Connected U”

Stein explained student guests from each of the UW campuses have joined the meeting remotely and in-person to provide feedback on several questions relating to the UW system and how it might become better integrated, especially from the student perspective. A PowerPoint was displayed with questions for student guests and council members to discuss (Exhibit 1). Stein explained this item is a follow-up activity to FCTCP’s previous discussion of a “Connected U” wherein questions arose on how the UW
might evolve to become a better-connected university system. That discussion was prompted by a review of a draft report.

Q1 – To what extent do you interact with “other” campuses now? Under what circumstances?

A student explained he has very limited interaction with other UW campuses outside of his home campus. Other students agreed and noted interactions are minimal mainly due to accessibility of other campuses, including distances between UW Tacoma and UW Bothell/UW Seattle. It was noted if a UW Bothell student has questions about financial aid, they are directed to consult with the pertinent office at UW Seattle, as the service is not provided at UW Bothell. This was noted as an instance wherein students from one campus must interact with another campus due to shared university resources. More discussion revealed graduate students may have improved resources over undergraduate students in understanding and levying the resources of other campuses.

Q2 – What is your sense of communication structures across the 3 campuses currently?

A student member explained the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) does coordinate across campuses via regular leadership meetings, but that is the extent of communication. Other students noted they rarely communicate with the other campuses, and rarely learn of educational opportunities on other campuses. A member noted a recent institutional report on UW freshman admission statistics did show information for all three campuses, and in addition, a National Public Radio (NPR) radio report on UW statistics also presented the university system (aka. all three campuses) as a whole.

Q3 – How aware are you of opportunities across campuses?

Students were asked if any were currently taking courses on another campus (outside of their home campus); none indicated they were.

A member explained there are a number of courses not offered in her UW Bothell program that are offered at a parallel UW Seattle program. She explained historically, there have been barriers to students studying across the two programs.

A student noted the UW Seattle program he studies in is capacity-constrained. He explained he has noticed a growing interest among UW Seattle students in gaining exposure in the field (computing) by way of a related program at UW Bothell. He explained he believes more students would enroll in the program at UW Bothell if it were more widely advertised.

A student at UW Bothell noted he would have liked to take a course for his major at UW Seattle, but even a night course would have been very difficult to access given the distance and traffic. A member noted opportunities to offer courses to students from all UW campuses are currently underutilized given the many advances in online and hybrid (aka. distance) learning over the past decade.

There was mention of a policy on cross-campus student enrollment, which was originally designed and implemented by the FCTCP some years in the past. The Council Support Analyst was asked to search out the policy and its history. It was clarified there may be campus-specific and/or departmental policies relating to taking courses at other campuses. Members felt it would be useful to understand what kinds of policies inhibit or support cross-campus learning.
A student noted academic advisors at UW Bothell did not have extensive information on academic offerings at UW Seattle; he explained it was his impression he would have to visit the UW Seattle campus and meet with an advisor to learn about the offerings there.

A student member explained he spoke to several students in advance of the discussion, and the majority of them agreed they would participate in distance learning to take courses at other campuses. A faculty member explained their program had an interest in developing hybrid online teaching environments exactly for this reason, and were curious about demand.

There was some more discussion of online teaching environments. A member noted the decision to offer online courses is clearly up to the department and based in the curriculum. A member agreed and noted infrastructure for faculty is very important if distance learning is to be used more widely.

Q4 – How do you feel about the curriculum available to you & other final thoughts/ideas

Student guests/members were asked if they would want to enroll in courses based at other campuses if it was made easier to do so. Students replied they would be interested in attending courses at another UW campus. A student explained he is interested in taking courses at UW Bothell or UW Tacoma given the educational niches he is pursuing, but he is unable to do that currently given access.

Students were asked what changes they would like to see if there was a willingness to develop models to promote the connectedness of the university. A student from UW Tacoma explained she would like to see more online offerings from the three campuses. It was noted it would be easier to register for classes at UW Seattle (from another campus) if the “lecture and in-person lab model” wasn’t so commonly used. A member questioned if a course could be structured to include one online lecture for students of all three campuses, with labs held individually at the campuses. There was some discussion of course equivalencies between campuses. A student noted it would be much simpler to enroll across campuses if there was course continuity between campuses.

A member questioned if a central repository/database of UW academic offerings exists that students could use to find programs or courses; the answer was not known. A member liked the idea of better-coordinated academic offerings across campuses, with course credit that that is easily transferrable from one campus to another. There was some discussion of how a change like this would require a redefining of the philosophical underpinning of the UW campus system. A member noted a systematic approach would need to be used to better coordinate early academic program development across campuses. A member noted another important aspect of this topic is faculty’s autonomy in curricular development. A member explained a body works for the UW School of Nursing to coordinate curriculum across all three campuses.

A member recommended the council identify one or two or things students have stated they would like to see improved, and attempt to take steps to support making those changes. A student member noted currently and from an academic perspective, the three campuses are basically separate institutions under the same banner. She recommended requesting undergraduate advising offices encourage students to take courses at other campuses, and provide related information. Another student agreed and noted there is currently no encouragement for students to take advantage of programs at different campuses. A member noted it seems simple to at least give students the power to discover what offerings are available to them at other campuses.
Jeffords (president’s designee, UW Bothell) explained there are data available on the number of UW students taking courses at other campuses besides their own, and she would pass on this information to the council. A student noted it would also be useful to know what kinds of courses are being taken by students from other campuses. Other students felt they did not have a grasp on what the academic emphases are at the campuses outside of UW Seattle.

There was an idea to gather more data from students, potentially via use of a university-wide survey. It was noted a small group of students from all three campuses might help develop this survey in consultation with the FCTCP. There was another idea to invite each of the UW campus registrars to a meeting of the FCTCP to explore the topic further.

A student noted she appreciates that this conversation was held. Student guests were thanked for attending the meeting and providing feedback to the FCTCP.

6) Good of the order

Nothing was stated.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: Faculty: Ehsan Feroz, Marcy Stein (Chair), Megan Eagen-Torkko, Brent Lagesse, Kyle Crowder
Ex-officio reps: Gowri Shankar, George Sandison, Ka Yee Yeung-Rhee, Lauren Pressley, Annette Anderson, Navid Azodi, Claudia Gorbman
President’s designees: Susan Jeffords, Patricia Moy
Guests:

Absent: Faculty: Joseph Tennis
Ex-officio reps: Annette Anderson
President’s designees: Jill Purdy

Exhibit 1 – FCTCP Nov 30.pdf
Faculty Council on Tri-campus Policy

November 30, 2017
Agenda

- Call to order
- Welcome
- Review of the minutes from October 26th, 2017
- Subcommittee for Tricampus Curriculum Review
- Brief overview of Tri-campus Task Force Report
- Student perspective on the “Connected U”
- Good of the order
- Adjourn
FCTCP Charge

Addressing the 4th Goal:

Review list of Tri-campus Issues Task Force topics yet to be addressed or completed in an effort to prioritize and address the most pressing items.
Overview of Tri-campus Task Force Report

THE CHALLENGE: Fostering productive collaboration [among the three campuses] while affirming constructive autonomy. Thus, determining the appropriate and dynamic balance between connectivity and independence.

WHAT: Leverage our assessment of the current tri-campus landscape:

What do we do well? Where/how can we do better?
The Connected U

Where do we want to be? How do we evolve to be a truly Connected U?

What does [would] it feel like to students, (faculty, staff, community partners and external constituencies)?

Q1. To what extent do you interact with “other” campuses now? Under what circumstances?
Communication

A unified communication strategy is implemented that highlights opportunities across all educational offerings at the UW.

Q2 What is your sense of communication structures across the 3 campuses currently?
Admissions

Review current admissions processes and explore how we might facilitate prospective students’ ability to:

Apply to multiple UW campuses of their own choosing
Enhance prospective student awareness of “sister” programs of study and opportunity across campuses

Q3. How aware are you of opportunities across campuses?
Curricular Offerings

Once enrolled UW students are offered learning opportunities across more than one campus--either taking a course at another location, distance learning, paired courses, co-curricular options, etc.

Multi-campus degree or certificate programs are offered, that are intentionally designed and delivered to take advantage of the faculty and courses offered across the three campuses.
Curricular Offerings

Students across the UW system (three campuses, Continuum college, GiX, WAMMI, etc.) have access to a “global” UW course catalog that is sortable using a common list of key words enabling students and faculty to see what is offered throughout the UW system in any particular area of study.

Prospective UW students are encouraged and can easily submit application materials to multiple UW campuses.

Students understand how to navigate differences in programs and select programs they believe will be the best to further their education.

Q4 How do you feel about the curriculum available to you?
Comments/Questions from Students