

University of Puget Sound
Faculty Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2004

1. President Thomas welcomed us to the first faculty meeting of the year and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in McIntyre 103. Forty-nine voting members of the faculty were present by 4:15 p.m.
2. John Finney was elected faculty secretary for the 2004-2005 academic year.
3. Minutes of the April 7, 2004 faculty meeting were approved as distributed.
4. President Thomas announced that Terry Tempest Williams will be the Pierce Lecturer on October 11, 2004. Williams is a nonfiction prose and environmental writer, whose book just out is *The Open Space of Democracy*. There were no other announcements.
5. President Thomas reported that fall enrollment is strong, that student retention is very high, and that the percentage of our students who attend fulltime continues to increase, now at a record high 95.3%. He reminded us that the target for new freshmen was 675, with 671 actually enrolled with a strong academic profile, thanks to targeted financial aid packaging. President Thomas reported that the occupational therapy and physical therapy programs hit their target enrollments this year. He saw all of this as being a good sign of the academic health of the student body and he thanked faculty and staff for their good efforts to bring about these results.

President Thomas reported that, in response to discussion last May of how to form a civic agenda, he called together a group of faculty to discuss the possibility of a Center for Research on Strategic Issues in the Puget Sound. The group met this summer and provided President Thomas a thoughtful feasibility report. The group recommended that someone on the faculty be appointed to continue exploring and canvassing faculty interest in such a center, and Bruce Mann agreed to fulfill this function. President Thomas agreed with the feasibility report's conclusion that for such a center to have value and success it must have faculty leadership and ownership. He said the goal is not to add to what faculty are already doing, but to create a structure that provides a home and synergy for what faculty are already doing. In response to a question from Suzanne Barnett, President Thomas affirmed that the purpose of a center would be to strengthen, not distract from, the mission of the university. He indicated he would be emailing faculty soon with more information about this initiative.

6. Academic Vice President Kristine Bartanen, responding to a question raised at the recent fall faculty conversation, reported that faculty giving to the annual fund for 2004 was just short of \$10,000 dollars, or just under one per cent of all giving to the annual fund. When contributions to specific objectives such as science and athletics are included, total faculty giving was \$43,000 from some seventy individual faculty.

Dean Bartanen reminded faculty of the remaining three faculty conversations upcoming, on Tuesday, September 21st at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 30th at 12:00 noon, and on Monday, October 4th at 1:00 p.m., all in the Trimble seminar room. She also reminded us of and invited us to the September 20, 3:00 p.m. workshop on student mental health issues in Rausch Auditorium (McIntyre 003).

Barnett asked what standing these faculty conversations have. Dean Bartanen responded that they are informal conversations to help her to learn what issues are of interest to faculty. She said her goal is to listen and to pull together themes that emerge from the conversations. She said they are not formal meetings of the faculty.

7. Faculty Senate Chair Bill Beardsley had no report.

8. We turned then to the second reading, discussion of, and action on the proposed Faculty Code Amendment to Chapter II, Sections 4 and 5 on faculty reappointment. This proposal had its first reading at the April 7, 2004 faculty meeting. Beardsley introduced the discussion by saying the proposal “cleans up” an inadvertent change introduced during the code overhaul of a few years ago. **Beardsley M/S/P “to adopt the proposed revision.”** Professional Standards Committee (PSC) member Bill Breitenbach explained the PSC’s reasoning behind putting the proposal forward. He said that a basic principle in the code is that the longer a faculty member has been at the university, the earlier any notification of non-reappointment will come. He said that revised language of a few years ago that includes non-tenure line instructors within this principle inadvertently may be interpreted to include temporary faculty as well. That wording might be construed to give temporary faculty a claim if not reappointed by the specified dates. The current proposal removes this ambiguity, includes specific dates rather than vague reference to “months,” and removes confusing cross-references to other sections of the code. **The motion to adopt the revision to Chapter II, Sections 4 and 5 of the Faculty Code passed unanimously on a voice vote.** The approved language is attached to these minutes.

There being no further business, we adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Finney
Secretary of the Faculty

Chapter II, Sections 4 and 5, of the Faculty Code as amended by faculty on September 14, 2004

Section 4 - Reappointment

Tenure-line faculty members serving on appointments without tenure shall be considered for reappointment by the dean during the term of appointment. The provisions of this section shall also apply to faculty members who are full-time instructors except those holding appointments as visiting faculty. If the decision is reached not to reappoint (See Chapter III, Section 2), the dean will notify the faculty member in writing at the earliest possible time, and in accordance with the following standards:

- a. Not later than March 1 of the first year of academic service.
- b. Not later than December 15 of the second consecutive year of academic service.
- c. Not later than June 30 preceding the final contract year, after two or more consecutive years of academic service.

Section 5 - Grounds for Non-Reappointment

The university may refuse to reappoint faculty without tenure for any reason not forbidden by this faculty code. Upon written request by faculty members who are not reappointed, the dean shall inform them in writing of the reason they were not reappointed.

Non-reappointment of tenured faculty members is governed by Chapter V of this faculty code.