



Resident Faculty Organization

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
TRI-CITIES

RFOEC Meeting

Date: 3/8/2021

Time: 1 pm

Participants: RFOEC, ASWSUTC

Location: Zoom

Attending: Robin Kavis, Jennifer Martinez, Harrison Fuller, Stephanie Warner, Andreana Cervantes, Isaac Marroquin, Michael Durran, Nic Salemme, Kevin, Ryan, Lee, Cigdem, Bob.

Agenda Items:

- I. Student perspectives on Spring 2021
 - a. What worked
 - i. Professors have been more understanding of challenges.
 - ii. Recordings available
 - iii. Important to have all materials/slides available going forward.
 - iv. Lower barrier to communication that chat allowed is a nice feature.
 - v. Much more consistent use of LMS
 - b. What didn't?
 - i. Rigorous STEM courses present challenge.
 - ii. Spring 2021 has been more difficult to than Summer/Fall
 - iii. Reluctance for grad students to participate in extra-curricular seminars.
 - iv. Lack of spring break leads to a monotony.
- II. Student perspectives on fall instruction
 - a. Strong consensus at some form of in-person learning.
 - b. Hybrid vs Full in Person Discussion
 - i. Any amount of return is better than nothing.
 - ii. Lack of social interaction is highly detrimental.
 1. Hybrid/Distanced interaction is still better than nothing
 - c. Important to pick a single delivery strategy for a semester.
 - d. Vaccine Distribution offers promise of a return to some normalization.
 - i. Politically difficult to get Higher Ed faculty priorities for vaccines.
 1. No current plan to do so.
 - ii. What level of vaccination required for return to normalcy?
 - iii. Unclear if University can require student/employee vaccinations.
 - e. Continue concerns about equitable treatment of disabilities + remote instruction.
 - f. What does Hybrid actually even mean?

- i. Smaller classes might switch days
 - ii. Large classes are fully online.
 - 1. The benefit of introducing in person learning severely reduced by excluding such larger classes.
- g. In-person/hybrid memo
- h. Gaps between classes issue is always a problem, but even worse in light of pandemic.
- i. Does a professor teaching at home require students to attend on campus?
 - i. It depends: no final decision yet.
 - ii. No end date on policy to allow professors to stay at home.
 - 1. Not likely to be a substantial issue.

III. OneWSU

- a. Will this change the structures/interactions with faculty senate?
 - i. Possible, but no current changes planned.
 - ii. Creating Pullman version of RFO and moving faculty senate systemwide.
- b. Chancellor for Pullman an important change.
- c. Faculty very unsatisfied with communication around OneWSU
- d. Faculty would like to see cross campus course offerings.
 - i. Students agree.

IV. Joint budget requests?

- a. Students are not part of campus budget request process
- b. Funded Exclusively by S&A Fees.
- c. Course Reserve Textbooks for Library
 - i. Especially STEM courses.
- d. Modernization to classroom furniture.
- e. Lab Modernization
 - i. Especially Engineering/Nursing
- f. Increased funding for research opportunities.
- g. Whiteboards need improvement.
 - i. May have already been fixed.
- h. Request Types
 - i. One-time
 - ii. Ongoing

V. Importance of course evaluations to faculty -> not discussed due to time constraints