

Faculty Meeting Minutes

Urban Design and Planning

March 4, 2025

Noon - 1:20pm

In person: GLD 208J

<https://washington.zoom.us/j/96471410721>

Faculty Present

1. Christine Bae
 2. Branden Born
 3. Rachel Berney
 4. Christopher Campbell
 5. Karen Chen
 6. Manish Chalana - Zoom
 7. Keith Harris
 8. Helen Pineo
 9. Mark Purcell
 10. Dylan Stevenson
- Andy Dannenberg
Bob Freitag

Staff Present

1. Diana Siembor
2. Teri T. Randall
3. Lasya Suravajhela

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from January 21, 2025: **approved**

Motion to approve minutes from February 4, 2025: **approved**

Motion to approve minutes from February 18, 2025: **approved**

Updates (Born)

UW Budget Climate changes every day

- WRGP program may be revoked by Provost
- Budget is bleak
- Projecting shortfall in 5 years
- UW is looking at worst scenario budget projections
- UW will likely see federal audits in future
- Title 6

PhD program impacts

- We're less supported by NIH so not as much impact
- Both college PhD programs will be operating "leaner"
- Grad School has said their promise to us remains

Gov. Ferguson says that WA state is in deficit

Furloughs may impact state employees- but not likely faculty

Hiring freeze is likely

Reminder: please respond to your students by email

Proposal for Failing Grades with Merit:

- Discussed in previous meeting
- What to do about a student who has failed a class
- Like to make a proposal and put it in next Chair's note to see if there's a unified way to handle this

Acting Assoc. Professor Position

- Saida
- This is an annual, 1-year position
- She could contribute in a lot of ways
 - o GIS, hazards, etc
- She could apply for tenure track position later on - no guarantees

She's interested in UW

The money would come from salary (GOFF)

Campbell: she has design skills, she doesn't have deep teaching record, what would she teach?

Born: Possibly 507 Studio, Methods (520), 506 Studio Prep, undergrad class in urban studies, possibly a Hazards

Acting Assistant Prof w/ Research expectations would be expected to teach 4 classes

Could possibly teach 501 Comp. Planning but we could also get a professional to teach it

Pineo: Funding climate conversation worrying. Will this Act. Asst. Prof role help us develop/build the Urban Studies program? Otherwise this hire is a risk since this may be the only chance to get faculty

Born: this is a backfill position to replace Himanshu Grover

Rather than looking forward, we're looking at what we lost

But we aren't solely looking at it as backfilling

There is also an opp to look forward, since this person could later apply for tenure-track position

We don't need to do an open search

We could get letters of recommendation if needed

We do not have to do a National Search, we do not have time

Manish: met this candidate and think she's a good fit, & "bright"

Do we have a Plan B if she does not accept? Do we need a special process due to her citizenship?

Born: we could put a job advert out to ACSP

The time deadline is short to get this done tho

Today's vote would be for Born to offer her a 1-year position

Campbell: we have a need to hire, but she should understand that the tenure track position requires a full open search

Born: This 1-yr position is a stop-gap, because we missed the deadline. Intent is to hire for 2026-2027 tenure position

Motion:

Rachel moves to approve Acting Asst Prof position to Dr. Saeideh Sobhaninia - **approved**

UDP Values for Merit and Evaluation (Born)

CBE collected a number of bullet items shared in agenda. What are UDP faculty's opinions about this list? Born to add faculty suggestions to college list.

Bullet points are:

- Process-oriented and product-oriented
- Metrics sometimes aren't clear, need to be appropriate for rank + title (this should be clear)
- "Positive environment" refers to supporting one another for positive results rather than a punitive culture for results

Berney: not all faculty should be evaluated on all criteria

Pineo: Are the Merit Evaluation tied to Tenure + Promotion?

Born: These are thought of differently at UW. In Faculty Code, can be complex

Campbell: In principle, merit review is about merit and salary. Tenure and Promotion review is different.
But obviously they overlap, & it's fuzzy and faculty code isn't clear

We could pass a policy that comments about a faculty member's merit would be passed on to the faculty in writing.

Born: we will table the discussion for now

RAINY DAY FUNDS (Born)

Holding money in a “rainy day fund” is no longer advised. We need to come up with a plan for these funds

UDP has 3 small funds, we could do the following with the money:

- Student emergency fund
- 50,000 for faculty research with local communities that aren't covered
- UDP Tech Support fund to cover computers

Announcement (Freitag): March 28 Frank Westerlund memorial