

Provost Advisory Committee for Students Board of Regents Recommendation

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May 8th, 2014

Background

The Provost Advisory Committee for Students (PACS) was created three years ago to add the student voice to central University budgeting. This group, formed of both undergraduate and graduate students from all three campuses, meets weekly to learn about and discuss student needs within the University. Provost Cauce regularly attends and provides the group with background information, answers questions, and offers guidance. PACS brings in other administrators and faculty to add to the discussion and give PACS an idea of where all the stakeholders in each issue stand. This year, PACS focused on the issues of sexual assault, building needs and their funding sources, financial aid, international students, student involvement in decision-making, and the allocation of Provost Reinvestment Funds.

Tuition and Faculty Retention

Before this year's priority issues are discussed, PACS would like to first thank the Board of Regents for their support and approval of the undergraduate resident tuition freeze last year and this year. This, combined with increased state funding, allowed the UW to retain top-quality faculty through raises while not increasing the cost burden upon students. **We applaud this achievement and look forward to continuing keeping tuition as affordable as possible for undergraduate and graduate students in the years to come.**

Sexual Assault

PACS supports the Sexual Assault Task Force's work to curb sexual assault in the UW community and increase access to resources for sexual assault victims. The safety of the larger learning environment of the UW campus and surrounding student area is critical to student success in the classroom. As a result, sexual assault prevention and awareness are integral to student outcomes and to making UW a true educational community.

Students have especially prioritized the recommendation from the Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force to fund a S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Nurse in Hall Health and the UW Medical Center. We recognize this as an urgent need, as the closest nurse of this kind is currently a 35-minute bus ride away.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is critical to keeping the cost of education affordable. **PACS believes that financial aid opportunities such as Husky Promise or other options for low-income groups must be maintained and protected.** There is also a strong need for the University to work to address the growing unmet need in middle-income groups' financial aid.

State funding for the University of Washington has decreased 52% since 2008. Over that same period, tuition has increased by 75%. The effect of these dramatic increases has left students paying their way through school drowning in debt. Access does not equal a full collegiate experience. **Therefore, PACS is committed to helping students of all income groups have a collegiate experience not overshadowed by the stress of loans.**

A student coming from a middle class family with a combined income of \$80,000 with an expected family contribution of \$12,001 will not receive UW financial aid, and will have to cover the remaining \$14,999 worth of tuition every year through student loans or other means. This highlights **the need for strategic institutional aid for the middle class while reaffirming our commitment to low income students and the Husky Promise program.**

Financial aid, whether in the form of need-based grants, scholarships, or TA and RA positions, is crucial for graduate students as well. Many graduate students enter UW with undergraduate debt, and adding massive amounts of unsubsidized loans with compounding interest accruing while the student is still in school is simply unsustainable. Graduate education is increasingly important to the success of our economy, society, and future. Therefore, **we must invest in our graduate students through making programs affordable.** One way of investing in both graduate and undergraduate students is to increase TA positions on campus. This helps graduate students pay for their education and gives undergraduates a better academic experience.

Intercollegiate Athletic Programs

RCW 28B.15 sections 460 and 740 of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 permit the University of Washington to allocate up to 1% of operating fee tuition revenue to achieve or maintain gender equity in intercollegiate athletic programs. Last year, UW used **\$3.3 million in tuition revenue** to subsidize women's athletic tuition waivers under the program even though in the same year the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics brought in **\$8.8 million in profits**. We believe that ICA should prioritize female and male athletes equally, and their budgeting process and allocation of athletics revenues should reflect such values.

Given that \$6 million in profits are projected for each of the coming three years and \$3.3 million represents about **5% of all institutional financial aid**, we call upon the University administration to reallocate athletics subsidies to current financial aid programs and maintaining current levels of tuition waivers through athletics-related revenue streams.

Life Sciences Building

PACS joins ASUW and the Arts and Sciences Advisory Council for Students in recognizing the importance of the Life Sciences building as carrying out UW's teaching mission. Student

research is also incredibly valuable and as biology is the most popular major on campus, **we recognize how vital a new Life Sciences building is to the UW community.**

However, PACS is deeply concerned about the proposed funding model for the new Life Sciences building. While this new building is a high priority for students, we do not approve a transition to funding academic buildings primarily through tuition. **Therefore, PACS does not approve the funding of the Life Sciences building through tuition dollars, nor any building proposed in the future using this model. If tuition dollars are allocated for this project, it will signal a major change in the budgeting methods of the institution, setting a concerning precedent.**

Finally, we also recognize that while there was some effort to have students involved in this decision, it came at the last minute. PACS was not made aware of any plans for a new building, let alone plans to fund it with tuition dollars, until February 2014. PACS encourages the Board of Regents to ask for meaningful student participation beyond the College level early on in decisions of this kind.

International Students

PACS has ongoing conversations about how to better include international students in the University of Washington community. A particular focus will be on who should pay for increased international student services, especially in the context of the recently approved International Student Fee. The International Student Fee has come to represent this concern as a campus priority. We look forward to returning to the Board with this discussion in June.

Student Involvement in Decision-Making

PACS is very pleased with the work of College Councils this year in representing student concerns and input in the various colleges. Groups of undergraduate and graduate students from across campus meet with their Deans to understand the college's budget and provide feedback on student priorities within that budgeting process. College Council input on Provost Reinvestment Funds has been especially useful for PACS as each college student body has their own concerns that PACS may not be aware of without the College Councils.

Appendix A

PACS Budgeting Principles

The University of Washington is a public institution; therefore its budget and policies should reflect this charge. What follows are a general mission and principles to be used by the Provost and other budget officers at the University of Washington during the drafting and implementation of the FY2015 budget as well as future budgets until the submission of new principles by the Chair of the Provost's Advisory Committee for Students (PACS).

The mission of the Provost Advisory Committee for Students is to give students a voice in University budgeting and policy decisions so as to maintain access to the University of Washington's high-quality educational opportunities. Working towards the goal of sustainable budgets across the University, PACS represents students' interests while promoting shared governance as well as fair and equal access to information relevant to decision making. PACS ensures that investments are having their intended impact by working with student groups throughout different colleges to understand students' needs.

Principle 1: Increase Access.

No qualified student should have to forgo an education at the University of Washington.

- a. Prioritize affordable tuition for all students.
- b. Maintain and protect financial aid opportunities such as Husky Promise for low-income groups.
- c. Work to address the growing unmet need in middle-income groups.
- d. Ensure competitive majors do not prevent qualified students from accessing or completing their education.
- e. Continue the moratorium on new fee-based programs and promote state reinvestment in those already existing.

Principle 2: Enhance Educational Quality.

The University should provide a high quality education and learning environment through classroom instruction, research, and the campus environment.

- a. Emphasize pedagogical integrity as units find more efficient ways of providing courses, especially in the online context.
- b. Maintain funding for teaching and research assistant positions, as these positions are essential to the quality of instruction and create opportunities for students to develop

professionally.

- c.** Prioritize administrative services, advising functions, and tutoring programs that directly contribute to the academic mission.
- d.** Focus on the student as a whole. Attempts should be made to protect critical functions such as campus safety, mental and physical health, and other student services that contribute to student experience.
- e.** Strive to engage all students in the campus community with a focus on personal growth outside of the classroom.