



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
Box 351271

Class C Bulletin No. 432

**Resolution Concerning
Finalists for Presidential Search**

Class C Resolution adopted at the March 11, 2004, Faculty Senate Meeting

WHEREAS hundreds of individual faculty members have signed AAUP's open letter asking the Board of Regents to clarify procedures for the presidential search.

WHEREAS the open letter has been endorsed by the Associated Students of University of Washington and the Graduate and Professional Students Senate.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate endorses the following open letter to the Board of Regents regarding the presidential search.

OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS: THE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

The search for a new president of the University of Washington is now well into its second year with no results and no sign of a conclusion any time soon. The campus community is awash in rumors about what happened last year and why the search is taking so long. There is much concern as well about the strict secrecy surrounding the process. We understand the need for confidentiality in personnel matters, especially in the early stages of a search when those being considered may not wish to publicize their candidacy. However, the Board of Regents has not yet clarified when and how it intends to lift the veil of secrecy.

We urge you to conduct the search for a new university president in a manner consistent with the spirit of openness that is a central value of a public university. We urge you to take steps to make information about the final slate of candidates available in a timely fashion to the university's faculty, staff, and students and to include the broader campus community in the search process.

University presidential searches *can* be conducted in a more open manner. Witness the successful presidential search recently concluded by the Trustees of the University of Florida. In that search, after a short list was agreed upon, the three finalists spent time on campus meeting faculty, students, and staff.

The benefits of that final step should be obvious. The search committee will have a chance to observe the candidates' interactions with diverse members of the University community. The candidates will learn first hand about the concerns of the campus. And the traditions of openness and consultation that are key parts of the University of Washington culture will have been honored.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
February 23, 2004

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
March 11, 2004