

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services

May 30, 2019

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Gerberding 142

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from May 16, 2019
 3. Chair remarks
 4. Annual classroom report – Nate McKee and Lacey Racich
 5. UW faculty housing project – Gundula Proksch (Architecture), S. Gowri Shankar (UWB Business), and Theo Myhre (Law)
 6. Good of the order
 7. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2) Review of the minutes from May 16, 2019

The minutes from May 16, 2019 were approved as written.

3) Chair remarks

Borys noted the council's recent Class C resolution concerning support for the establishment of a UW Sustainability Initiative and Campus Plan by 2020 was approved by the Faculty Senate in the body's most recent meeting. She noted she plans to follow up with relevant staff at the university to determine how to advance the recommendations within the resolution.

Borys noted that a recent meeting of University Faculty Council chairs prompted discussion of future goals for faculty councils during 2019-2020. She explained FCUFS has been asked to focus increasingly on evaluating university *services* in addition to facilities, and that she would follow up for more information on which services were envisioned. She explained she would prefer FCUFS look into classroom safety and security during the next year.

A member commented that he would like to see the council increase its focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to UW facilities.

4) Annual classroom report – Nate McKee and Lacey Racich

Nate McKee (Director, Academic Technologies) and Lacey Racich (Director, Health Sciences Administration) were present to share information on the general assignment classroom pool and usage for the Seattle upper campus and health sciences (lower campus).

The council reviewed a spreadsheet showing data on general assignment classroom usage by percentage for Autumn 2018 (Exhibit 1). After a question, it was noted classroom utilization data can be pulled for the UW Bothell and Tacoma campuses but it is difficult to contextualize the information due to varying tracking/managing systems used between campuses; the guests noted this issue is being addressed. A member recommended the spreadsheet showing classrooms with 200-700 seat capacity be further broken out into specific capacities for greater clarity, which was accepted. Some comments were made concerning the final spreadsheet in the exhibit and the pairing of large rooms with small, low capacity courses (due to availability) and associated difficulties. A member noted that room capacity can be a misleading statistic for faculty, as some students in her own course were able find a seat in the room, but did not have line of sight with the instructor or the board. The guests noted this is a good point and improvements are being developed for categorizing general assignment classrooms based on type of instruction.

It was recommended that representatives of the Time Schedule and Room Assignment Office be invited to the FCUFS classroom discussion in the future, as that office directly schedules classrooms. Members recommended a follow up discussion take place in fall of 2019 that includes those representatives.

McKee noted the next big project for their shop is “feature sets.” Feature sets are being standardized and categorizing of rooms based on included features will, in the near future, be universal (based on the same factors) for all general assignment rooms on the Seattle campus.

After a question, it was noted there is 2.5 million dollar defined need for classroom renovations, and these are only for known renovations, as there are likely additional unknown renovations.

McGee noted all classrooms on upper campus now have 360’ views/images available to view online. Racich noted standardizing room specs is an emphasis for the future that involves using known best practices to renovate and/or build new spaces in the future.

The guests provided an overview of the Bill & Melinda Gates Center. McGee’s team was responsible for parts of the room designs. It was noted FCUFS recently toured the building. It was noted there are general assignment classrooms within that building, in the 200+ capacity range, which is of enormous benefit to the university.

An update was provided on current renovation projects. Four new Active Learning Classrooms in Loew Hall, a renovated auditorium in Bagley Hall, two renovated auditoriums in Smith Hall, and five mixed style classrooms in Bagley Hall are all under way in varying phases. Rough costs were highlighted. Loew: \$900,000 / Bagley: \$1.6 million / Smith: \$2.6 million / Bagley: \$29 million.

There was a slide shown on future projects planned for Parrington Hall, Eagleson Hall, and the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering.

Racich provided an update on a new interdisciplinary UW health sciences classroom facility. The project is still in the design phase. The site is right outside of the Rotunda near Pacific Avenue. Slides were shown with details (Exhibit 1). The facility is planned to be made up of large, medium, and small classrooms, a shelled-out anatomy lab, and skills labs. Interdisciplinary collaboration is a driving factor in facility design. It was noted faculty needs in relevant academic units were taken into account for design.

The guests were thanked for providing an update to the council. A comment was made that a future discussion should take place with the guests as a follow up, specifically to discuss improvements to the scheduling system enabled by extending the instructional day a few years ago.

5) UW faculty housing project – Gundula Proksch (Architecture), S. Gowri Shankar (UWB Business), and Theo Myhre (Law)

Theo Myhre (Senior Lecturer, School of Law), Gundula Proksch (Associate Professor, College of Built Environments), and Gowri Shankar (Associate Professor, School of Business, Bothe) were present to share ideas for improvements to the faculty housing support provided to faculty by the university. They used a PowerPoint as part of the presentation (Exhibit 2).

Shankar presented information on the current state of Seattle’s housing market. He explained in order to afford a single-family home in the area, a family’s combined income needs to be at least \$164,000. That figure was \$90,000 in 2013. It was noted relating to an Assistant Professor at the UW today, condos are difficult to afford, while a house would be nearly impossible to finance at median salary for the position. It was noted Seattle is not isolated in this regard, as housing costs are rising across all major U.S. cities.

Housing special allowances at University of California, Stanford, and Columbia universities were highlighted. Some information was shared on university owned rental buildings at those institutions, as well.

Myhre shared information on state ethics laws in Washington State, which largely restrict what Washington universities can offer employees in this context in comparison to institutions in other states. The law dictates that state resources cannot be used for private gain. Thus, the UW cannot give employees subsidized rates on housing. A slide of assistance programs the university could feasibly adopt under Washington’s legal framework were highlighted in a slide (Exhibit 2).

Recommended types of assistances were shown in a slide, and included (Exhibit 2):

- Relocation payment as recruiting incentive
- Mortgage loan programs for faculty
- Provide rental units as transitional housing
- Innovative (buyer-driven) financing models (complete using slide)

An example of Land lease/Shared equity model was described.

Recommendations for next steps were shared. A takeaway point was that faculty who are currently owners in the Seattle housing market are only so because they bought years ago; many current faculty cannot rent or own now or likely in the future. It was noted this issue is time-sensitive as housing prices continue to rise while compensation largely stays stagnant. It was noted that eventually even the recommended plan of action will not allow faculty to afford rising housing prices. It was noted a Class C resolution might be drafted by FCUFS in order to raise these issues/solutions with the Faculty Senate.

The guests recommended that the Provost and Faculty Senate Chair appoint a working group of faculty and administrators to further investigate these options. It was noted the FCUFS chair would be involved in this task.

6) Good of the order

Nothing was stated.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, Assistant to the Secretary of the Faculty

Present: **Faculty:** Rich Christie, Murray Maitland, Bill Rorabaugh, Ann Mescher, Laura Little, Ann Marie Borys (Chair)
President's designee: Lou Cariello
Ex-officio reps: Bruce Balick, Angelia Miranda
Guests: Phil Reid, Nate McGee, Lacey Racich, Gowri Shankar, Theo Myhre

Absent: **Faculty:** Ashley Emery, Jan Whittington, Bill Erdly, Giovanni Migliaccio
Ex-officio reps: JoAnn Taricani

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – FCUFS 2019.pdf

Exhibit 2 – LEP project - Faculty Housing Report.pdf