Faculty Council on Student Affairs
2019-2020 Annual Report

Summary:
During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Faculty Council on Student Affairs (FCSA) met nine times in regular meetings, conducting its routine business of policy relating to non-academic student affairs such as financial aid, housing, regulation of social affairs, eligibility rules, intercollegiate athletics, and general student welfare. Details of these actions can be found in the meeting minutes, which are located on the council’s page on the UW Faculty Senate website. In addition to the routine business outlined above, the following non-routine business was conducted.

Major topics the council worked to address and/or completed during the year include:

❖ Medical Excuse Notes

The FCSA produced a Class C resolution, co-sponsored by the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning (FCTL), in support of prohibiting faculty from requiring students to produce formal medical documentation to receive accommodation for short-term illnesses. The resolution called for specific changes to Student Governance policies which would require Class B legislation. While these efforts were supported by Senate leadership, this resolution ‘fell to the floor’ in Spring as it did not meet the criteria for legislation which could be advanced under the emergency conditions that had been put in place. We are hopeful that next year’s Council can work with Senate leadership to move directly to the requested Class B legislation to address this important issue.

❖ Mental Health Task Force

The FCSA worked closely with the Provost’s Mental Health Task Force, and Chair Chris Laws and incoming Chair Ann Culligan were co-authors to the report that group provided in March of 2020. Key recommendations of that report included a merger of the resources currently housed under the Counseling Center and the Hall Health Mental Health Clinic (a process now underway), and rapid expansion of remotely available counseling services – which proved particularly timely (see next entry). We anticipate this will remain a focus of the FCSA in the coming year, as the proposed structural changes to delivery of Mental Health services are implemented.

❖ COVID-19 Response

The FCSA worked closely with colleagues in FCTL, the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS), the Division of Student Life, and the Office of the University Registrar to produce legislative responses to the emergency shutdown of the UW campus at the end of Winter quarter. These included significant changes to the University’s add-drop and S/NS grading policies, and extensive
development of guidelines and support for students and faculty working remotely and under unusually stressful conditions. Those collaborations were highly effective, and the FCSA is eager to continue such cross-council work in the future.

Finally, the Chair would like to thank the many wonderful people that came through the FCSA purview this year, especially the tremendously talented and devoted Senate staff – Jordan Smith, Joey Burgess, and Alexandra Portillo. It has been an honor to call them colleagues and friends.

Council members during 2019-20 academic year

Faculty Code Section 21-61 A: Christopher Laws (Chair), Christopher Campbell, Andrea Carroll, Ann Culligan, Kivanc Dincer, Dean Heerwagen, Bruce Hevly, Gail Joseph, Clark Musselman, Selma Powell
Faculty Code Section 21-61 B: Erin Conor, Sam Akeyo, Matthew Emery, Kristelle Calma
Presidential Designee: Lincoln Johnson