

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
1 March 2016, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
26 Gerberding Hall

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of the Agenda
 3. Approval of the Minutes from 5 January 2016
 4. ASUW Report
 5. GPSS Report
 6. Student Affairs
 7. Subcommittee Reports
 8. New Business
 9. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

Treser called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2) Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

3) Approval of the Minutes from 5 January 2016

The minutes from January 5th, 2016 were approved as written.

4) ASUW Report

Taylor noted a previously-drafted ASUW resolution on student debt and affordability (drafted in 2014-2015 academic year) was recently reviewed by the ASUW leadership, and reapproved. Taylor asked that the FCSA also review the resolution, and consider forwarding it on to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and faculty senate as a Class C resolution to be considered. He explained he would bring the resolution to the council for their next meeting in April.

Taylor explained the ASUW has attempted to glean UW students' position on a proposed "tent city" through a survey, and results have almost been gathered. Taylor explained after question that there are several sites be considered for this purpose at the UW Seattle campus, including the N5 parking lot. He noted this will be a decision of the university administration decision, ultimately, however if students are found to be in support, than a Class C resolution may come from Taylor and the ASUW, to be proposed for endorsement by the FCSA.

Chapman explained at the UW Bothell campus students were recently surveyed on their prioritization of various campus buildings for studying and other activities, as the campus is repurposing some rooms and structures.

5) GPSS Report

A representative from the Graduate and Professional Student Senate was not present and so no report was given.

6) Student Affairs

Search for Vice President for Minority Affairs

Suite (president's designee) noted a formal search has begun for the position of Vice President for Minority Affairs. He explained eventually all finalists will be brought to the UW Seattle campus to present speeches and become better acquainted with the university, and the council will be notified when this takes place.

Food Insecurity Program

Suite explained a new food bank program for UW students is being piloted, possibly during spring quarter 2016. He noted many universities have similar programs to this, and students will only need their UW student ID cards in order to receive various foodstuffs.

International Student Engagement

Suite explained a new international student engagement program is underway from the Office of Student Life wherein UW students are paired with another student of a different region/culture domestically. He noted the program has been successful so far, with 32 students currently participating and more expected each quarter.

HUB Director position

It was noted a HUB (Husky Union Building) Director position is currently being created, whose responsibilities will include helping to manage and coordinate activities in the HUB, conducting space evaluation, and managing event planning. Suite noted the search for the position will be launched soon.

7) Subcommittee Reports

Student Conduct Code

Lopez noted a subcommittee has begun working on language for Phase II of the Student Conduct Code (SCC) revisions. She explained herself and Laws will be included. She noted it is unlikely that language will be finalized this academic year.

Lopez explained ongoing meetings between members of the Faculty Appeals Board (FAB) and the Community Standards and Student Conduct Office (CSSC) now have the goal of evaluating what revisions are needed within the student conduct process in order to achieve compliance with federal

Office for Civil Rights (OCR) regulations governing student rights. She explained it has been decided that an outside consultant will be brought in to aid with the evaluation and revision process.

Laws explained some changes to the existing process may need to be carried out with a very short turnaround. Treser clarified that FAB process meetings occur every two weeks and were designed to improve the efficient functioning of CSSC and FAB, who work together to administer the student conduct process at the university.

Suite noted revisions to the SCC concerning OCR regulations and compliance have been ongoing for over five years. Treser agreed the process has been lengthy, and explained this is often due to OCR and Department of Education (DOE) regulatory updates and changes, which have to be considered by the university each time they are rolled out.

Lopez noted the process meetings between FAB and CSSC have likely yielded an improved professional relationship between the two groups.

DRS/Mental Health

Gill explained he still has a problem with the proposed Hall Health policy to discontinue granting sick notes to students. He noted some of his colleagues have stated concerns over the policy shift as well, as there is the potential outcome students will falsify claims of sickness to be excused from missed class. Gill noted he expects to see an increase in the amount of students requesting to be excused from missing class or taking exams if no documentation of illness or medical stay is required.

Discussion ensued. Some faculty council members explained the policies they use for granting/not granting excused absences. It was noted if an instructor has such a policy, it needs to be explicitly stated in the course syllabus and explained by the instructor at the outset of the course. Bryant explained she does not allow students to make up missed exams, and instead, weights the course's next exam more highly for those students who missed the last. After some discussion, it was clarified that any student with severe anxiety (e.g. test anxiety) should not be given special treatment unless they have had the condition properly diagnosed by a medical professional, and have received documentation from UW Disability Resources for Students (DRS). It was noted it is not a faculty member's responsibility to diagnose, treat, or interpret mental or physical health issues in students, as the university has other resources meant to properly do this, after which that information is to be forwarded to the student's instructors.

Guidelines on setting course excuse policies in syllabi

Laws suggested the council consider developing some standard practices or guidelines on developing excused absence policies at the UW with the aim of aiding faculty in this and abetting the transition to Hall Health's proposed policy barring the granting of "sick notes." Treser agreed it to be a good idea, and suggested that any council members who already incorporate language in their syllabi on this forward it to the council to be used as baseline data.

More discussion ensued. Taylor noted agencies like DRS exist so that students with special needs are still able to progress through college.

Hevly explained there is the case wherein a student disappears for six weeks, and their justification is that they have been diagnosed with depression. He asked what the appropriate response from a faculty member might be. It was noted requesting a “hardship withdrawal” is the correct institutional option for students who have missed most of a quarter’s course sessions due to legitimate ailment, but do not want it to reflect badly on their GPA. Hevly explained in some departments, a hardship withdrawal does not provide the option for students to continue in a major as courses are not always re-administered each quarter, and a series may be missed, etc. Council discussion subsided.

Student Debt

Tran explained the Subcommittee on Student Debt met and reviewed the ASUW resolution on college affordability. It was noted the document will be resubmitted to the council to be considered as a Class C resolution.

8) New Business

International Student Success Committee (ISSC)

Suite explained there is an initiative underway where international students, via the International Student Success Committee (ISSC), came together and drafted a vision statement “Philosophy for International Education.” He noted he would like the council to review this document, and it will be distributed for the next meeting.

9) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by Treser.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: **Faculty:** Jasmine Bryant, Mabel Ezeonwu, Anthony Gill, Bruce Hevly, Chris Laws, Sara Lopez, Chuck Treser (chair)
Ex-officio reps: Roy Taylor, Martha Tran, Zynia Chapman, Kathleen Collins
President’s designee: Denzil Suite

Absent: **Faculty:** Holly Barker, Christopher Campbell
Ex-officio reps: N/A