

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
February 3rd 2015, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Gerberding 26

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of the Agenda
 3. Approval of the Minutes from 6 January 2015
 4. UW Student Athletes
 5. Subcommittee Reports (Exhibit 1)
 6. Chair's Report
 7. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

Chair 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 6 January 2015

There was a small spelling correction made to the name of one of the members throughout the record, and the minutes were approved as amended.

4) UW Student Athletes

Frank Hodge, member of the Advisory Committee to the President on Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA), and Alexis Harris, chair of the ACIA, were present to give an update on the status of the student athletic programs at the UW.

Academic Performance 2014-2015, Fall Quarter

Hodge reported that the athletic programs at the UW have maintained healthy academic progress in the 2014-2015 academic year. He reported several athletic programs currently boast an average GPA over 3.0 - these include but are not limited to: women's lacrosse, women's cross country, women's soccer, softball, football, men's tennis, and women's tennis. He added that the most improved sports teams academically are football and softball; football especially has shown impressive academic growth from last year, with a noticeable increase from their last year's average of a 2.83 GPA during their 2014-15 season.

Hodge explained head coach of the football team Chris Peterson is very interactive with his players in regards to their academic studies and interests; coach Peterson trains the players to become strong men all-around, and not only good athletes.

Hodge reported strong academic performance from all the sports teams had been seen in the fall quarter at the UW.

Priority Admits & Special Admits

Hodge noted the UW has a process for accepting student athletes to athletic programs if their academic record is less than exemplary. The individuals enrolled under this process fall under two categories: priority admits and special admits. Both groups are tracked academically upon their arrival, and given certain support to aid them in achieving sufficient academic progress. One of these such support structures, Hodge noted, is a six-week summer program designed to focus on and improve writing skills; this program is also utilized for acclimating the students to the UW campus.

Treser noted that special admits are not exclusive to athletic programs – there are other non-athletic entities on campus that utilize the same construct; an example of one is the UW drama program.

Hodge continued that special admits are tracked by certain bodies around campus, and overall, the program seems to be working very well. The group which is comparatively more difficult to influence, he noted, is the priority admits. These students, unlike the special admits, do not often come from “rough” or “challenged” backgrounds, yet show a low-level academic record plausibly influenced by laziness and other factors.

Gill noted the program is very successful, and he personally was impressed by its ability to transform students. Treser added that the numbers of student athletes removed from their programs due to poor academic performance at the UW is very low – and the fact may owe a great deal to this support program.

NCAA Convention / Update

Hodge continued by giving an update to the council on the recent NCAA Convention held in Washington D.C. He explained there were items that were resolved during the convention, including concussion injury safety protocol, “guaranteed scholarships” (no rebuking of student athlete’s scholarships for athletic reasons such as injury), and rules governing insurance policy for athletes who sustained injuries. One issue that is still in contention are the rules governing mandatory vs. voluntary practices for student athletes. Hodge explained it is a question of if coaches have the jurisdiction to allow or disallow student athletes from going to the gym, or exercising, for various reasons. The item was tabled until next year.

Laws asked Hodge if efforts were being made to help “isolated” student athletes get better acquainted and comfortable with the UW campus at large - a topic that came up at the last Faculty Council on Student Affairs meeting. Hodge affirmed that there are programs in place to assist student athletes in this capacity, one of them being the aforementioned summer program.

Hodge finished by noting that he regulates all sports on campus, makes a point to introduce himself to new student athletes, and remains in contact with student athletes to assist and aid in satisfying their needs.

Student Athletes and Online Coursework

There was question concerning online coursework and student athletes and if efforts were being made to safeguard against malpractice in their taking of online courses. Hodge explained there are restrictions in place, and the idea is to encourage student athletes to take less online courses. Hodge and Harris

both explained they monitor student athlete online coursework very heavily, and meet weekly, to discuss the idea and any concerns they may have after conducting their research of varying courses.

Treser noted online coursework is being addressed by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards currently (FCAS).

Costs and Revenues

There was question concerning athletic program revenues and if they transfer to the academic realm of the university. It was noted that some universities transfer funds in this fashion, however, the money is usually designated towards specific academic projects - the point of this being that it is not every year that athletic programs have auxiliary funds available for use by the academic sector. There was some discussion concerning UW branded apparel and where revenues from that entity are assigned. It was noted the Trademarks and Licensing Office at the UW could likely provide more information on this question, as it remained unclear.

The Student Athlete Image at UW

Harris noted the ACIA would like to see more images and stories of student athletes relating to their academic studies. The committee this year, under Harris, is pushing this initiative. Treser added there should be further effort to combat the belief that student athletes are not dedicated students (i.e. the “dumb jock” stigma). He noted he wishes more individuals with this mentality might understand that the amount of students on the football team who will enter the NFL is a tiny percentage, and the majority will have to go into another field at the culmination of their college careers.

There was some discussion of increased efforts to provide space for student athletes to study. Evenson noted she would like to get more involved with the effort to teach student athletes in the library where she currently works. Treser noted Executive vice Provost Jerry Baldasty is currently working on better utilizing space at the UW through assorted tactics –and, if proper scheduling creates extra space, perhaps a few rooms that are freed up can be used for student athletes and others for supplementary study.

Harris and Hodge thanked the council for the inviting them to present, and left the council meeting.

5) Subcommittee Reports

Hailey Badger, ASUW (Exhibit 1)

Badger explained she is working on a resolution to provide aid and relief to students with debt and increased financial burden by bolstering increased awareness for their plight, and would like the council to consider approving and forwarding this resolution to the Senate Executive Committee (Exhibit 1). Treser explained the process for sending a resolution through to the Senate Executive Committee and to the floor of the Faculty Senate. He mentioned it is important to “tighten up” the wording of any resolutions within councils to avoid heightened scrutiny when the document reaches the members of the SEC. He then asked the council to read the resolution.

Treser explained he would hope to get this resolution to the SEC in the April meeting (requiring that the document be ready for SEC review after the March council meeting). He asked that the council forward any prescribed revisions to the document to Badger directly, cc’ing Joey Burgess, council support analyst.

WHEREAS: Universities across the state have seen a significant decline in state investment since the economic recession in 2008,¹ and

WHEREAS: Students have taken on increasing levels of work and debt to maintain our public institutions in light of state disinvestment,² and

WHEREAS: Washington state higher education policy does not have a standardized definition for "college affordability," and

WHEREAS: The Washington State Legislature has endorsed the use of metrics for evaluating success in higher education policy; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature should clarify the ideal balance between state and local support for higher education; and

WHEREAS: Affordability, as defined in the ASUW report titled Meet us in the Middle, is achieved when students can pay their college costs without incurring debt by working twenty hours per week during the academic year and forty hours per week during the summer; and,

WHEREAS: In this calculation, "college costs" shall be defined as the total cost of attendance, minus grants and scholarships, minus expected parent contribution; and,

WHEREAS: A student would currently have to work 54 hours a week at minimum wage to cover the full cost of attendance estimated at \$27,000 for a University of Washington student, and

WHEREAS: "Workability" is a student centered definition of affordability that emphasizes how individual students experience tuition increases and funding decreases; now,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY SENATE

THAT: The faculty supports efforts to pursue a clearly defined definition of college affordability for undergraduate students of Washington State, and

THAT: The faculty endorses "workability" as a measure of affordability as defined in the above clauses.

¹ "Statewide Expenditure History - Operating Total State." Washington State Fiscal Information. Accessed Nov. 8th, 2014. <http://fiscal.wa.gov/SpendHist.aspx>

² Kutz, Michael, Jeffrey McNerney, Hailey Badger, et al. "Meet us in the Middle: Affordability for the Working Student." Pg 7.

There was some question about the ultimate intention of the resolution. Badger explained the resolution aims to define college affordability at UW according to current, context-based terms, and to garner awareness in Olympia for the increasing economic plight of UW students, specifically those in the middle-class. Middle class UW students receive less aid than exceedingly needy students, but have much less money than exceedingly wealthy students to put towards their college costs, and so remain in a middle ground where they are not adequately state subsidized, and receive little to no personal family contribution dollars to pay for college.

Treser mentioned the increase in college cost, coupled with the decrease in state support, has created an economic problem that, unfortunately, has fallen on students to bear.

There was a question concerning the second to last stanza of the resolution and the wording of the phrase:

“THAT: the faculty supports efforts to pursue a clearly defined definition of college affordability...”

A member noted this wording should be altered to refer to the definition of college affordability aforementioned within the resolution, which could be done by a change to existing grammar. Badger agreed that it was a good idea, and possibly a simple grammatical mistake on behalf of the authors.

After some discussion about options for freezing tuition for students and the end-goal of the resolution, Lopez noted the main idea is to identify a student’s contribution in their own education. Badger noted there are roughly 3700 UW students who are eligible for the “state-need grant” who currently do not receive it – one example of the legislature’s failings to assist students’ needs. She noted students come to the ASUW and explain that their expected contribution is too high. For these students, she noted, dropping out or going to part-time enrollment are some options they are forced to consider as tuition rates feasibly will increase.

Badger noted enrollments are continuing to increase at the UW, but the university should not see that fact as supporting an argument for healthiness of student affordability. Students are continuing to attend college, but the situation is becoming ever direr with each passing year.

Anthony Gill, DRS Requests

Gill reported an increase in the number of DRS requests (Disability Resources for Students) that is of some concern. He explained there are three different methods for submitting DRS requests, one of these being an online function facilitated through “mydisabilityUW.” He explained students had utilized the online function in his course, yet he did not receive a notification, or know they had done so. He added the rising amount of students making DRS requests creates a time-burden on professors and reduces their ability to address other students’ needs. He explained that some students did not come to him and communicate their extra needs in person at all.

The council noted there has been a shift from bringing in physical DRS forms to professors in-person to review, to students progressing through the process online. The council agreed the problem may lie in the fact that many students simply assume the professor has been made aware of their needs, when this is not so.

Gill noted it would be beneficial to have someone from the office responsible for implementing “mydisabilityUW” present to the council on the process and how it is supposed to work from the faculty perspective.

The council agreed this was a good idea and would like a presenter to attend a subsequent council meeting.

6) Chair's Report

Treser noted the new Student Conduct Code is in its final drafting and is soon to be sent to the “Code Cops” – a group of faculty code experts who will verify that the new language is sound and workable. He explained the revisions are mostly based in reorganization, and that the formal writing and organization was slightly disordered.

It was explained the Faculty Council on Student Affairs is one part of the review process, and the most updated draft of the Student Conduct Code should be circulated to the council.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39pm.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Anthony Gill, Bruce Hevly, Christopher Laws, Sara Lopez, Chuck Treser (chair)
Ex-Officio reps: Martha Tran, Hailey Badger, Jewel Evenson, Denzil Suite
Guests: Lincoln Johnson

Absent: **Faculty:** Mabel Ezeonwu, Brian Fabien
Ex-Officio reps: Christine Tawatao