

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
December 2, 2014
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Gerberding 26

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Approval of the minutes from November 4, 2014
 3. Student financial aid/debt burden
 4. ASUW update
 5. Transportation services
 6. Good of the order
 7. Adjourn
-

1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Treser at 1:30 p.m.

2) Approval of the minutes from November 4, 2014

The minutes from October 7, 2014 were approved as written.

3) Student financial aid/debt burden

Kay Lewis (Assistant Vice Provost for Enrollment, Executive Director of Student Financial Aid) was present to discuss student loan debt. Lewis provided an overview of different forms of undergraduate aid by type (scholarships/grants/loans/work study) and source (federal/state/university/private) and residential status. Lewis also provided results of cost of attendance by family income and statistics covering grants awarded to students with need.

Discussion ensued about factoring need and family contribution to available forms of financial aid for students. Of the \$46 million of student debt approximately \$18 million come from outside, private sources. A comment was raised that many students will attempt to forego student loans by working part-time during school. Lewis noted that UW students have slightly lower debt levels than peer institutions because UW is located in an urban environment which more job opportunities. Discussion ensued about the number of students from upper-income families, the difficult of filing FAFSA forms, and student employment.

A question was raised asking if there has been a study about students who are working part-time. The Enrollment Management Advisory Committee is conducting a survey of students and hopes to have data in the near future.

Patricia Kramer (Chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards) commented that in surveying her freshman class of 300 students approximately 33% of students work more than 10 hours/week, with 10% working more than 20 hours/week. When asked about their concerns over finances 37% reported

they are constantly concerned about paying off student loans, with a handful of students mentioning they are not sure if they can graduate because of their financial situation. Discussion ensued about personal experiences with students. A comment was raised stressing this is a major problem and effecting the student experience with little understanding of the impacts in the long run. Members discussed the student experience 30 years ago and the decline of student involvement in campus activities due to part-time employment. A comment was raised expressing interest in data on student loans for those who do not graduate.

Members discussed the recent report from ASUW regarding student financial aid and debt. A comment was raised that being a full-time student equals to a 45 hour/week job and asking students to work an additional 20 hours is unreasonable. Badger explained that ASUW wants to show the state legislature that students are willing to work in order to help finance their education. However, the legislature should also meet students in the middle to ensure a college education is affordable. Discussion ensued about the difference between transfer students and freshmen in how they accumulate student debt.

A question was raised asking how the council can help to improve the situation for students. Kramer suggested that the council can partner with ASUW to provide additional support in gathering data. Treser noted that the council has a subcommittee committed to student financing and debt which can help with data collection. Discussion ensued about how to best collect student data. A suggestion was raised that faculty can conduct surveys of their large lecture classes and offer incentives for students to participate. A suggestion was raised to introduce a senate resolution. Kramer mentioned that her council would be willing to help support or co-sponsor such a resolution.

Kramer reported that the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee is reviewing work study at the university and how to help students understand the advantages/disadvantages of this option. Lewis noted that the university allocates all its funding available for work study positions and noted that improvements can be done to make the positions more attractive, educational and engaging. Lewis clarified there is a difference between work study and on-campus employment. Discussion ensued about faculty's involvement regarding the work study program and how they can play a role.

4) ASUW update

Badger reported on Student Lobby Day that will occur on February 6, 2015. This is an opportunity for students to meet with legislators to discuss outstanding issues and concerns. Badger asked the council if there is a mechanism for faculty to offer excused absences in order to allow students to participate in the event. Badger explained that many students are interested in attending but are not able to participate since they can be penalized for missing classes. A comment was raised noting that it would be find with them. However, it did not seem appropriate to allow a blanket request for all students to cut class. A suggestion was made that ASUW should contact faculty and document who will be attending the event before a decision is made to allow an excused absence. A comment was raised recalling a senate resolution that was passed allowing students to be excused for university-related activities, such as athletics and ROTC, which might apply to this situation.

5) Transportation Services

Josh Kavanagh (Director for Transportation Services) was present to discuss transportation issues at the university.

Kavanagh reported the universal student U-PASS program is going well. The universal program migrated from an opt-out option four years ago which also set a fixed 2-year fee that has not changed since it was first introduced. However, adjustments to the fee is likely to occur and Transportation Services will approach ASUW in January to consider the adjustment. Kavanagh explained that ASUW is the legislative authority to increase the fee because it is a voluntary student fee developed by students. The administration assists with the collection of the fee which and cannot make changes without ASUW's approval. Kavanagh explained the key factor in the fee increase is due to increasing transit fares from Sound Transit and King County Metro.

Students in the universal student U-PASS program pay \$76/quarter. Kavanagh added that in addition to the student fee there is \$43 in subsidy dollars (\$12 from general funds). The rest comes from the transportation demand management fee through Transportation Services. Kavanagh noted that when transit fares increase so does the university's contribution because the student fees stays constant. Discussion ensued about the uncertainties in transit funding and the impacts on the university. Since there are so many factors that play into transit fees it is difficult to anticipate future costs to riders. Kavanagh explained the universal student U-PASS program costs approximately \$17 million per year which is a good value. For example, if the university was to buy into equivalent services the most efficient program would be projected to hit \$34 million.

A question was raised asking how UW would respond to increased fees and if it would impact the student program. Kavanagh explained the direct effect would be very minor with a slight change in distribution to the transportation demand management fee. However, Kavanagh stressed the bigger impact will be increases to student tuition since the benefit will increase the university's contribution for the faculty/staff program.

Kavanagh noted that ASUW took a very strategic approach when developing the universal student program. As part of the agreement students requested a firewall from the faculty/staff U-PASS in order to bring all students into the universal student U-PASS program. By doing so the student U-PASS program received a substantial cash infusion which is protected from the faculty/staff program, especially during times of financial instability when the faculty/staff program is looking for cross-subsidies. Kavanagh explained that Transportation Services also made an accounting policy decision that student dollars are the last revenue sources spent when paying the bills, which means any money left over at the end of the year remains student money which cannot go towards general expenses to UW transportation programs. This has served students well and provides them a couple million dollars for a rainy day fund.

Kavanagh reported that UW parking has been difficult lately and lots have been much fuller than usual. Kavanagh listed several reasons, such as:

- Reducing occupancy requirements for carpools on campus (from three to two)
- Campus construction
- Miscommunication within Transportation Services about allocated parking spaces (long-term inventory) and gatehouses selling daily parking passes for the same lots.

Kavanagh explained the service gap for parking is being addressed and short-term measures are underway.

Kavanagh reported Seattle's new bike-share program (Pronto) has been implemented and UW is hosting several stations on campus. Members of the U-PASS program have a \$10 discount for annual memberships (typically \$80). UW partners with the program which is ran by a non-profit operated locally on behalf of several agencies. Kavanagh reported that utilization within the university district is lower than expected, possibly because members of the university community already rely on their own bicycles. Additionally, Kavanagh commented that Pronto may have not recognized the price sensitivity for students compared to those who live/work downtown. There have been discussions amongst local leaders for a student fee, such as a universal pass across campus. While this may be attractive Kavanagh believes there is not enough capacity to serve students in a meaningful way and suggested that it may be a viable option once Pronto fine tunes their business model.

Kavanagh reported there is dialogue between Seattle Department of Transportation, King County Metro, Sound Transit and UW to address service integration and service realignment. Service integration ties to a report by King County Executive Dow Constantine (Chair of the Sound Transit Board) highlighting the inefficiencies in how Sound Transit deploys its services. Recommendation have led to service integration with King County Metro buses, light rail, Sounder heavy rail, and Sound Transit bus service. Kavanagh explained the integrating Metro buses and Sound Transit Express service is low-hanging fruit that can be easily implemented and make transferring routes less burdensome for riders. This issue also comes when light rail arrives at UW in 2016 and the combination of events will force local transit agencies to review how local bus services can better connect with light rail. Kavanagh commented that the changes will require small actions but have a big impact on how commuters travel through Seattle, especially within the university district. Discussion ensued about the opening of the University Station in 2016 and the Northgate Station in 2021.

A question was raised asking about Transportation Services' concierge program and how it is funded. The program is funded by U-PASS with funds coming from savings through contract negotiations. The program has been funded for two years and has been well received. Kavanagh noted that Transportation Services has helped approximately 600 people with individualized commute planning.

6) Good of the Order

Treser noted that Jerry Baldasty and Phil Ballinger will be on the agenda in January to discuss the student experience and admissions. Treser will also schedule subcommittee reports for the January agenda.

7) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Treser at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, council support analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Chuck Treser (Chair), Mabel Ezeonwu, Brian Fabien, Bruce Hevly, Jelena Svircev
Ex-Officio Reps: Christine Tawatao, Hailey Badger, Martha Tran
Guests: Kay Lewis, Josh Kavanagh, Patricia Kramer

Absent: **Faculty:** Anthony Gill, Christopher Laws, Sara Lopez
President's Designee: Lincoln Johnson
Ex-Officio Reps: n/a