

Faculty Council on Student Affairs
2013-14 Annual Report
Submitted by Chuck Treser, Chair

Summary

This was a learning year for me as a new chair of the Faculty Council on Student Affairs. We considered a number important issues impacting the life and experience of UW students, however, it has become obvious to me that as a Council we need to be much more active in pursuing solutions to the problems identified, including collaborating with other Councils and Committees and drafting policy documents for the Senate to consider. The major issues and concerns considered by the Council this year include the following.

2014 Freshman Class Application and Admission Pools

Vice Provost Phillip Ballinger (Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment) provided an update on UW student enrollment at the May FCSA meeting.

Ballinger discussed the recent reorganization of student enrollment services which now falls under the Provost's Office. The goal for this year was to work with many stakeholder groups (administrators, faculty and students) to discuss a broad range of issues that will impact UW's future enrollment goals. UW has set a record this year with 6,400 new freshmen students which is now larger than UCLA's incoming freshman class. Approximately 4,300 of students are from within Washington and Ballinger expects the in-state freshman class to hit its highest point by 2021.

The UW is doing well with new high school graduates who apply to UW and his office is engaged with an enrollment consultant to review UW enrollment from a larger perspective. UW is saturated by the local high school market and by reviewing the number of applicants from Washington high schools UW cannot accept more applicants based on the parameters surrounding the institution's enrollment activities. Ballinger reported there are approximately 10,000 applicants every year with the majority from out-of-state and foreign countries.

Ballinger walked through enrollment data from AY 2013-14 and pointed out the dramatic increase in international applicants (1,223 in 2006 to 7,632 in 2013). Ballinger added that the proportion of non-resident applicants who are international students is increasing as well. Ballinger explained that UW has rapidly increased tuition for non-resident students and pointed out that many international students pay the full tuition costs without financial aid assistance.

Ballinger reported that UW has seen modest improvement in student diversity but it continues to be an area of concern for the institution.

Student Athletics

Council members considered the manner in which UW students who are athletes are perceived on campus by both faculty and their fellow students. Members reported that in dealing with these students that some of them expressed feeling that they were not being considered as serious students. Dean Robert Stacey (chair of the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics – "ACIA") and Pete Dukes (Faculty Athletics Representative) attended the December meeting to share their perspectives on student athletes at UW.

They reported that according to data from exit surveys, approximately 85% of student athletes feel close to the athletic community, while 52% feel part of the UW community as a whole. Discussion ensued regarding the connection between student athletes and the university community. The goal is to make the handoff so that students who received most of their academic support through ACIA can transition to upper campus and receive similar support from their major department to ensure their success, such as academic advising. Generally, ACIA will have formal contact with the school or college by directly

contacting advisors. Additionally, ACIA will try to ensure “special admit” students receive the support they need in order to be successful. Stacey mentioned that these students will require less support by the time they are seniors. One of the reasons why so much attention is spent on support services for these students is that a number of them come to UW with learning disabilities that have not been diagnosed or treated while in high school.

A comment was raised expressing surprise that amongst all the “special” and “priority” admit student athletes; few are actually from the football program. It is clear that this admissions policy touches on all sports, not just a particular few. Moreover, priority and special admits are not confined to the athletic department but have been used in other areas of the campus, e.g., performing arts.

Academic Progress of Special and Priority Admit Students

At the December FCSA meeting we considered the progress of Special and Priority Admit students. ACIA conducts annual reviews of the academic progress of all students recruited and admitted as “priority” and “special” admits. ACIA designed this process which was approved by the President and Faculty Senate allowing for intercollegiate athletics to admit (through the admission process) up to 70 students as “priority admit” and 30 students as “special admits”. Stacey clarified that “priority admit” students have an 80% chance or better in receiving at least a 2.0 GPA at UW while freshmen, while “special admit” students are not projected to have an 80% chance or better in receiving a 2.0 GPA without special assistance. Priority admits meet the UW requirements for admission but probably would not be admitted under the regular admissions process. Last year there were only 19 “special admit” and 50 “priority admit” students who entered UW as freshman.

Each year ACIA reviews how these groups of students are performing to identify patterns in their academic success. Overall, UW student athletes rank second in the PAC-12 behind Stanford. Current graduation rates of student athletes are 82%, with football being 75%. Stacey mentioned that he cannot remember the last time UW lost a “special admit” student on academic grounds. Instead, these students who leave the UW do so as a result of transferring or withdrawing for other reasons-- to get more playing time or for family reasons. ACIA has a strong commitment to only accept students they know have a very good chance of succeeding academically at UW. Through the admissions process ACIA does not know if the applicants are starters or benchwarmers, only their designated sport and potential academic performance. This is different compared to other PAC-12 schools, such as UC-Berkeley, which considers athleticism as a primary factor in determining admissions. Stacey mentioned that this may be a factor in UC-Berkeley’s low graduation rate for student athletes.

Student Financial Aid and Debt Burden

At our May meeting, ASUW Representative Michael Kutz discussed recent developments within the ASUW Student Debt Reduction Working Group. The group have been meeting over the past year to address how student debt is affecting students, where students are incurring debt and how new policies could alleviate problems. He explained that financial stress, added to the transition to a university setting, is a large mental health concern for many students. Kutz reported that of all students who went to the counseling center last year, 33% did so because of financial stress.

Kutz referred to a report from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which found that 70% of students who dropped out of college had no financial aid or scholarships. The primary reason for dropping out was due to working outside of class and rising tuition costs. Kutz emphasize that these findings show that students need financial aid and they are not receiving enough.

In order to fully comprehend the issue ASUW conducted a survey of students to learn more about their individual experiences. Kutz reported that 70% of students at UW have part-time jobs and 40% are working over 20 hours per week. Kutz stressed that students are not able to work through school and summer to pay tuition; a student would have to work 54 hours per week in order to pay full tuition costs. In response ASUW has prepared policy recommendations

which would establish a model where no unmet need would exceed the amount that students can make working 40 hours per week over the summer and 20 hours per week over the academic year (at Washington State minimum wage).

The Council chair has met with the Chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) to discuss this issue. Both Treser and Kramer raised the issue of the need for data. Kutz reported that the ASUW received more than 400 responses from its recent survey.

The most critical issue appears to be with students who come from middle-class families who are hard pressed to meet the "family contribution level" while at the same time there is limited financial assistance available to them.

Members also discussed a new proposal called "pay it forward" which would charge tuition to students once they graduated, not while they were in school. Members expressed skepticism about the feasibility of "pay if forward" and the possible impacts on students once they graduate.

Kutz discussed ASUW's recent initiative to communicate financial literacy to students, including high school students intending to enroll in a 4-year institution. Mc Nerney reported ASUW's Student Debt Reduction Committee released its findings to the press at the end of the quarter, including an interview on KUOW. Mc Nerney is hoping the rollout will have actual results in reducing student debt. Treser commented that the council is willing to support ASUW and its efforts at reducing student tuition.

Transportation

Melanie Mayock (External Affairs Specialist for Transportation Services) discussed recent transit developments affecting UW.

As a result of the recession Seattle revenues have been dropping over the past few years. Since then Metro has been relying on reserve funds, raised fares and temporary funding in the form of the \$20 annual license renewal fee. This cut in funding is similar to other regional transportation districts which are cutting back on service area and bus routes. Last November King County announced its proposed cuts which will completely delete 20 routes that serve UW (out of 42 current Metro routes). Mayock explained that the cuts will be eased in gradually on a rolling basis beginning in September. The County Council will make its final decision on service cuts later in May. However, before the county decides on cuts a proposal has been introduced to secure funding by increasing the sales tax by 0.1% and increasing the annual license fee to \$60. This proposal will be on the upcoming April ballot to determine if there is voter support to save transit services.

With the failure of Proposition #1 to pass, the cuts announced by Metro will begin to go into effect beginning in September 2014. This is likely to cause a range of hardships for student commuting to the Seattle Campus. The Council will be following developments with regard to Transportation options and arranging to be kept up to date by Transportation Services. We also anticipate working with ASUW and GPSS as they develop their own plans to respond to the situation.

New Constructions, Renovations and Classroom Space

Another issue that was brought before the Council has to do with the apparent lack of adequate classroom space, especially during the peak instructional hours between 9:30 and 2:30. Both student and faculty members of the Council have expressed concern regarding the pressure to increase class sizes and the scarcity of classrooms to accommodate classes in the range from 50 - 100 students. We anticipate working more closely with FCUFS, ASUW and GPSS to

explore the magnitude of the problems and possible approaches to resolving it. While classrooms may be viewed as primarily academic matters, the members expressed their concern that lack of these facilities impacts not only their learning but also many aspects of the life including prolonging time to completion of their degree, and making it more difficult to schedule work and other campus activities.

Competitive Admissions and Enrollment Caps

A final issue discussed by the Council was the trend of more majors moving to competitive admissions and an increasing number of programs limiting the number of students accepted into the program. We first heard about this with regard to UW students who are athletes -- that they came to the UW to major in a particular area, only to find out after arriving here that they could not get into the major of their choice. However, the problem appears to involve many more students than just our athletes. It is becoming an important issue and is being discussed within ASUW and GPSS, as well as within this Council.

Respectfully submitted:
Charles D. (Chuck) Treser, Chair

Council Members for 2013-14 Academic Year:

Faculty:

- Jim Burke, Mathematics
- Mabel Ezeonwu, UW Bothell, Nursing
- Brian Fabien, Mechanical Engineering
- Chris Laws, Astronomy
- Sara Lopez, College of Education
- Sarah Stroup, Classics
- Jelena Svircev, VA Medical Center
- Chuck Treser, Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences (Chair)

Presidential Designee:

- Lincoln Johnson, Associate Vice President and Director, Student Life and HUB.

Ex-Officio Representatives:

- Christine Tawatao, ALUW representative
- Jeffrey McNerney, ASUW representative
- Will Scott, GPSS representative
- LeAnne Jones Wiles, PSO representative