

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS**

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Wednesday, **May 29, 2002**, at 2:30 p.m. Chair Christina Emerick presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** Emerick (Chair), Dziwierek, Hicks, Robertson and Seifer;
 Ex officio members Arkans, de Tornyay and Anderson;
 Guest Aaron Hoard, Office of Regional Affairs.

ABSENT: **Professors** Crittenden, Fridley, Goldblatt, Kozuki, Regnier and Thorud;
 Ex officio members Doherty, Ludwig, Russell, Sjavik, Whang and Whitney.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of May 1, 2002 were approved as written.

Announcements – Norm Arkans

Arkans reminded the council that the University-wide awards, including Distinguished Teaching Awards and Outstanding Public Service Awards, will be presented on June 13, 2002, and he once again encouraged council members to attend. The event will be held in Meany Hall at 3:00-5:00 p.m. A reception will follow the awards ceremony.

Commencement will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. in Husky Stadium. Faculty are encouraged to attend Commencement exercises, which invariably, Arkans said, prove richly rewarding for all participants.

Arkans said President McCormick wrote a guest column for the Op-ed page of the Seattle Times, Tuesday, May 28, 2002. The Article was entitled, “State’s fiscal crisis puts UW in jeopardy.” The column begins: “Washington’s colleges and universities are in trouble. State support is dwindling, costs for students are rising, colleges and universities are forced to offer less for more, and there seems to be no relief in sight. At the University of Washington, these developments are particularly challenging.”

President McCormick also writes: “A number of complex factors have led to the current crisis in funding higher education in our state. Decisions by voters reducing or redirecting taxes are forcing reductions in state services and some very hard choices by legislators. These choices have become even more difficult because of the recent economic slowdown. It is worth noting, however, that even during the prosperous times of the 1990’s, the state did not invest in its higher education institutions the way other states were doing. So, at the dawn of the new century, the University of Washington finds itself at a serious disadvantage compared to similar universities.”

Concluding the column (which can be read in its entirety by going to the Seattle Times Web site) President McCormick writes: “I am a firm believer in the *public* in public higher education. We have an obligation to afford the opportunities and benefits of a higher education to as many citizens as possible. As we reduce the University’s budget, however, we will not be able to provide the same quality of education to as many students. Will there be room at the inn for our children? It is a serious question we must consider. And if there is room, what kind of education will be available at the level of funding our state currently provides? Not what we expect and not what our children deserve.”

Feedback on Honorary Degree selection process – Christine Emerick and Norm Arkans

Arkans said the Convocation for Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Meany Hall, on May 7th – during which Archbishop Tutu was awarded the University’s first Honorary Degree since 1921 – and the Forum on “World Health and Children” on the same day, in Hogness Auditorium, in which Archbishop Tutu participated, were unqualified successes, and much praised by those who attended. Arkans said the

feedback on both events has been overwhelmingly positive. UWTV will be televising the events beginning in mid-June.

Arkans and Emerick both noted that there has been some criticism from UW students about the choice of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as Commencement Speaker. The criticism has come from a group of students who oppose what they believe to be her position on certain aspects of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Arkans said that any person selected as Commencement Speaker or as the recipient of an Honorary Degree who has a high profile in political life is invariably going to be opposed by some element, however small, among the University's students. It is only natural that this should occur. Hicks and other council members said they have heard only positive responses to the selection of Madeleine Albright, and reiterated their strong support of the choice of Albright by the council.

Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC) – Aaron Hoard

Aaron Hoard, who is working to develop a Community Outreach Partnership Center (COPC), said COPC is an initiative of the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Office of University Partnerships. The Partnerships provide three-year grants of up to \$400,000 to encourage institutions of higher education to join in partnerships with their communities.

Hoard said his office is "interested in revitalizing 'the Ave' [University Way N.E.]." He also serves on the Business Improvement Board, and is working with the community in an effort to get the Ave "out of the doldrums."

Hoard said that, in the Autumn of 2001, he began to meet with various members of the community. The COPC efforts have six focuses: 1) Urban design; 2) open space [partnerships with organizations such as the YMCA and Pro Parks]; 3) Economic development; 4) Housing [especially, housing for more families in the University District]; 5) Homelessness [getting the homeless more involved in the community; making them feel less ostracized]; and 6) Public safety [the perception of the Ave at present is that it is not a particularly safe environment, particularly after dark].

Hoard said, "The goal was to apply for the COPC grant this June, though to have qualified for the full \$400,000 grant we would have needed a 25% match from the University that, because of the current financial crisis, we could not obtain. [Thus, COPC would have supplied \$300,000, and the University would have had to supply \$100,000.] However, we still feel the concept is sound. In the meantime, we will develop a mini-COPC service, with whatever funds we are able to obtain. The U-District needs a lot of help now, and the Center will do all that it can. Grants are available for the improvement of building façades on the Ave. The City is taking an interest, and putting more policemen on the Ave: two beat patrols and two police bicycles. Hoard said the Center will also try to assist with park and open space initiatives.

Hoard said the Center's first short-term goal is to assist businesses during the "Ave Project". This project will completely rebuild University Way (the Ave) from Campus Parkway to N.E. 50th Street. "It will mean new streets, new sidewalks, new trees, new benches, and other improvements," said Hoard. The paving project will take approximately 15 months, and is jointly driven by the City and by University property owners and businesses.

University Heights, between Brooklyn Ave. N.E. and University Way N.E., and N.E. 52nd Street and N.E. 55th Street, is being maintained as well as possible, said Hoard. It was recently re-painted and has undergone renovation in the past several years. Hoard noted the diverse kinds of groups in the building, representing many different cultures and expressions of entrepreneurship. "We're trying hard to help keep University Heights maintained," he observed. "Many good activities are held there."

Hoard said, "We want to get different groups from the University involved in the revitalization of the Ave and the U-District. So we will be getting word out to deans and directors that we would like whatever participation we can get not only from their students but from their faculty as well."

Emerick asked about the breakdown of the COPC grant. Hoard said it is a three-year \$400,000 grant, renewable for one or two years. But it does require the 25% match from the receiving institution. Hoard admitted that, in the current budget climate, it is difficult to imagine “where the money could come from.”

Asked about needed revitalization in other areas of the city, Hoard said, “Yes, other areas of Seattle could use our help, but this is *our* neighborhood, and it really needs our help *now*.” Asked about the intent of COPC, Hoard said, “Their hope is that it will be a continual affair, that once the ball is rolling, it will be carried on.”

Emerick said, “This will be an internal issue for the University. What will the funding be?” Seifer said, “They should be praised for going ahead despite *not* getting the grant (in this difficult budget period).”

Emerick asked council members for their input. They could help contact people in the community. They could suggest ideas for research. And they could participate in the “days of service,” as some members did in this year’s Martin King, Jr. Day services in the U-District.

Hicks said the Ave “is such a visible project; it would be great to say to the community that UW faculty, staff and students are participating in the revitalization of the Ave and the U-District.”

Emerick asked, “Will the Center *explain* to the public what it is undertaking to resuscitate the Ave and the U-District?” Hoard said, “*Our* office will do some of that, yes.” Emerick said, “That will be important. We need to make it known to the community that the University will be involved.”

The council thanked Hoard for an excellent presentation and discussion of a problem long in need of being addressed, a problem that distresses the University community and the community of the entire U-District, as, for that matter, it distresses all who live in Seattle who would like to be able to visit a revitalized Ave and environs.

Next meeting

This was the final FCUR meeting of the 2001-02 academic year. The first council meeting of the 2002-03 academic year will be held in October 2002.

Brian Taylor
Recorder