

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
FRIDAY, May 15, 2009, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes from February
 2. Honorary Degrees
 - a. Status of nominees
 - b. Plans for presentations to recipients
 - c. New nominations and plan for the summer
 3. UW Update from Norm Arkans
 4. New Business
 5. Adjourn
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1. Approval of minutes from February

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard asked for any corrections to the minutes. She asked that a reference be added to the minutes noting that the council considered a second set of nominations as part of the straw poll. Norm Arkans also requested that the possessive spelling of his name be corrected. The minutes were then approved as amended.

2. Honorary degrees

a. Status of nominees

Arkans reported that the Board of Regents approved the nomination for the University's Commencement speaker, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. The Board also approved an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree for Virginia Beavert, a Yakima tribe elder celebrated for her preservation and documentation of indigenous languages and culture. Arkans described Beavert's background, noting the very good job done by the nominating committee. John Bolcer noted how well Beavert's nomination fits with the Libraries' project on the work of Mel Jacobs. The second set of nominations approved by voting council members will be taken up for consideration next year. Arkans thanked everyone for their hard work. Odegaard encouraged council members who didn't read the files to look at them.

b. Plans for presentations to recipients

Arkans noted that both nominees will be here for Commencement on Saturday, June 13th. It is not too late to sign up to be part of Commencement. He stressed the need to generate more nominations, and suggested that the department that is successful with a nomination will perhaps spur others on. Arkans explained the nomination process once it goes forward to the Board of Regents.

Arkans discussed sending out a request for honorary degree nomination a week after Commencement. He felt that it was important to start the process early for next year, and before everyone gets really busy.

c. New nominations and plan for the summer

Odegaard announced that she is retiring from the University and will not be eligible for future council work. She explained that it was possible the council might become an advising group on Honorary Degrees. Arkans noted that he will have some conversations with Faculty Senate leaders concerning the council's future. A discussion began about the council's duties as described in the faculty code. Members expressed their ideas about the council's current ambiguous role and the kind of responsibilities it might take on to function better as a University faculty council. George Mayer inquired about improving the image of the University with the State legislature and whether there was anything the council could do to help.

Odegaard noted that in the past the council considered larger university relations issues but that its current function is on University honorary degrees. Arkans pointed out that the Faculty Senate will be the deciding body. He asked members to consider whether just talking was the best use of their time since there is no work for the council. Matt Conroy suggested that they look into the current state of the University's relations and report to the Faculty Senate about that status. Mayer pressed the idea of putting the council to work promoting the stature and function of the University to the public. Arkans acknowledged that it was possible, but that is not how the current system works at the university. He explained how the University's marketing office works. Arkans noted the value in getting feedback from faculty to his office, and the challenge in getting input from FCUR members who don't attend.

Bolcer asked Arkans if he felt like his office would benefit from the council working on getting information from the faculty. Arkans suggested that it should have a focus point and be something more than just providing new information. Odegaard suggested that the issue needs to get resolved and the council should be involved in the decision. She asked Hevly if he would speak with the Secretary of the Faculty, Marcia Killien. She advised Mayer to write a list of the things he felt the council should do and send it to Hevly. Odegaard suggested that members look into the council's charge and their role in the office of University Committees. Arkans noted that he liked the idea of asking the Senate what they want from the council. Hevly asked members to send him their thoughts and ideas.

3. Update from Norm

Arkans reviewed the outcome of the recent budget decisions. He noted that the Office of Planning and Budgeting has done a good job posting information on the Provost's allocations for each unit. Arkans outlined the differential cuts for academic and administrative units.

Arkans also addressed the research stimulus money coming into the state, the University's one-time use of \$10M to offset the loss in state revenues, and the future direction of the University. Bolcer addressed the budget cut to the University Libraries and the impact it will have on the Libraries' materials and services.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu

Present: Faculty: Conroy, Hevly, Mayer, Odegaard (Chair)

President's Designee: Arkans

Ex Officio Reps: Bolcer, Snyder, Speser

Absent: Faculty: Gill, Sutton

Ex Officio Reps: Gus