

**University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Relations**

Friday, May 4, 2007
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Kathy Gill called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Update on 2007 Honorary Degree nominees (Arkans)
3. Planning for solicitation of nominations for 2008
4. Other business
5. Leadership and membership discussion for 2007-2008

1. Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from January 12, 2007, and February 2, 2007, were approved as corrected.

2. Update on 2007 Honorary Degree nominees (Arkans)

Norm Arkans updated the committee on those who had been nominated to receive honorary degrees this year. Due to scheduling conflicts these nominees will be held until next year, or later, depending upon their availability to receive the degrees.

3. Planning for solicitation of nominations for 2008

Chair Kathy Gill asked the Council to consider how to adjust the timing of and the manner in which nominations are solicited. She suggested the Council consider:

- Involving more faculty in the solicitation process
- Have Council members talk directly with Deans
- Find new and better ways to publicize the process
- Locate and update existing (but missing) website

Arkans concurred with those suggestions and, in addition, suggested that work on all of the above begin immediately – in the context of a community preparing for graduation and the conferring of degrees. The message needs to go out soon to all faculty, to the Board of Deans, to Council members, Faculty Senate officers and College and School Councils.

Kathy Gill will request time on the Senate meeting agenda in order to solicit nominations at that venue.

The Council was requested to review the current solicitation letter (posted to the honorary degree website) to see if there are ways to make it stronger. The previous letter (which was sent to Deans only – not to faculty) elicited only the three recommendations that were eventually accepted and approved as honorees.

Solicitation letters will be sent electronically, with special attention paid to drafting a catchy subject line. The letter to faculty should be more personal than the one to Deans. After some discussion the Council decided that the Provost will send out the letter to faculty and the President will send out the letter to Deans (both will be arranged through Arkans). The letter to Deans will be cc'ed to college development officers. Gill will locate and reinstate the Honorary Degree website. She will arrange for time on the agenda of the final Senate meeting of the year and will consult with Secretary of the Faculty Gerry Philipsen on the best way to contact College Council representatives. Arkans and Gill will re-visit the timing of the nomination processes and consider moving the process earlier in the academic year.

The Council then considered how to ensure that the packets of information received concerning nominees be substantial enough for the Council to make considered judgments – without being overly burdensome to the nominator. After some discussion the Council decided that members needed to take on the burden of collecting sufficient information themselves, after narrowing the candidate pool to five or six nominees. It will also be important that letters soliciting nominations emphasize the importance that nominators address *all* criteria listed in the solicitation letter.

FCUR will convene for one more meeting on June 1, at 10 a.m. in 36 Gerberding Hall, to complete details required for an effective solicitation effort.

4. Other business

Norm Arkans updated the Council on miscellaneous external issues.

5. Leadership and membership discussion for 2007-2008

Due to a lack of time, this item was deferred to the June 1 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45

Present:

Kathy Gill, Doug Jackson, Bruce Hevly, Norm Arkans, John Bramhall, John Bolcer, Mary Ann Odegaard, Dana Twight