

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
FRIDAY, April 17, 2009, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes from March 2009
  2. Honorary Degree Candidates
    - Discussion of previous honorary degree candidate
    - Discussion of new honorary nominees
  3. Norm Arkans' report
  4. Adjournment
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**1. Approval of minutes from March 2009**

Chair Odegaard asked for any changes to the minutes for March 2009. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**2. Honorary Degree Candidates**

- **Discussion of previous honorary degree candidate**

Norm Arkans explained to council members why the recent honorary degree candidate approved for UW-Tacoma's commencement will not be the speaker. Council members discussed the process in which they vet candidates before ascertaining if they are accepting the University's offer of an honorary degree.

- **Discussion of new honorary nominees**

Arkans asked council members to consider the candidate for UW-Seattle commencement speaker. Council members discussed the proposed commencement speaker's credentials, analyzing the strength of the candidate's public and academic contributions. Odegaard suggested to Arkans that council members should be invited to at least half of the special events the University hosts for the commencement speaker.

**Action:** A motion was made to approve moving the nomination of the commencement speaker forward. The motion was seconded and a discussion began.

Each council member at the table shared their view of the nominee. One issue that arose was the limited time members were given to review the candidate. After everyone spoke it was agreed that having more time would not help them learn more about the candidate. A vote by secret ballot was taken by the Chair. The candidate for UW-Seattle's commencement speaker was approved and the nomination will go forward to the Board of Regents.

Odegaard next introduced a nomination for an honorary degree signed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Science. Council members briefly discussed the merits of the candidate. Council members were also asked to review a second nomination, one they had previously considered but had not forwarded. Arkans suggested that they do a straw vote on the two candidates. It was decided to give council members until next Friday, April 24 to decide upon the nominations. Nomination materials are to be placed in the office

of the Faculty Senate for members to come by at their discretion to read through. Only faculty may vote, but a sheet will be available for everyone to leave comments.

### 3. Norm Arkans' report

Arkans updated council members on the state of the university budget crisis. He addressed the recent actions of the state legislature and the University's President to address the budget shortfall. Arkans noted that the proposal to raise university tuition by 14% has received support from community members, even the student newspaper The Daily, and will help offset deep budget cuts across the university. He discussed the process the university is following to prepare for a reduced budget.

### 4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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

**Present:**       **Faculty:**   Conroy, Gill, Hevly, Odegaard (Chair), Sutton  
                  **President's Designee:**   Arkans  
                  **Ex Officio Reps:**   Speser  
**Absent:**       **Faculty:**    Mayer  
                  **Ex Officio Reps:**   Bolcer, Snyder, Guss