

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

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Monday, **April 14, 2003**, at 11:30 a.m. Co-chair Sarena Seifer presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** Emerick and Seifer (Co-chairs) and Robertson.
 Ex officio members Arkans, Doherty, Washines and Whang.

ABSENT: **Professors** Dziwirek, Fridley, Hicks and Regnier;
 Ex officio members de Tornyay and Whitney.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 19, 2003 were approved as written.

Honorary Degree nomination – Christina Emerick and Norm Arkans

Emerick distributed a letter from *PoetsWest* recommending that a particular Northwest poet and publisher be awarded an Honorary Degree from the University of Washington.

Arkans pointed out that recommendations for Honorary Degrees must come from academic units of the University, and not from outside the University. The English Department, Arkans noted, would be the appropriate academic unit to make this nomination for an Honorary Degree.

Emerick said she will notify *PoetsWest* that they should confer with the English Department. She will “cc” the chair of the English Department, and make the department aware of the recommendation it will be asked to consider.

Emerick said the council’s page on the Faculty Senate Web site contains the guidelines for the nomination process for Honorary Degrees. Arkans added that there needs to be a particular event at the University at which the recipient of an Honorary Degree will speak when accepting his or her Degree.

Emerick will give the council an update on where this recommendation stands at the May 12th FCUR meeting.

Event planning for the April 23rd “Time of Reflection: The War in Iraq” Day

Arkans said that he, Faculty Senate Chair Sandra Silberstein, Dean of Undergraduate Education George Bridges, and several others have been planning for the April 23, 2003 “Time of Reflection: The War in Iraq” Day at the University of Washington.

Faculty will be asked to serve as “facilitators” in an effort to engage students in conversation on the many issues raised by the war in Iraq. Faculty will not be encouraged to promote their own biases as regards these issues, but to facilitate a wide-ranging discussion of viewpoints on the war.

As for the war being said by some “to be over,” it was pointed out that the war – as it pertains to the multifaceted issues of which it is a part – is anything but “over,” and furthermore, that the “Time of Reflection” Day could not properly have been prepared for any sooner than it has been.

Arkans said there will also be a series of sessions on the afternoon of the 23rd, and that the topics of the sessions and their locations will be posted on the University Web site. Some 50-60 suggestions already have been received for discussion topics at the sessions. The CIDR Web site has guidelines to help participants engage in discussions involving multiple viewpoints of the kind anticipated during the “Time of Reflection” Day on April 23rd.

Legislative and other updates – Norm Arkans

Arkans said that Richard Thompson, Director of Government Relations, would probably say that “it’s been challenging” in Olympia during the 2003 legislative session, for both the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Arkans said that, at the state legislature, both parties are positioning themselves for the session’s “endgame.” The inevitable “horse trading” that is part of the “endgame” will affect the University’s budget. Arkans said the democrats in the House are having difficulty in getting a consensus on the budget. Interim President Huntsman and Board of Regent Gerald Grinstein both went to Olympia to speak on behalf of the University’s budget request. The Senate budget is not a good one for the University.

Arkans said there is an editorial in today’s Post-Intelligencer encouraging the legislature to, in effect, “step up for higher education.” But the outlook remains bleak.

A sign to look for, said Arkans, is whether or not the House comes up with a budget that includes something for new revenues. Hopefully, he said, it will be a better budget than that proposed by the Senate.

Presidential search – Norm Arkans

Arkans said the Presidential search is progressing. The Board of Regents should receive several recommendations in June. And the goal of having a new president in place by Autumn Quarter 2003 remains on course.

Recognition ceremony: University-wide awards: June 12, 2003

Arkans encouraged all council members to attend the recognition ceremony on June 12, 2003, at which the University-wide awards, including Distinguished Teaching Awards and Outstanding Public Service Awards, will be presented. This is always a very special, and an invariably enjoyable, occasion, Arkans noted. He added that University Week will be featuring articles on the recipients of the awards prior to the recognition ceremony.

Commencement Exercise: June 14, 2003

Arkans also encouraged all faculty members to sign up for Commencement Exercises on June 14, 2003. The Commencement Speaker will be Sherman Alexie, a northwest writer and filmmaker.

CUCAC representative – Theresa Doherty

Doherty said that CUCAC still is in need of a new University of Washington representative, and that it is desirable that the representative either come from FCUR, or have direct or indirect ties to FCUR. And the representative needs to be a faculty member. Seifer said, “The CUCAC representative should have *some* connection with our council. For instance, the faculty member could visit the council a couple of times during the academic year and report on CUCAC developments.”

The faculty member need not be from Urban Design and Planning, or from Architecture, but it is important that he or she have a genuine interest in – and, if possible, some experience with – community planning projects. “It should be someone with a ‘facilitator personality,’ ” Doherty said. Arkans said it should be someone who “understands the bigger picture.” He said the council could ask Faculty Senate Chair Sandra Silberstein to send an E-mail message to Senate Executive Committee (SEC) faculty members.

Doherty said CUCAC will probably be meeting every two months, and not every month. “There are not a lot of development projects now,” she noted. The meetings usually last two hours and are held in the South Campus Center.

Asked about CUCAC's involvement with the Sound Transit light rail project, Doherty said CUCAC will be reviewing Sound Transit's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), but will not otherwise be involved.

Seifer said she will do some "follow-up" work, and report back to the council at its next meeting.

Architecture students giving "The Ave" a face-lift – Theresa Doherty

Doherty said that, with the work of the utility and paving crews coming to completion on "The Ave," 15 architects-in-training from the College of Architecture and Urban Planning are about to give the shops on The Ave a face-lift.

Jim Nicholls, the Architecture lecturer who will lead the "Storefront Studio" in the former Tower Records store (across the street from the University Book Store), said, in an article in University Week, "What we want to do is enhance the quality and identity of The Ave." The students "will study the present-day Ave, envision an improved streetscape and collaborate with interested landlords to redesign the facades of their buildings." The studio will also serve as a public showcase for design ideas and community open houses. The first open house was on Friday, April 11th.

In the article, Doherty said, "This is a good example of where the University brings its academic capital for the benefit of the U-District." Far from "imposing academic notions upon the community, the architecture students will collaborate with merchants and 'dream a bit with them,'" Nicholls said [in the article]. He added that the students are so excited to work on a real project, benefiting their own neighborhood, that he had to open extra spaces in the graduate studio to accommodate the demand.

"This could be the beginning of many projects," Doherty said.

Faculty Field Tour – Norm Arkans

Arkans said 35 first- and second-year faculty will participate in the Faculty Field Tour this summer. Interim President Huntsman will be along for part of the five-day odyssey by bus that travels to every corner of the state.

For the first time the Faculty Field Tour will travel to Pullman (home of Washington State University), and will also meet up with the "Welcome to Washington" contingent in Spokane.

Arkans said, "Upwards of 150 first- and second-year faculty have now participated in the Faculty Field Tour. It's always a wonderful and memorable experience, both for faculty and administrators. And it's a rare opportunity for new faculty at the University to meet colleagues in different disciplines. In some instances, faculty collaborations have resulted from friendships formed on the tour."

Next meeting

The next FCUR meeting is set for Monday, May 12, 2003, at 11:30 a.m., in 142 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder