

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

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Monday, **April 11, 2001**. Chair Christina Emerick presided.

PRESENT: *Professors* Emerick (Chair) Dziwirek, Hicks and Robertson;
 Ex officio members Arkans, Grover and Regnier.

ABSENT: *Professors* Ahmad, Crittenden, Fridley, Goldblatt, Hauser and Palmer;
 Ex officio members Doherty, Ludwig, Russell, Sjavik, de Tornay, Weaver and
 Whitney.

Approval of minutes

Due to lack of quorum, voting on the minutes of February 14, 2001 was deferred.

Outstanding Public Service Award: Dr. Charles Mock

Arkans said the 2000-01 Outstanding Public Service Award will go to Dr. Charles Mock, Assistant Professor in Surgery. Dr. Mock has performed significant intervention work in Ghana and other countries. The award will be publicly announced in May. The Recognition Awards ceremony will be held on June 7th.

Commencement: June 9, 2001

Commencement exercises will be held on June 9th in Husky Stadium. Arkans encouraged council members to march in the faculty procession. He said most faculty who participate truly seem to enjoy the experience. Emerick said she was able to participate in the procession on one occasion and did indeed enjoy herself.

Commencement Speaker: William Gray

William Gray, President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund, will be this year's Commencement Speaker. William Gray is a former congressman from Pennsylvania. Arkans said Gray is a gifted speaker and should be an inspiration for students and faculty alike.

Northwest Science and Technology: a magazine

Arkans said an excellent research magazine, Northwest Science and Technology, was begun a few years ago and is now being published by University Relations. Deborah Illman of Technical Communications edits the magazine. Alwin Kwiram, Vice Provost for Research, was especially helpful in finding financial support for the magazine at its inception.

UW radio campaign

Arkans said the programs of radio spots highlighting UW students from disciplines across the campus are scheduled to be launched at the end of the month. They will air on stations throughout the state. Arkans would be most appreciative if council members who happen to catch the radio spots send him their response. And if council members hear responses from other people, Arkans would be grateful if those were relayed to him as well. (The council was most impressed by the spots that were played at the February 14th meeting.)

“Small Things”: Celebration of partnership: Nano Science and Pacific Northwest Labs

Arkans said there will be a celebration of the partnership of Nano Science and Pacific Northwest Labs on April 17, 2001.

The Law School's Centennial celebration

Arkans said the Law School will celebrate the conclusion of its 100th anniversary on May 4, 2001. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Law School – which will stand on the northwest corner of the campus near Burke Museum – will be part of that celebration.

Honorary Degree proposal – Christina Emerick

Emerick reviewed what has taken place with the Honorary Degree proposal.

“At first,” she said, “it looked like a no-brainer.” The council, it will be remembered, approved a Class C Resolution by email following its meeting on February 14th. After that council meeting, Emerick conferred with the Faculty Senate leadership (Chair Mary Coney, Vice Chair Bradley Holt, and Secretary of the Faculty Lea Vaughn) and with several members of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). Coney and Vaughn both thought a Class C Resolution would be acceptable to SEC; Holt thought Class B legislation would be better, as it would assure that a faculty council (FCUR) would be responsible for Honorary Degrees in the future. The Faculty Senate leadership decided to write the proposal as Class B legislation, and added to the original that FCUR would be responsible for reviewing recommendations and submitting nominations to the Board of Regents, who would then make the final decision.

However, at the SEC meeting itself, Vice Provost Steven Olswang informed the committee that any legislation containing changes of wording in the mandate must be submitted as Class A legislation. [Class A legislation amends the *Faculty Code*, which appears in Volume Two of the *University Handbook*, and proceeds through SEC, the Faculty Senate, the President and Advisory Committee on Faculty Code and Regulations, SEC once again, the Faculty Senate once again, and a written ballot vote of the faculty. Finally, the President signs the legislation (signature date is date legislation becomes effective). Class B legislation amends sections of the *University Handbook* other than the Faculty Code, and proceeds through SEC, the Faculty Senate, the President, and a vote of the faculty. Legislation is effective 21 days after publication unless 5% of the faculty raise objections to it. If objections are raised, it proceeds through SEC, the Faculty Senate, and a written ballot vote of the faculty. If approved by a majority of ballots cast, legislation becomes effective upon completion of the time period of the faculty vote.]

A decision has been made, therefore, to meet on April 20th to resolve this quandary. Arkans, Chair Coney, Vice Chair Holt, Secretary Vaughn, former Chair John Junker of the Law School, Olswang and Emerick will participate in that meeting.

Olswang argued that there is precedence for doing this as Class A legislation. But, as Emerick pointed out, Class A legislation takes considerably longer to become effective than does Class B, and is much more labyrinthine. However, if the wording in the mandate is to be changed, Class A legislation may be the only possible outcome.

Emerick said the problem with Class A legislation is that “this is not a burning issue, and quite possibly not enough faculty will respond to make it a legitimate vote.” There remains some resistance in SEC to the idea of Honorary Degrees, she stressed. She herself, however, believes it brings honor to the University as well as to the honoree. President McCormick expressed a similar belief at the SEC meeting, and observed that the granting of Honorary Degrees can be helpful in recruiting and fund raising. (SEC members, however, noted that Honorary Degrees should have nothing to do with fund raising.) There was also concern over the University's aligning itself with prominent individuals on the national stage at the expense of prominent members within the University, in making its selection of a Commencement Speaker who would receive an Honorary Degree. Arkans said, however, that it is UW students who have most zealously urged the University to seek nationally prominent Commencement Speakers. This practice, he noted, has not been controversial thus far. In fact, the response from all sectors of the University has been excellent. Arkans reiterated that the recommendation for Honorary Degrees necessarily comes from the faculty, and

that FCUR would be the appropriate faculty body to make such recommendations to the Board of Regents, who grant the degrees attained at the University.

Emerick said there are several questions the council must ask itself. "Do we want to go forward with this effort at legislation?" "Does it matter if the legislation is Class A or Class B? (For Class A legislation to pass in a full faculty vote, a majority of all faculty eligible to vote would need to vote affirmatively, or two-thirds of all faculty who vote would need to vote affirmatively.) Emerick repeated her qualm that such a response would occur. Hicks said, "Why don't we just go with Class B legislation then?"

The council praised Emerick's leadership in this legislative effort, and encouraged her to persist.

Setting the future agenda of FCUR

Honorary Degrees, if any legislative proposal is passed, would be an annual agenda item. It must be kept in mind that Honorary Degrees for Commencement Speakers represent only one kind of Honorary Degree that the University would be granting. (The council will recall that a concern of SEC members, when the Honorary Degree proposal was first presented, was that it was too specifically targeted to Commencement Speakers.)

Budget shortfalls, which affect the University not only internally but externally, could well be an agenda item for the council.

Faculty Senate Chair Bradley Holt has suggested that FCUR could help in the effort to create policies to promote higher education as a "public good." Arkans said this could help make the legislature more sanguine about higher education.

Improving the University's communications internally and externally can always be an important agenda item for FCUR. In this light, Jack Faris, Vice President for University Relations, will talk to the council at its next meeting.

Emerick asked if FCUR should be involved in discussions on the light rail issue. She noted that FCUFS is concerned with light rail from a University Facilities perspective. (As is well known, the light rail issue is being debated throughout the city at present, with many people questioning whether light rail is the best way to proceed in the current transportation crisis. It would certainly be the most expensive way to proceed.) Arkans said any such discussion should include Goldblatt, who has been involved with this issue in various capacities for quite some time.

Arkans said University Relations thinks it is very important to have a faculty council to work with, and that a better way can still be found to achieve the kind of exchange with FCUR that his office desires. What is most needed is a better way to get responses from the council "while ideas are still forming" in University Relations.

Arkans said the council could help his office develop the idea of the UW as an "institution on the move" in research and learning. The goal is to raise the expectation among students and prospective students that "if you come to the UW, this is the kind of education you will get." Persuading all the faculty and TA's to carry that effort is the challenge. The faculty need to be energized, he said; they need to be brought into a conscious participation in this effort.

Dziwirek said, "The problem is less with the faculty than with the students. They are not prepared. Faculty have to 'dumb down' too much in their teaching." Arkans said this is exactly the kind of information he needs to have from the council, and that he could not easily get anywhere else. Robertson echoed Dziwirek: "Many of the residents do not get 'the big picture.'" Arkans said, "There needs to be a communications vehicle."

Robertson asked what is being done by the University to enhance its efforts in "global education.". Arkans said there is a lot of activity in this area, including international activities and exchanges. Many of the

University's disciplines are involved in international programs; there are more exchanges than ever before. And President McCormick has made several trips already to China and other Asian countries. "But we can always do more in this area," Arkans noted.

Dziwirek mentioned one noteworthy effort in expanding education: M.I.T. is putting all of its course content online. Many institutions are doing this with individual courses, but this is easily the most ambitious project in this direction, said Dziwirek. And it certainly represents the direction in which many universities will be going in the near future.

Next meeting

The next FCUR meeting is set for Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 10:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder