

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

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Monday, **February 3, 2004**, at 1:30 p.m. Chair Sarena Seifer presided.

**PRESENT:**     *Professors* Seifer (chair), Kozuki, Okada and Robertson;  
                  *Ex officio members* Arkans, de Tornyay, Hoard, Whang and Whitney;

**ABSENT:**     *Professors* Bogel, Fridley, Mayer and Regnier;  
                  *Ex officio member* Castic.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of December 2, 2003 were approved as written.

**Martin Luther King, Junior Day of Service: January 19, 2004 – Norm Arkans**

Arkans said the January 19<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King, Junior Day of Service “went very well.” Hundreds of faculty and staff participated in a wide variety of projects. United Way offered “great help.” President Huntsman spoke in praise of Dr. King: his importance and his legacy. Hoard said a goal for next year’s Martin Luther King, Junior Day of Service is “to find more projects in the University District.”

**Outstanding Public Service Award Review Committee – Norm Arkans**

Arkans said there will be approximately fifteen candidates for this year’s Outstanding Public Service Award. He said more volunteers are needed to serve on the review committee. With the new volunteers today, the representation from FCUR is now as follows: James Fridley, Sarena Seifer, Rheba de Tornyay and Linda Whang. De Tornyay, who has served previously on the review committee, said it is a genuine pleasure to see how many kinds of community service are being performed by enterprising faculty and staff.

**Plans for the 2004 legislative session in Olympia, including WSU / UW legislative advocacy – Norm Arkans**

Arkans said there is a new Director of State Government Relations: Randy Hodgins. Hodgins was the Staff Director of the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He earned several degrees at the University of Washington, and is well-connected to the University in a host of ways.

Arkans said that, of the bills in the current legislative session, the one of greatest interest to FCUR is most probably the “Performance Contract” bill. This bill establishes a new way for the legislature and the state’s institutions of higher education to relate to one another. “This is a negotiated contract,” Arkans pointed out. “The legislature would lay out certain performance expectations of the University. In exchange, the University would get a higher degree of flexibility in the way it uses the funding it receives from the state. The legislature would fund the University “at a certain level.” One effect of the “Performance Contract” is that it could create less pressure on the University to raise tuition if the state appropriation reached a higher level. The arrangement “would show better consideration for the University’s specific funding needs.” It would also help the University to better manage its resources. Arkans said, “The University would be a pilot institution in a trial program. Old approaches haven’t worked well, and have impeded the University’s efforts to manage its own fate. Progressive legislators and leaders in the business community are behind this new arrangement.”

Arkans said another bill advocated turning UW Bothell into a four-year institution to be called Cascadia State University. This bill has since been changed considerably. The notion of separating UW Bothell from the University of Washington has been dropped, and now the discussion is centered on the possible transformation of UW Bothell into a four-year undergraduate institution, maintaining its status as one of the

University's "other campuses." "There is a desire in some people to address the access issue at the University of Washington by doing something dramatic, and turning UW Bothell into a four-year baccalaureate institution is seen as one way to address the access issue." Robertson said, "This has led to good discussions already. With respect to UW Bothell, however, some feel it may prove a distraction from other vital needs, other important issues."

### **Revitalization of the "Ave" [University Way N.E.] – Aaron Hoard**

Hoard said that at one point – through the 1960's – the "Ave" [the sobriquet for University Way N.E.] was the "crown jewel of the city," in many people's eyes, as a place to shop and stroll. The "Ave" has been in a steady decline ever since (though over the last two years new and widened sidewalks, streetlamps, planting, and new bus-stations have been added to the "Ave," and N.E. Campus Parkway is currently undergoing a complete face-lift).

Hoard said that property ownership issues are a significant factor in the decline. Many buildings are owned by absentee, out-of-town landlords who show little interest in their buildings. Further, the sheer number of owners makes redevelopment difficult. Vacancies have increased noticeably in the last decade. For example, the building at the western corner of the "Ave" and 45<sup>th</sup> St. N.E., in which Pier One was housed, has been vacant for upwards of three years. Some absentee owners, said Hoard, may not even be aware of the condition of the buildings they own on the "Ave."

Crime, and the perception of crime, has also contributed to the "Ave"'s decline. "The University District continues to have a high number of Part 1 crimes – although this has been decreasing recently." Still, the very perception of crime in the U-District has kept many would-be shoppers and visitors away.

Hoard said, "The 'Ave' is our front door; and it behooves us to keep it looking well. The 'Ave' is the first thing many people see when they visit the UW. There are also a lot of faculty and staff who work in the U-District." He said there are efforts to revitalize the "Ave" [beyond the improvements to the street's appearance that have been mentioned]. He noted that "the UW contributes to these efforts in two basic ways: academic capital and direct funding."

Academic capital is spent when UW faculty, staff or students use their expertise in the community. For example, Hoard told the council that last year the old Tower Records storefront was turned into an Architecture Design studio space. Professor Jim Nicholls of Architecture ran this program. One of the goals of the program was to allow students "to design better façades for businesses on the 'Ave'." Repainting storefronts was another project many of the students participated in. "Students improved the appearance of the [vacated] Pier One building in just four days," Hoard pointed out. So there was much "tangible evidence" of the success of the students' efforts.

Students were also involved with environmental planning, and with collecting information about the homeless population in the U-District, and supporting the shelters and resources available for care of that population. As for N.E. Campus Parkway, "UW staff helped with the landscape design of N.E. Campus Parkway, and faculty and students will help with the public art component on the Parkway redesign this spring."

The UW also directly funds some revitalization efforts. For example, Hoard said, "We are helping with security on the 'Ave' as well: with enhancement of police presence on the 'Ave,' with special emphasis on Friday through Sunday patrols. The UW has contributed \$80,000 for each of the next two years for additional security along the 'Ave.' "

Regarding youth shelters, Hoard said, "UW's consolidated laundry does their linens for them."

Hoard also noted that, if the U-District improved enough to include an increase in quality housing for faculty and staff, "that would provide a stable population for the U-District." Again, he stressed, the key would be: What kind of housing and amenities do they want?

Hoard said a group called “Fifth Floor” will conduct interviews regarding the image of the “Ave,” asking such questions as: What do you think of the ‘Ave’?, and: What do you want to see on the ‘Ave’?” This effort will lead to a branding strategy for the area. Hoard said the University conducted a market analysis of the U-District with the U-District Chamber of Commerce. One thing the analysis corroborated was “the need for a dynamic mix of businesses on the ‘Ave’.”

Asked about ways that FCUR could become more involved in revitalization efforts, Hoard said, “This group can be on the look-out for people around campus who might have an interest in helping with projects along the ‘Ave’ or conducting research there. FCUR could also help find people to do volunteer work or serve on boards and commissions in the neighborhood.”

#### **City / University Community Advisory Committee (CUCAC) – Aaron Hoard**

Hoard said the University has a unique relationship with the City of Seattle. The University has an agreement with the City that governs land use regulations and establishes a citizens’ advisory group: CUCAC. This group has 16 members from the surrounding community and the UW

Asked what CUCAC’s purview is, Hoard said, “The committee reviews our development plans and determines if they are consistent with the University’s Master Plan. They basically review whatever projects come before them.”

Asked about CUCAC’s position on specific issues, Hoard said that CUCAC supported a modified proposal to lift the “lease lid.” On the issue of Sound Transit, the committee has not taken a position as yet. “We’re still evaluating different possible routes on Sound Transit,” said Hoard.

#### **Ira Harkavy’s Walker-Ames Lectureship – Sarena Seifer**

Seifer said that, at the next FCUR meeting, the council would discuss plans for bringing Walker-Ames Lecturer Ira Harkavy to a council meeting during his visit to the University.

#### **Next meeting**

The next FCUR meeting is set for Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 1:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor  
Recorder