

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
FRIDAY, January 16, 2009, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of minutes from November
 2. Honorary Degrees
 - a. Review submissions so far
 - b. Strategies for increasing number of submissions
 3. UW update from Norm Arkans
 4. New Business
 5. Adjourn
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Chair Mary Ann Odegaard welcomed Arendt Speser as the GPSS representative for FCUR. She asked council members to introduce themselves.

1. Approval of minutes from November

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Honorary Degrees

• **Review submissions**

Odegaard told members that she had received one honorary degree nominee from UW-Tacoma. The information about the candidate will be available to council members to review in the Faculty Senate office. President's Designee Norm Arkans clarified that the nominee will be invited to be UW-T's commencement speaker at the UW-T graduation. He was asked if they are still looking for a UW-Seattle candidate.

Council members discussed potential candidates for an honorary degree. Arkans suggested that they review what has been done so far to generate nominees. He noted that they had sent a letter to all faculty members, made a presentation to the Board of Deans, and contacted university officials in the schools and colleges. Kathy Gill remarked that peoples' attentions have been diverted to the financial crisis and its impact on their departments. Arendt Speser asked for an explanation of the nomination process. Arkans provided an update on the current nominee, noting the Regent's enthusiastic approval.

- **Strategies for increasing number of submissions**

Bruce Hevly suggested that it was worth sending a notice to department chairs. He noted the importance of keeping the process in the hands of the faculty or administration, in order to see a broader array of nominees. Arkans spoke about the time it takes to develop a new culture at the university, to get faculty and administrators comfortable with the idea of nominating candidates for honorary degrees. He described the letter that goes out every year from the President. He noted that he will draft a letter and send it to Odegaard. The chair asked everyone to visit their own school and talk to the advancement people.

3. UW Update from Norm Arkans

Arkans mentioned a recent email from the President about the current budget crisis that went out to all alumni and donors. He gave an overview of the state revenue forecast, the Governor's budget, and what the next two years might look like. Arkans described the 8%, 10%, and 12% budget cutting scenarios that all deans have been asked to provide to the Provost by March. Speser shared his concerns about cuts that are often made to traditional programs during economic downturns. Arkans spoke about continuing the traditional model but also seeing innovations on the margins as departments use creative thinking to effectively economize. A discussion began about the great interest in retraining and whether the university will have a role in retraining people.

4. New Business

There was no new business

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Conroy, Gill, Hevly, Mayer, Odegaard (Chair)

President's Designee: Arkans

Ex Officio Reps: Bolcer, Snyder

Invited Guest: Speser

Absent: **Faculty:** Sutton

Ex Officio Reps: Guss