

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

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Thursday, **November 29, 2001**, at 12:30 p.m. Chair Christina Emerick presided.

PRESENT: **Professors** Emerick (Chair), Dziwirek, Fridley, Hicks, Robertson and Thorud;
 Ex officio members Anderson, Arkans, de Tornay, Doherty, Sjavik and Whang;
 Guests Peter McCracken, Faculty Council on Instructional Quality (FCIQ), and Wayne Jacobson (FCIQ).

ABSENT: **Professors** Crittenden, Goldblatt, Kozuki, Regnier and Seifer;
 Ex officio members Ludwig, Russell and Whitney.

Introduction of council members and guests – Christina Emerick

Chair Christina Emerick asked council members to introduce themselves, both because there were new faces in the council and because there were two guests from the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality: Peter McCracken and Wayne Jacobson.

FCUR charge – Christina Emerick

At a previous meeting, a member asked about the “charge” of this faculty council. That charge, as stated in Volume II, Section 42-35 of the *University of Washington Handbook*, reads as follows: “The Faculty Council on University Relations shall be responsible for all matters of policy relating to university relations, including community affairs; government relations at the local, state, and federal levels; public service; university communications; and alumni relations.”

Emerick said the council seeks to assist the effort to “educate the community on the University’s values.”

Approval of minutes

The minutes of November 1, 2001 were approved as written.

Promoting awareness of excellence in teaching – Peter McCracken and Wayne Jacobson, FCIQ

Peter McCracken thanked the council for allowing Wayne Jacobson and him to speak briefly about the “nascent project” of their FCIQ subcommittee on promoting awareness of excellence in teaching. The Faculty Council on Instructional Quality is seeking ways to “highlight excellent teachers within the University, and not just those who have received awards.” They are trying to “get the word out to the University community, and beyond.” To that end, they have formed a subcommittee, and would appreciate having a member from the Faculty Council on University Relations.

Jacobson said the subcommittee will “make connections with the Office of University Relations, and get out stories to University Week and elsewhere.” The subcommittee will be try to “find avenues to tell these stories.” He said they hope to use media connections that the Office of University Relations has established.

The major thrust of the story they want to tell is the importance of excellent teaching at the University of Washington. The University deservedly is celebrated for its national prominence in several areas of research, but it also is an institution of pre-eminent pedagogy in a great diversity of disciplines. Emerick said it is “a misconception that the University is only concerned with research.” That is not the case, she stressed, and anything that can be done to redress that misconception will be well worth the doing.

Emerick recommended that the subcommittee contact Jack Faris, Vice President for University Relations. Faris has featured UW students in several highly-praised radio and television spots, in all of which the

effects of excellent teaching are highlighted. Faris would surely be a superb source for innovative ideas and strategies. Emerick said that Faris, when he visited the council, expressly requested the council to let his staff know about just this sort of project. Arkans corroborated Emerick, saying to McCracken and Jacobson, “We’d be happy to work with you. As Christina said, we have a staff that seeks out this kind of story. It’s harder to find than more dramatic news.”

Arkans and Thorud both suggested that the subcommittee be placed on the mailing list of college and school newsletters. “There is a large number of newsletters produced at the University,” Arkans said. He pointed out that, in the main, Arts and Sciences people are interested in stories on their own faculty, and Health Sciences people in stories on their faculty. “However, there is cross-fertilization in the Teaching Academy, and great ideas and terrific initiative there.” Emerick said, “We’ll place someone from FCUR on the subcommittee [William Robertson volunteered].”

Emerick asked ASUW representative Jeff Anderson what students might want with respect to recognition for teaching excellence. Anderson said he would consult with his ASUW colleagues and report back to the council. Arkans said one of the University’s major emphases is “exploration in an environment of active research in which students participate, research that involves hands-on experience for students.” He stressed that most Distinguished Teaching Award winners are very active in research and scholarship, which in turn is reflected in their teaching and classroom experience.

Hicks asked if sample lectures are presented to prospective students and their parents when they visit the campus. Jacobson said there is “an address to parents by a faculty member, but not an example of a typical lecture.” There are also theatrical performances and other presentations, it was noted. And of course this autumn there has been the extraordinary series of lectures by UW faculty on themes relating to September 11. These lectures have also been shown on the University’s cable channel. As Thorud observed, the expertise of these faculty members has lent great substance to the University’s immediate and lasting response to the events of September 11.

Honorary Degrees: Class “B” legislation in the Faculty Senate – Christina Emerick

Emerick said the Class “B” legislation was presented to the Senate Executive Committee at its meeting on November 19th, and will go before the Faculty Senate on December 6th. If passed by the Faculty Senate, the legislation will go to the president. If signed by the president it will go to a full faculty vote; legislation is effective 21 days after publication unless 5% of the faculty raise objections to it. If that occurs, it goes back to the Senate Executive Committee, the Faculty Senate, and a second Faculty vote (written ballot). If approved by a majority of ballots cast, legislation becomes effective upon completion of the time period of the faculty vote.

The following text is the proposed language of the Class “B” legislation, and will be sent out to faculty prior to the Faculty Senate Meeting on December 6th to prepare senators for the discussion preceding the vote.

Upon the recommendation of the Faculty, the Board of Regents may confer Honorary Degrees upon a person or persons of exceptional merit, other than graduates of this University. The Faculty Council on University Relations will have jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the award of Honorary Degrees and, on behalf of the Faculty, recommend candidates for Honorary Degrees to the Regents. Nominations for candidates may come from a variety of sources, including faculty councils, committees, departments, programs, schools, colleges or campuses. Honorary Degrees will be presented at either a commencement ceremony or a formal academic convocation.

If the legislation does become effective, FCUR will need to form a subcommittee to develop protocol for soliciting nominations, and for other work involved with Honorary Degrees. [Norman Arkans, Rheba de Tornyay, and Christina Emerick volunteered.]

Emerick has looked at examples of what other universities have done with respect to Honorary Degrees (as was pointed out in a previous FCUR meeting, the University of Washington used to confer Honorary

Degrees), and will share what she learned with the subcommittee and the council. The Honorary Degrees will represent acknowledgement of “extraordinary merit” and will be a “fairly rare honor.”

Emerick said the Faculty Senate definitively stated that FCUR is to be “the home of the Honorary Degree process.” Arkans commended Emerick for the “wonderful job” she did in presenting the proposed legislation to the Senate Executive Committee. Emerick said the discussion with SEC was “much more positive” this time than it was last year when the proposal was presented as Class “C” legislation.

Council members were urged to discuss the proposed legislation with their colleagues in order to better educate senators prior to the Faculty Senate Meeting. The proposed legislation is also in the Faculty Senate Web site. Thorud and Sjavik both recommended “some kind of advance notice” to senators. They said a List proc could be used to send a “summary statement” which would, among other things, assure senators that control of Honorary Degrees would remain in the hands of faculty.

The values of universities – Christina Emerick

Emerick said she has reflected on “the image we project of the University, and the public’s image of us.” She has observed “some concern among faculty about the fact that University communications to the public seem to stress the economic contribution it makes to the community state-wide.” This is undeniably of vital importance, and should be part of the image projected by the University, Emerick noted.

“But it is not the only value: there are big ideas, open debate on all kinds of issues, intellectual ferment and exploration, and this part of the University is not well projected to the community beyond the campus. This kind of discourse and dissemination of knowledge is our most valuable contribution, even though it may be less tangible than direct economic impacts. An educated citizenry is essential to the success of a democratic society. It would be most salutary, Emerick said, if this part of the University were projected to the public. “The community needs to hear about academic freedom, about our ability to speak up on all sides of issues,” she urged. Arkans said the American Council on Education has completed a survey in which various messages highlighting the benefit of educating people were tried out. “Those arguments resonate in the public mind,” said Arkans. He added that many sectors of the University “are actively involved in getting their values out to the community, talking about the importance of appreciating literature, great art, freedom of expression and open debate.” Hicks, in support of Emerick’s exhortation, said, “We must fight the perception out there that the concerns of the University are purely economic.”

Arkans said September 11 prompted people “to want to know more about the Middle East, about history; they want more information on a host of subjects.” Sjavik said that, Arkans’ point notwithstanding, “some people resent the critical thinking that occurs at universities, especially in the aftermath of 9/11.” Dziwirek said Seattle “has the highest percentage of people with a college or university degree of any city in the country,” a fact that would in part explain the depth and intensity of the city’s response to issues and ideas relating to 9/11. Arkans said the downside is that, once you get outside Seattle, and outside King County, that percentage plummets. The rest of the state does not fare nearly so well in its percentage of college and university graduates. But the response in Seattle, and at the University, was enormous, and afforded insight and consolation to all who participated. And this response was ubiquitous. Thorud said there was “great participation in university faculty-led events throughout the country, as there was in all kinds of settings outside universities.” A further sign of intellectual curiosity in this area, Arkans noted, is that there are some 35,000 people taking classes through Educational Outreach; this equals the student population at the University of Washington.

Formation of FCUR Subcommittees

The following people volunteered for FCUR subcommittees:

William Robertson – *Excellence in Teaching (promoting awareness)*

Norman Arkans, Rheba de Tornay, Christina Emerick – *Honorary Degrees (defining protocols)*

University Names Committee - THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RECOMMENDATION TO FACULTY SENATE CHAIR BRADLEY HOLT THAT A FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE BE PLACED ON THE UNIVERSITY NAMES COMMITTEE. (The recommendation will not suggest that the faculty representative should be from FCUR, but that it would be well worthwhile to have a faculty member on the committee. It is hoped that Bradley Holt will speak with President McCormick about the council's recommendation, and that the president will consult with the Faculty Senate about such a placement on the University Names Committee.)

Ramona Hicks - *Light Rail (implications for UW and local community)*

Theresa Doherty, Assistant Vice President for Regional Affairs, and an ex officio member of the council, said the University has been working with the staff of Sound Transit to give them input on the impacts of their new alignments on the University. Sound Transit is looking at five new Light Rail alignment options in the University District. She said there is a University Internal Advisory Committee composed of some 45 people that has begun to meet every month, in addition to the Light Rail Steering Committee which is a smaller group of UW staff with administrative responsibility on transportation and land use issues. She said Sound Transit just completed its EIS scoping outreach, and that work on the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) will be completed early in the new year. The scoping phase of the EIS process is where Sound Transit asks those in the community, and others, what issues they should be sure to analyze in the EIS.

Doherty said, "In working with Sound Transit this time around, we're trying to be completely open with them about our issues and concerns so that nothing comes as a surprise to them when we get to the point of updating the memorandum of understanding. This approach seems to be working for us and Sound Transit. We have two meetings scheduled for December. One of the meetings will focus on the effects of vibrations on UW buildings that could seriously damage highly sensitive research if an alignment option is chosen that goes under the University campus and up 15th Avenue N.E. Another concern is the possible placement of a Light Rail station at the northwest corner of the campus, near the intersection of 15th Avenue N.E. and N.E. 45th Street. The effect of such a placement on the Burke Museum – already affected by the looming presence of the new Law School building – coupled with the fact that this intersection is one of the busiest in the entire state, makes this a highly undesirable location for the end of the line for the Light Rail station, from the University's perspective.

"But this will be a long process," said Doherty. "And Sound Transit has said in a letter sent to the Seattle Chamber of Commerce today that they will not commence work on the northern alignments until they have a plan in place and funding secured to carry the project north of the 45th Street station."

When it was pointed out that many people in the community – and most particularly, people living in the University District and environs – do not understand the University's attitude towards the Light Rail alignment options, Doherty said, "We need to do a better job of explaining to the public exactly why the University has major concerns with Light Rail stations on campus. The public does not know what EMI and vibrations are, and cannot be expected to appreciate our standpoint until we communicate our concerns more effectively."

Voting Rights for ALUW, PSO, ASUW and GPSS council members

The Senate Executive Committee has determined that, for the 2001-2002 academic year, each faculty council and special committee must decide whether or not the representatives from the following organizations have voting rights on the council:

Emeritus Faculty (UWRA) – FCUR member: Rheba de Tornay
Association for UW Librarians (ALUW) – FCUR member: Linda Whang
Professional Staff Organization (PSO) – FCUR member: Anita Whitney
Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) – FCUR member: Jeff Anderson

Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) – no member as yet

Emerick said the council will conduct an E-mail vote on these four positions.

Next meeting

The next FCUR meeting is set for Wednesday, January 30, at 1:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder