

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS  
TUESDAY, November 18, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes
  2. Honorary Degrees
    - a. Review of procedure
    - b. Review of submissions so far
    - c. Strategies for cultivation, marketing
  3. Bruce Lee Peace Garden
  4. UW Update from Norm Arkans
  5. New Business
  6. Adjourn
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Chair Odegaard opened the meeting by welcoming the new ASUW representative to the council, Nathan Snyder. Snyder introduced himself and described his recent experience studying and living in Beijing, China.

**1. Approval of minutes**

Odegaard asked if there any corrections to the minutes. John Bolcer noted that he had been present. With no further corrections, the minutes were approved.

**2. Honorary Degrees**

- a. Review of procedure**
- b. Review of submissions so far**
- c. Strategies for cultivation, marketing**

Odegaard reported that the President's letter asking for honorary degree nominations has been sent out, and that she has received a number of inquiries, but no nominations. The deadline for nominations is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Presidential Designee Norm Arkans assured council members that most nominations typically come in closer to the deadline.

Odegaard asked council members if they felt there are any changes needed to the nominations process. She proposed that in addition to sending the letter out to faculty, that they follow up with deans. Arkans said that he would contact deans and try to send encouragement to the schools and colleges. He asked Odegaard about possible nominees in the business world. Council members discussed some potential candidates. Arkans noted that it takes effort to nominate someone. Odegaard proposed that they develop a format for faculty to download and use to help structure the nomination process. Council member

Stuart Sutton suggested using a 3-tiered system like the one discussed at the previous meeting. Arkans described the process as a grass roots effort that involves the nominating person or department to do the background work of researching a candidate. He reiterated that he would contact the Board of Deans and encourage them to get out and speak with councils. Odegaard said she would contact the advancement people in the business school. Council member Matt Conroy noted that the process they followed last year went well and recommended that they follow it again. Odegaard asked members to send her a list of their ideas for a structured nominations form, which she will then send to Norm Arkans for review.

### **3. Bruce Lee Peace Garden**

Arkans explained the background to the Bruce Lee Peace Garden proposal. Jamil Suleman, a UW graduate, recently introduced the idea to him about creating a community peace garden to honor the memory of one of UW's most famous alumnus, Bruce Lee. Special guests Jamil Suleman, Serg Khandzhayan, Issac Mustacich, and Aaron Jacob entered the meeting and introduced themselves. Suleman handed out a brochure and explained to the council his group's motivation for wanting to honor Bruce Lee with a peaceful tribute. Suleman outlined Lee's UW connections, his national and international fame as a martial arts expert and actor, and his dedication to humanity and peace, as reasons to honor Lee. He emphasized the significance of selecting a peace garden, over a statue, because it would be a communal site for citizens to gather and talk about history and social justice. He also noted the broad community support for the proposal, which includes the wife and daughter of Bruce Lee. Council members noted the merit of the group's idea and asked some question about the location of the proposal, its funding, and organizational planning. Suleman noted that the garden site would be across from the large lawn near the HUB, that community members and some administrators would organize it, and that funding would come mostly from volunteers, with the possibility of getting some university and community donations. Chair Odegaard praised the group for their passion and offered some suggestions to help them succeed. She explained how a project like the Peace Garden would need to be privately funded, given the current economic situation. She also explained why they need at least a preliminary business plan and who they will need to reach out to in order to secure approval. Arkans noted that if the UW gives its approval of the garden they would need to maintain it, which will involve UW facilities and services. Arkans suggested that they contact the university's landscape architect to get some help with design and cost estimates. Suleman thanked the council members for their time.

### **4. UW Update from Norm Arkans**

Arkans reported that he and the President will be visiting with editorial boards across the state to explain why higher education should not receive budget cuts. He noted that the deficit is not good and that the budget forecast will get worse. Arkans reported that the Governor's budget will be released December 20<sup>th</sup> and that the UW is hoping to build upon a conservative budget figure for higher education. He addressed possible effects that a significant budget cut would have on student enrollment.

### **5. New Business**

There was no new business.

## 6. Adjourn

Odegaard reminded council members to send her their ideas for developing a structured form for honorary nominations. She also noted that Arkans will communicate with the deans.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu*

**Present: Faculty:** Conroy, Hevly, Odegaard (Chair), Sutton

**President's Designee:** Arkans

**Ex Officio Reps:** Bolcer, Snyder

**Absent: Faculty:** Gill, Mayer

**Ex Officio Reps:** Guss

**Special guests:** Aaron Jacob, Serg Khandzhayan, Issac Mustacich, Jamil Suleman