

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

The Faculty Council on University Relations met on Monday, **November 15, 2000**. Chair Christina Emerick presided.

PRESENT: *Professors* Emerick (Chair) Dziwirek, Goldblatt, Hicks and Robertson;
 Ex officio members Arkans, de Tornyay, Grover, Sjavik and Weaver.

ABSENT: *Professors* Ahmad, Crittenden, Fridley, Hauser and Palmer;
 Ex officio members Chandler, Ludwig, Regnier, Russell and Whitney.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of October 18, 2000 were approved as written.

Voting privileges for Retirement and Libraries ex officio FCUR representatives

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) decided at its October 9th meeting to leave to the discretion of all faculty councils and special committees the granting of voting status to two ex officio positions: the Retirement representative and the Libraries representative. All council members present passed a motion to grant voting privileges to Retirement representative Rheba de Tornyay and to Libraries representative Diane Grover.

Honorary Degrees – Tina Emerick

Emerick noted that, at its last meeting on October 18, the council passed a motion to recommend to the Faculty Senate that the Committee on Public Exercises be charged with the selection of appropriate commencement speakers and recipients of University of Washington Honorary Degrees.

Emerick said members of the Senate Executive Committee told her that this specific proposal would in all likelihood be rejected by that body. It is the conviction of many faculty members of SEC, and of the Faculty Senate leadership, that such a proposal should emanate from the faculty (e.g., a faculty council) and not from a committee appointed by the president. The faculty, it was stressed, “should have more of a say in this process.”

Arkans agreed that the recommendation should come from the faculty and stressed the important role of faculty on the Committee on Public Exercises, which has chosen the commencement speakers for the past decade. The students should also have a voice in choosing a commencement speaker, since it is their commencement, and they are represented on the Committee on Public Exercises.

Emerick suggested an alternate procedure for the selection of Honorary Degree recipients that she believes would garner wide support in the Faculty Senate and Executive Committee:

1. The Committee on Public Exercises (CPE) would consider candidates for commencement speaker, and develop a short-list of potential speakers which it would forward to FCUR for consideration. (Suggestions for speakers come from many sources, including FCUR: the Chair of FCUR is an automatic member of the Committee on Public Exercises.)
2. The Faculty Council on University Relations would evaluate the short-list and each candidate would be designated “approved” or “not approved”. This list would be sent back to CPE.
3. CPE would then work to secure a commencement speaker.
 - a. If the speaker ultimately chosen is FCUR “approved”, then the CPE and FCUR will jointly submit to the Board of Regents a recommendation that an Honorary Degree be conferred.
 - b. Candidates designated “not approved” by FCUR could be chosen as commencement speakers, but would not be granted an Honorary Degree.

4. On rare occasions, the University may wish to bestow an Honorary Degree on a distinguished visitor other than a commencement speaker. The process would be the same as above, involving collaboration between CPE and FCUR.

A MOTION was made to amend the previous motion of October 18, 2000 to include the process outlined above. The MOTION was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED by all voting members present.

Members of SEC and the Faculty Senate leadership with whom Emerick spoke intimated that such a proposal would be far more sympathetically received than one in which FCUR was a less active participant.

Arkans said his main concern about whatever process is adopted is its workability. And the process contained in the amended MOTION passed today struck him as very workable. He emphasized the difficulty in securing good commencement speakers. Today's recommendation, if adopted, would smooth the process in which that difficult task must be carried out.

FCUR representative for Use of University Facilities Committee (UUF)

Emerick, who has served on this committee, said it is interesting and not time-consuming. The committee evaluates requests by outside groups to use UW facilities. Robertson volunteered to represent FCUR on UUF. Robertson said he believes that facilities not in use by the University ought to be made available to outside groups.

Legislative affairs – Jan Sjavik, Deputy Legislative Representative

Sjavik said not all pieces of information related to the prospects for the University's budget request submitted to the State Legislature for the upcoming session are in place yet. Even with an apparent slender Democratic majority in the Senate and House of Representatives, a generous response to the University's budget request is not anticipated. Ironically, with the present legislative composition in Olympia, Democrats are less inclined to support higher education than are Republicans. (The current Democrats are much more generous to K-12 budget requests.)

With respect to enabling legislation for collective bargaining, Sjavik noted that UW faculty have developed a set of principles "to protect that which is dear to us, and not have certain aspects of our life bargained away." These principles, calling for the existing structure of faculty governance to be preserved, and set out in the form of a resolution from the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs (FCFA), has been submitted to the Senate Executive Committee and, amended and approved, sent on to the Faculty Senate.

Sjavik said that he thinks it is unlikely that point one in the resolution, which states that the entire voting faculty should comprise "a single bargaining unit," will survive challenge in the senate. Even if it did, the non-voting faculty might have the opportunity "to form their own unit." He said the possibility of any faculty unionizing is in his opinion all but non-existent at the present time. To organize the entire faculty into a single union would be "a labor of Sisyphus," he observed.

As for GPSS and collective bargaining, the stand of the Graduate Student Employee Action Coalition, or GSEAC – that graduate student teaching assistants are employees as well as students – was reiterated at the November 14 Faculty Senate meeting. (GPSS represents TAs as students, but not as employees.) The TAs want to be recognized by the administration as a collective bargaining unit, and feel that too much time has passed already to wait for enabling legislation. President McCormick said the administration would bargain with the TAs only if enabling legislation were in place. It is not known when a strike would be called, but if the strategy is consistent with most labor strikes, it would come at the most vulnerable time of the academic quarter, in or near finals week.

Sjavik said that, in his opinion, the TA issue has the potential for making it more difficult for the University to get what it wants in Olympia. Some legislative leaders are siding with the TAs, while others are not. Someone is likely to take offense regardless of what we do about the TA strike situation. The University is in "a difficult position," he stressed.

At the November 14th meeting, two resolutions were passed. In a Class "C" Resolution regarding GSEAC/UAW bargaining, "The faculty urge the administration and/or the Board of Regents to commence bargaining with GSEAC/UAW (United Auto Workers)." In another Class "C" Resolution, "The Faculty Senate as a body takes no stand of support or non-support of a job action, but the faculty does support the action of any faculty member who acts in good conscience."

As Sjavik noted, ultimately it is the responsibility of the faculty "to get the work done" that must be done in the classes for which they are responsible. The crux is that, if faculty members were to step in and pick up the teaching load in the event of a strike by their TAs, they would be crossing the picket lines. But one way or another, it will be their responsibility to see that courses are completed and grades administered. (It was pointed out that state workers are not allowed to strike, and that most faculty at UW are state employees, though of course many faculty in the hard sciences and health sciences are paid by grant money.)

Jasmin Weaver, ASUW President, said the University's undergraduate students are definitely urging the administration to recognize the TA's union, and to do so as soon as possible. The longer this process goes on, Weaver said, the worse will be the relationship not only between faculty and TA's, but also between faculty and undergraduate students. Weaver said there is a contract at UC Berkeley between the administration and TA's, but added that it is too soon to tell how effective that contract will be.

Goldblatt and Emerick will draft a letter from FCUR to Jack Faris, Vice President for University Relations, supporting a quick resolution of this potentially traumatic dispute.

Grover asked Sjavik if there is any likelihood that librarians could be covered by the enabling legislation for collective bargaining "using inclusionary language." Sjavik suggested that Grover write to Faculty Senate Chair Mary Coney and request that this matter be addressed in the upcoming senate meeting. A motion to amend the language of the resolution to include librarians might be in order. Emerick said she will speak to Chair Robert Holzworth of the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs (FCFA), to determine whether librarians might be included as part of the bargaining unit in the enabling legislation.

Next meeting

The next FCUR meeting is set for Wednesday, December 13, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall. (This meeting will only be held if urgent agenda items necessitate a meeting. Otherwise, the next FCUR meeting will take place early in Winter Quarter 2001. The meeting dates for Winter Quarter are still being determined. Once they are known, the schedule will be E-mailed to the council.)

Brian Taylor
Recorder