

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
MONDAY, October 20, 2008, 1:30-3:00 p.m.
36 Gerberding

Chair Mary Ann Odegaard called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of June minutes
 2. Report on Presentations of Honorary Degrees during the past year
 3. Schedule and tasks for obtaining Honorary Degree candidates this year
 4. Review of current UW issues
 5. New business or new issues
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1. Approval of June minutes

The minutes from June 6, 2008 were approved as submitted.

Presidential designee Norm Arkans asked council members to consider a candidate for an honorary degree introduced by the college of Arts and Sciences. He noted that the UW hopes to extend an invitation to this individual in the spring to spend time on the campus and give a lecture. Under consideration is a possible honorary convocation, which would need the approval of the President and the Board of Regents. It would be the first time a candidate of this high rank was ever invited to the UW. Council members discussed the candidate's connection to the area and the UW. Chair Odegaard took a secret ballot vote for the approval of the candidate.

2. Report on presentations of Honorary Degrees during the past year

Arkans gave a recap of last year's honorary degree recipients. He described the Freshman Convocation with William Gates Sr., Bill and Melinda Gates. He spoke about honoring Quincy Jones at graduation and how terrific he was with students. Arkans also described the extraordinary experience in honoring the Dalai Lama last spring.

3. Schedule and tasks for obtaining honorary degree candidates this year

Questions were raised about the process for approving honorary degrees being somewhat rushed, and having a different tone than before. Arkans responded by noting that the list of UW candidates, compared to other universities, reflects a higher bar. He cited some candidates who had been turned down last year and said that he would expect push back from council members on any questionable candidates. A discussion unfolded around whether proper diligence was

being done in the vetting process for each candidate. A proposed 3-tiered approval process was considered:

1. Normal process of review
2. Expedited process—unanimous, moves forward immediately
3. Expedited process—if any objections, then:
 - a. Up to two week review
 - b. Use the time to research, do due diligence on candidate, follow up with email or phone call

A motion was made to approve the 3-tiered system but was then tabled when a call was made for a more detailed break-down of the process.

Council members were also asked to consider the letter from President Emmert sent out to all faculty members each year asking for their nominations for an honorary degree. Arkans noted that the letter has been revised and edited to be clearer and less stilted. He said that the length of the letter is important because until the nomination of honorary degrees becomes part of the university's culture, it is still necessary to provide background information. Arkans described how the process at University of Pennsylvania involves more lead time than at the UW, and why he wants to get the letter out. A suggestion was made to remove the word "outstanding" from the first sentence.

4. Review of current UW issues

- More Hall Annex

Chair Odegaard reported that as chair of FCUR she receives environmental impact statements. She recently got one for More Hall Annex, the old nuclear reactor building. The glass/cement building was registered with the State Department of Historical Registry and granted historical status. It does not mean that the building cannot be torn down however. It requires that environmental impacts are determined.

- S520 bridge

Odegaard noted that she did not have much to report on the S520 issue. There are currently three proposals under consideration, plans K, L, and A. She noted that Norm Arkans will keep the council informed of updates to the proposed plans.

- UW Campaign

Odegaard summarized the highlights of the successful UW Campaign. The UW raised about \$2.7 billion dollars from over 300,000 contributors. She noted that many of the gifts are designated gifts towards projects such as building Paccar Hall, the Genome Sciences building, and toward a number of endowed chairs and student scholarships. The next campaign will begin soon.

- The Economy

Arkans reported on the recent email from President Emmert concerning the current economic turmoil. He noted that the decline in revenue forecasts and some of the concerns expressed by deans who are expecting a tightening budget through the biennium. The state budget is shrinking and unlike K-12 funding which is mandated, higher education is not protected. Arkans reported that the President is looking further than the present and believes that we cannot stop all growth, but must push forward. It is expected that there will be some adjustments within the university.

A question was raised about whether there was pressure to increase undergraduate enrollment by the legislature. Arkans acknowledged there was some pressure and noted the marked increase in the freshman class size at all three campuses. The increase in enrollment needs more funding.

- North campus

Arkans reported that the issue to fund a north campus is up to the legislature but that he doesn't see how it could be funded in our current economic climate.

- Husky stadium renovation

Arkans detailed the poor condition of Husky Stadium and what it will take to replace the crumbling structure. He noted that the university is currently working with the legislature on public funding of the project.

5. New business or new issues

There was no new business or issues presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

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

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

President's Designee: Arkans

Ex Officio Reps: Bolcer

Absent: **Faculty:** Conroy, Sutton

Ex Officio Reps: Guss