

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL TRI-CAMPUS POLICY**

The Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy met at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, **December 17, 2001**, in The Tacoma Room at UW Tacoma. Chair Jacqueline Meszaros presided.

**PRESENT:**     **Professors** Meszaros (Chair), Coney, Crawford and Goren;  
                  **Ex officio members** Cameron, Fugate, Kubota, Lou, Olswang and Primomo;  
                  **Guests** Ruth E. Rea, Assistant Professor, Nursing, UW Tacoma: Chair, Committee on Admissions, Academic Standards and Graduation

**ABSENT:**     **Professors** Leppa and Schaufelberger;  
                  **ex officio members** Ludwig, Nelson, Silberstein and Sjavik.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the November 19, 2001 meeting were approved as amended.

**Discussion of proposed UW Tacoma Honors – Robert Crawford and Ruth E. Rea**

Crawford said the proposed legislation for UW Tacoma Honors was remanded to the FCTCP by President McCormick, and thus is being brought before the Council for discussion and possible recommendation. Following a full discussion, the council unanimously approved this recommendation:

THE FACULTY COUNCIL ON TRI-CAMPUS POLICY RECOMMENDS THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA “FACULTY HONORS” BE APPROVED, THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF CAMPUS-SPECIFIC HONORS – DISTINCT FROM UNIVERSITY-WIDE HONORS – ALSO BE APPROVED, AND THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS AN ITEM OF INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION.

Crawford pointed out that there has been a long tradition at the University of Washington of faculty oversight of academic honors for undergraduate students, a tradition clearly delineated in the University Handbook. He said, “UWT’s Faculty Honors – to be awarded to students who graduate from UW Tacoma and whose GPA is in the upper 10% of their program, and who have earned between 43 and 89 graded credits at the University of Washington – is not in conflict with the University Handbook.”

Crawford said that, for many years, the faculty and administration at UW Tacoma have been frustrated “that our students have not been able to receive distinctive honors for academic achievement.” Out of this frustration was born UW Tacoma’s Faculty Honors.

Crawford said, “The Faculty Assembly [the body of faculty governance at UW Tacoma] was asked by our administration to look into Faculty Honors. The Executive Committee endorsed the idea that faculty action was needed and appropriate. We invited the Admissions, Academic Standards, and Graduation Committee, chaired by Ruth Rea, to develop a proposal. That proposal went through the entire formal process of the Faculty Assembly, where it was approved on March 2, 2001. We conducted the process properly and carefully, so as not to contravene the University Handbook. We consulted with Doug Wadden, chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards at UW Seattle. We also consulted with Mary Coney, chair of the Faculty Senate, and with Faculty Senate vice chair Bradley Holt, both of whom recommended that we proceed.”

Crawford said, “We contacted Doug Wadden once again this year; he said his council had not discussed the issue, and that it should be a matter for UW Tacoma. We consulted with FCAS member Laura Newell, chair of the FCAS Honors Subcommittee; Newell said there was no discussion in her subcommittee of this issue. She said there may be discussion in Winter Quarter 2002 about Honors, which she expected would focus on questions regarding the President’s Medalist. Finally, we consulted with Tim Washburn, Director of Admissions and Records, who also expressed support for campus-specific Honors. It is our

understanding that the president supports each campus having, in addition to UW Honors overall, specific honors for each campus. We're hoping today that our Honors legislation will be sustained, and that President McCormick will sign our legislation."

Crawford reiterated that the UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly wanted "to do this in a formal way," adoption by our faculty, approval by our chancellor, and final approval by the president for the change in our Handbook. UW Bothell has Faculty Honors, approved by faculty vote and chancellor (at that time, dean) signature but not signed by the president.

Ruth Rea, chair of UW Tacoma's Admission, Academic Standards, and Graduation Committee, said, "The Faculty Assembly Executive Committee formally approached us with a request to establish a Faculty Honors program consistent with the overall University of Washington standards." She said the 2000 graduating class was used as a data base prototype to study. It was discovered that 58% of UW Tacoma's students have less than 90 credits earned at the University of Washington. Three options were created for Faculty Honors criteria: 1) Students had to have not less than 45 credits (43 graded credits) and not more than 89 credits earned at the University of Washington; 2) Students had to have a GPA that placed them in the upper 10% of their program, consistent with the overall standards of the University; 3) No student could receive multiple Honors.

The Executive Committee endorsed the Faculty Honors proposal put forward by the committee. It was then approved by the UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly.

Crawford said Faculty Honors will be an important incentive for UW Tacoma students. It will be an enticement not to "coast," and to remain focused on academic distinction. Recognizing the "focused efforts" of exceptional students is significant to faculty as well, Crawford said. The lack of such recognition has nonplussed more than students and faculty, Primomo added. "Families as well as students have been upset that there have not been graduation Honors at UW Tacoma."

Olswang said that Crawford was correct in his assessment of President McCormick's viewpoint on the importance of Faculty Honors for students at UW Tacoma. The president, said Olswang, "is for each campus having its academic Honors." He emphasized that there "is no substantive problem" from the president's perspective. The president's sole concern has to do with process.

Olswang said a decision about academic Honors, in the process of the Faculty Senate, would be a Class "B" legislative decision, much like the newly-passed Class "B" legislation on Honorary Degrees. The process of faculty governance could create a new class of faculty honors, but it should apply to all campuses of the University, said Olswang. Tim Washburn, Director of Admissions at the University, has said that there should be a University-wide Class "B" recognition of Faculty Honors. Olswang agreed with Crawford and Primomo that "students here [at UW Tacoma] need such an honor."

Meszaros said that, from UW Bothell's point of view, it is appropriate for UW Tacoma to decide what should be done with respect to Faculty Honors at their campus since they are responsible for graduation standards there. She was "surprised that they were not approved last year."

Olswang said the University's administration thought this was a three-campus issue a year ago, and believes it to be so now. "Is this a University-wide distinction?" he asked. "If campuses go their own way, it is not a University-wide distinction." Lou said, "This is not meant to be a University-wide distinction. University-wide Class "B" legislation would be a different matter entirely."

Crawford said, "On the issue of process, our faculty and administration need the flexibility to develop specific policies that are distinctive to our needs." Olswang said, "This is a narrow issue, which is why it's a University-wide issue." Coney said, "This is a symptom of the question of autonomy for each campus. Could I suggest that we go through the Faculty Senate process? This legislation for Faculty Honors at UW Tacoma could go through the entire Faculty Senate process by this Spring. Or does it relate to the larger issue of autonomy?"

Olswang said, “This does not relate to a larger issue of autonomy. The Board of Regents insist on this process. This could go to the Senate Executive Committee in January and be done by February.” Meszaros said, “Isn’t Honors associated with graduation? Since we determine standards for graduation at the campus level, we should be able to determine standards for graduation honors at that level.” Olswang said Honors is defined differently, and is not a college and campus-based issue.”

Crawford said, “Process is, indeed, the issue. The question of distinctiveness of each campus needs to be carefully thought through. From our perspective, we need recognition for our legislative authority and to be able to do adopt campus-specific policies that do not require continual senate oversight and approval.”

Olswang again queried, “Is this a local demarcation, or a University demarcation? The president’s view is that it is a University demarcation.” Coney said, “To bring this to the Senate Executive Committee, and then to hear from the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, is not the best process. It would be better to bring FCAS – Academic Standards – into play now. In the last few years, when enough people have been consulted, proposals have gone through the Faculty Senate process.” Olswang said that one piece of legislation could suggest differences for each separate campus. Meszaros said, “This is a good example of a campus-specific issue. UW Tacoma needs this [Faculty Honors program] for its students. It does not belong in Academic Standards since our curricula and standards are not reviewed there. It belongs here in the Tri-Campus Council, where President McCormick remanded it.”

Meszaros reviewed the history of faculty honors at UW Bothell. “UWB first asked the Seattle Academic Standards Council to consider honors for our students in 1992. The FCAS discussed the proposal and recommended that we increase the number of credits proposed for eligibility. There was no action after that. We brought a proposal for ‘high scholarship’ awards in 1994 but we have no record of what happened to that proposal. In 1996, a motion was taken to the Faculty Senate for UWB and UWT students with 90 UW credits to be considered for honors. This proposal was apparently put forward on our behalf but our GFO and Faculty Assembly had not approved it. In 1997, the UWB GFO, in consultation with administrators in Seattle, developed and approved faculty graduation honors for our students. Our honors are substantially similar to those being proposed by Tacoma.”

Olswang said, “We have a common goal: We want our students to be recognized for scholarship.” He added, however, that if UW Seattle wanted some particular legislation for its campus alone, it would have to go through the Faculty Senate process – that is, the University-wide process – of governance. “It has no means of pushing through legislation for itself alone.”

Crawford said, “This council could recommend that this not be Class “B” legislation. That could be an important statement. It could be a good paradigm.” Olswang asked if “college” would mean “campus” in the University Handbook if UW Tacoma were to proceed in that way.

Lou said there is a “host of variables in the ‘college’ vs. ‘campus’ equation.” Kubota said, “If the UW Bothell policy stands, and the UW Tacoma Honors policy comes into being, and I’m a transfer student at UW Seattle, I can’t get Honors in Seattle because there is no such thing. Who would make the change in Seattle?” Primomo said, “If this goes through as Class “B” legislation, it would nullify what UW Bothell has already done. Take it forward to the president as recognition for Faculty Honors here, at UW Tacoma. That way, we would have something similar to what UW Bothell has now. Then, after all that, go toward University-wide recognition, if so desired.”

Olswang said, “In our interpretation, this is definitely at the ‘campus’ level.” Cameron pointed out that professional schools have their own local-level Honors. But she also pointed out that there is nothing similar [at the “college” or “school” level] in undergraduate programs.

Crawford asked if the council could “formulate an action.” Olswang said UW Bothell has a “separate rule for Faculty Honors than that which UW Tacoma wants.” But he said that the UW Tacoma proposal “could be endorsed.”

Coney MOVED that the Faculty Council on Tri-Campus Policy (FCTCP) recommend approval of UW Tacoma Faculty Honors, and that the recommendation be forwarded to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) at UW Seattle. Goren SECONDED the MOTION. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. (See page one for the wording of the MOTION.)

Crawford said, "We're affirming that this body endorses actions that UW Tacoma and UW Bothell have taken for campus Honors."

Olswang suggested Meszaros draft the language for the recommendation to be brought to the Senate Executive Committee as an item of information for discussion.

Coney said she would consult with the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS) about campus Honors for students with less than 90 residence credits.

**Next meeting**

The first meeting of FCTCP in Winter Quarter 2002 is being rescheduled. Once the new date and time are known, the council will be notified.

Brian Taylor  
Recorder