

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **May 1, 2001**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair Nanci Murphy presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of March 6, 2001 were approved as written.

Michele Hardesty: Executive Assistant to VP of Student Affairs; Director, Childcare Program

Hardesty said she has been employed for 25 years at the University of Washington. She received both her baccalaureate and master's degrees at the UW.

Hardesty distributed a brochure entitled, "Childcare at the University of Washington," and five attachments: a) a brochure entitled, "Childcare: A Guide to Services for Students"; b) a chart showing the totals of student-parents and children for the academic years from 1984-85 to 2000-01, Student-parents by ethnicity 2000-01, Student-parents by academic level 2000-01, Student-parents by sex 2000-01, and Student-parents by marital status 2000-01; c) enrollment and waiting list information (February 2001) at Union Bay Children's Center, Sandpoint Children's Center, West Campus Children's Center, and The Cottage School at Harborview; and University of Washington on-site childcare tuition at all four centers; d) a University of Washington Childcare Policy Statement; and e) a brochure about Work/Life at UW, which includes information on Childcare, an informal nanny share network, a caregiver directory, Sick Childcare, the Work/Life Resource Center, family education seminars, lactation stations, dependent care options, and UW leave policies, as well as important contacts at UW and in the community related to these services.

The childcare facilities include: the West Campus Children's Center (WCCC) – opened 1996; the Cottage School at Harborview – opened 1997; the Union Bay Children's Center at Laurel Village; the Sand Point Day Care (new Radford Court to open August 2001); and the new Infant/Toddler Center (to open summer 2002).

Hardesty said there are 77 infants, toddlers and preschoolers (for the most part, of students) in the Union Bay Children's Center; and 38 toddlers and preschoolers (again, mostly of students) at the Sandpoint Children's Center (this will go up to 50 in the new Radford Court). The West Campus Children's Center was financed by capital funding through a state employee childcare fund of approximately \$1 million; this was part of the third biennium of 1993-95. The West Campus Center is for infants, toddlers and preschoolers of UW faculty and staff working 50% or more. The Cottage School at Harborview, for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and pre-K children, is not fully utilized, possibly due to its location.

Hardesty said that recently the administration provided \$250,000 in matching funds for the new Infant/toddler Care Center at Radford Court, and the Services and Activities Fee provided the other \$250,000 out of the \$600,000 set aside as matching funds to build new childcare facilities on or near the campus. Addressing the Childcare Assistance Program for Students, she said the Services and Activities Fee (S&A Fee) income has been subsidizing childcare services for student-parents at the UW since 1972.

The Portable Voucher Program was instituted in 1983. The program has three objectives: 1) to assign first priority for the receipt of childcare assistance to those student-parents who demonstrate the greatest financial need; 2) to assure equity in the distribution of childcare assistance by using an application process open to all student-parents; and 3) to enable student-parents to select from a broad range of care facilities in the local community.

Hardesty mentioned a survey, a study, and a task force related to childcare at the UW: 1) “Counting Noses: University of Washington Childcare Needs Report, July 1999”; 2) a “Feasibility Study for On-Site Childcare, February 1998”; a “Task Force to Advise the President on Selected Childcare Issues, April 1998” – a report from which resulted in a number of recommendations accepted by President McCormick, August 1999; and a “New Childcare Policy Statement accepted by the Board of Regents, February 2000”.

The “University of Washington Childcare Policy Statement” reads as follows:

“The University recognizes that childcare services are an important part of a supportive work and educational environment. Variation in quality, cost and availability contribute to the childcare challenges facing University families; and the demands on students, staff and faculty drive the need for varied and flexible childcare. For many students and some faculty and staff, financial need is a primary concern.

“The University also recognizes that childcare is a complex public policy issue in which it can play an important, if limited, role. The University will consider childcare issues in its planning processes and will endeavor to assist students, faculty and staff in meeting their childcare needs. When appropriate, the University should pursue opportunities to partner with government entities, the private sector, donors and friends of the UW.

“It is anticipated that on the Seattle campus, student services and activities fee income will continue to be used to subsidize childcare for students, and that on all campuses faculty and staff will pay for the childcare received through the UW. All decisions will grow out of careful consideration for the overall institutional budget, available resources and the specific needs and sources of funding of the individual campuses, and in consonance with the primary educational mission of the University of Washington.

“Adopted by the Board of Regents
February 18, 2000”

Hardesty said the Work/Life Office (a Division of Human Resources) is managed by Randi Shapiro, and has two 50% FTE support staff members. The Work/Life Office Resource Center consists of: a Directory of community-based support; “Tender Housing Care” at Virginia Mason Medical Center; individual consultations; and monthly seminars. The office is vigorously pursuing grants for childcare as well.

Hardesty mentioned that Work/Life also manages the Tender Loving Care (TLC) program for mildly ill children, operated by the Virginia Mason Medical Center. TLC provides care for sick children, one to 12 years of age, who are unable to attend their regular school or childcare setting because of illness. Employees pay a one-time registration fee and the University underwrites the daily fee. TLC is open from 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Work/Life Office works in close collaboration with the Childcare Assistance Program for Students.

The Work/Life Committee is “broadly representative of faculty, staff and students,” and is appointed jointly by Dr. Ernest R. Morris, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Ms. Karen Kavanaugh, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources.

The Work/Life Committee has four subcommittees. The resource committee has focused on marketing and publicity for the Work/Life office.

The childcare facilities Subcommittee has concentrated on facilitating the joint central administration/S&A Fee Funding for New Infant/Toddler Center at Radford Court; a concept proposal for new childcare facilities approved by the Capital and Space Planning Office; and a list of general childcare facility requirements on record with the UW Real Estate Office.

The Dependent Care Subcommittee compiled a comprehensive school-age care resource guide which is now available. Research has been started on eldercare and the possibility of allowing employees to pass their unused tuition exemption credits on to their dependents.

As for the Policy Subcommittee, it is researching ways in which parental leave policies for faculty can be expanded.

Murphy asked about the hours that the childcare centers are open. Hardesty said they are traditional daytime hours. The centers are not open in the evening or on weekends. The reason for this is financial. Operating these centers is expensive and there is not enough funding to extend their hours. And the extent to which they would be utilized fully is uncertain. Carlyle noted that the increase in class hours in the evening and on weekends might call for extended childcare services to receive more consideration. Hardesty said this has not come up as a possibility in the discussions of the Work/Life Committee thus far, though it may “bubble to the top” in future discussions.

Asked by Murphy how students were doing in meeting the financial requirements of childcare, Hardesty said that this year all students eligible for childcare assistance from the childcare assistance program for students were awarded, including all those on the waiting list.

Award for undergraduate UW students involved in community service – Nanci Murphy

Murphy said she spoke with Dr. Ernest Morris, Vice President for Student Affairs, about a possible student diversity award for community involvement. Dr. Morris was enthusiastic about the suggestion, but noted that a \$35,000 award recognizing diversity programs was already in existence. Murphy said both ASUW and GPSS presidents listed promoting diversity as an important priority in their 2000-2001 strategic plan. The council unanimously endorsed the idea of creating multiple individual student awards recognizing outstanding efforts in this area.

2001-02 FCSA Chair – Mary Lee Nelson

FCSA member Mary Lee Nelson, from Educational Psychology, has volunteered to chair the council for the 2001-02 academic year. Murphy expressed her and the council’s appreciation, and said Nelson should find the experience a truly enriching one. She certainly has found it to be so herself. Murphy also thanked Brian Taylor for his valuable assistance to the council.

Next meeting

This was the final FCSA meeting for the 2000-01 academic year. The first meeting of the 2001-02 academic year will be held in October.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Murphy (chair), Black, Carlyle, Nelson, O’Neill and Williams;
Ex officio members Baker, Godfrey, Hatlen, Herwig and Lee;
Guest Michele Hardesty: Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs.
ABSENT: *ex officio members* Bennett, Feetham and Slater.