

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS**

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, **May 7, 2002**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair Lee Nelson presided.

Approval of minutes

A vote for approval of the minutes of April 9, 2002 will be conducted at the June 4, 2002 meeting.

2002-03 FCSA chair

The council needs a new chair for the 2002-03 academic year. Anyone who is interested should contact chair Lee Nelson.

“The State of Student Aid at UW” – S. Kay Lewis

Lewis distributed several handouts: 1) a Financial Aid Profile: Undergraduate State Residents: Estimated 2001-02 (including a “Program Summary” and breakdowns of “Major Aid Programs” and the “State Need Grant Program”); 2) a breakdown of “University of Washington Projected 2001-02 Financial Aid and Scholarship Programs”; 3) a breakdown of “Student Budgets 2002-03”; and 4) a breakdown of “University of Washington Educational Loan Debt at Graduation.”

Lewis noted that a grand total of \$185,195,717 was projected for the 2001-02 academic year. The total number of students receiving financial aid and scholarships was projected to be 18,300, or 49% of the total enrollment for 2001-02. (This includes both full and part-time students.)

Student loans comprise 66% of the total, at \$121,880,000. Of that figure, \$110,880,000 are direct loans (\$8,950,000 are Perkins loans, and \$2,050,000 are health profession loans). Grants comprise 24% of the total, at \$43,902,000. Scholarships comprise 8% of the total, at \$15,713,717. Work/Study comprises 2% of the total, at \$3,700,000.

Breaking down the same grand total by provenance, federal programs comprise 77% of the total, at \$142,459,934. State aid comprises 13% of the total, at \$23,438,964. And private/university aid comprises 10% of the total, at 19,296,819.

The grant total breaks down as follows: Pell, \$15,000,000; supplemental (SEOG), \$3,200,000; State Need Grant, \$14,000,000; Other state grants, \$622,000; tuition waiver, \$5,300,000; and university grants, \$5,780,000.

The scholarships break down as follows: centrally administered, \$2,360,046; state (centrally coordinated), \$3,074,819; departmental, \$10,278,852, for a grand total of \$15,713,717.

Work Study, as mentioned, comprises \$3,700,000. The estimated hope and lifetime tax credits amount to \$11,300,000. And outside assistance amounts to \$10,200,000 (this includes private scholarships, employee tuition assistance, payments by relatives other than parents, etc.).

As for the estimated Financial Aid Profile for undergraduate state residents for 2001-02, approximately \$105,000,000 (not including Intercollegiate Athletic Awards) was disbursed to about 13,850 students, or 52% of the undergraduate population.

93% of aid applicants are residents. 72% of aid applicants have financial need. 72% of aid applicants are dependent. 44% of dependent aid applicants’ parents’ income is below \$50,000. 73% of independent aid applicants’ income is below \$25,000.

The average gift award to needy students was \$4,126. Grants are awarded based on need to students with the lowest resources, and moving upward until funds are depleted. Loan funds are the primary type of aid available to students. The average loan award was \$5,845. In 2000-01, undergraduates (residents and nonresidents) who borrowed graduated with an average of \$14,843 in cumulative educational loan debt.

Lewis said the fact that federal loans represented 66% of the grand total in financial aid and scholarship programs (at \$121,880,000) was “typical of our peer institutions and most large universities throughout the country.” Over the years the federal government has put more funds into the loan programs than grant programs, leading to an imbalance between the two categories of aid. Typically, private institutions have more grant and scholarship funds to award students.

Kravas said, “Work study programs have fallen noticeably in the last 20 years.” Though Lewis noted that the 2% work study portion of financial aid has been constant for the past 10 years at the UW. Federal and state work study funding have not increased substantially. Some students can get higher paying jobs off campus and do not use the work study program. On campus, work study pays between the minimum wage and up to \$11 per hour (with some exceptions). Lewis said there is “state work study” used by such units as the Law School (in clinics) as one example. Students participate in the America Reads work study program. These students receive some training from the College of Education and then tutor elementary students in local schools.

Lewis said student loans have a maximum interest rate of 8.25%. These rates are set each year with the current rate in the 5.3% range. It may go down to as low as 4.0% when next year’s rates are determined.

Lewis said the University of Washington is a “reasonably-priced institution,” but most students are nonetheless concerned about their debt burden. The University’s default rates on loans are quite low. So far, students are able to repay their loans.

As for the direction in which tuition is moving, Lewis said graduate departments are looking at what degrees are worth in the marketplace; they are looking at what students will be earning. And they are considering what other schools are charging for tuition.

The figures in these charts represent “total loans at the time of graduation,” whether they are loans solely from the University of Washington, or from other institutions in addition to the UW.

Lewis said, “We try to meet 100% of the financial needs of students seeking financial assistance in paying for their college expenses.”

Kravas said, “Are we making it more difficult for students who do not have much family income to come to the UW?” Kravas was speaking to the complaint that universities are becoming “elitist.” Lewis said the Regents’ discussions of late “are all about this: keeping access to the University of Washington for students from lower- and middle-income families.”

Asked about UW scholarship programs, Lewis said, “Our scholarship dollars are less than those at other institutions. We simply have not had as much to work with as some other universities.”

Nelson stressed that, notwithstanding the fairly high rate of graduation among UW undergraduate students, many of those who graduate “do not give back to the University.” She said “the University of Washington has had a mission of educating its own residents, but far fewer of those residents contribute to the University once they graduate than might be expected.”

As for diversity, Lewis said, “Good efforts are being made to support diversity initiatives at the UW.” The University is still affected by the effects of I-200, however, and is not where it would like to be with respect to diversity representation in the student population.

Schwartz asked if “unmet needs will go up at the UW?” Lewis said, “It is hard to predict, but the University does not want the grant/loan imbalance to go up. But when tuition goes up, financial need goes up. For some students the new need may be able to be met by parent loans, but we will have to track this.”

Lewis said periodic surveys are conducted of student budgets. She distributed the budgets for 2002-03. The categories of the budgets include books, room and board, personal budgetary needs, and transportation. Tuition is added to the figures for these categories. Lewis said, “Students can petition Student Financial Aid if they need additional aid for unusual expenses or changes in their living arrangements. Students can request to have their loans increased for the purchase of one computer in their undergraduate program. They are encouraged to let some time pass before getting that computer, so that it will take them through as much of their remaining undergraduate program as possible.”

As to forthcoming issues, Lewis mentioned federal loan programs. She said there has always been competition between “bank loans and direct loans.” “We choose direct loans. Many bank loans are waiving their fees. Federal programs are not allowed to waive their fees as yet. We feel the direct loan programs are better for our students and hope that fees will be eliminated on all loans during congressional reauthorization.”

As for work study, Lewis said, “We can’t use 50% of this for off-campus community service positions, which is what the Bush administration has proposed. It requires extra time for students to work off-campus, and there are other logistical concerns. Moreover, there are definite communal benefits for students when working on campus.”

Kravas said, “One thing that pops off the page is how expensive going to the University of Washington – or any of our peer institutions – *is* these days.” Lewis said, “Yes, and this is why we need to be sensitive to students from lower- and middle-income families. It is very hard for them now. There are efforts at the state level to look at tuition and financial aid policies.”

Lewis said students will soon be able to accept their financial aid awards online, and will be notified of subsequent changes to their awards via E-mail. They will be able to accept or reject their awards online, and “let us know what’s going on.”

Students are able to apply for and receive short-term loans on the Web. The loans, in most instances, will be available on the same day they are requested. The maximum amount available for short-term loans will be \$1500-2150, with larger amounts available for graduate students. Loans need to be repaid within three months, unless they have financial aid available sooner to repay the loan. .

“We are hoping to go to electronic time sheets for work study students,” said Lewis, one among many cost-effective changes the office is putting into effect.

Asked about the size of the staff in her office, Lewis said there are now about 25 people “who do everything.” Many years ago the staff was considerably larger. Baker observed that “the Student Financial Aid office works hard and well to do all that it does.” Lewis said, “We try hard to make our office non-bureaucratic for our students. Twelve counselors do our student contacts and processing of applications.”

Lewis said she is “concerned about possible budget cuts,” as are all units on campus. She would not like to see her staff reduced more than it already has been.

Asked about Career Services (in a previous council meeting), Lewis said, “Career Services is aware that not all students know about their services, and they have consistently worked to improve that connection. For instance, they continue to do presentations for many departments on campus: at parent and student orientations, recruiting emails to students, etc.” Lewis asked members of the council to give her any feedback they might have on this or any other issue she has discussed.

Bennett said, “I have a heightened appreciation for what you do.” He said he has on occasion worked with and observed her office for well over a decade. Lewis said, “We could do more if we had enhanced technology, though the technology that we do have has helped greatly. We have a fully integrated student data base.” She said, “Despite our staff reduction, we do whatever we can. We visit high schools whenever possible, mostly in the Seattle area. We would love to visit more remote schools, but lack the funds for such travel.”

Nelson said she found some of what was related in today’s discussion to be “reassuring, and even heartening.” But she said that with rising tuition there are “potential concerns.”

FCSA Agenda for 2002-03

Nelson reviewed the major issues and topics taken up by the council in the 2001-02 academic year:

- 1) Student Concerns and Needs;
- 2) Student Counseling Center;
- 3) Hall Health Primary Care Center;
- 4) Student Health Center;
- 5) Student Health Insurance;
- 6) Minority Affairs Office;
- 7) Student Financial Aid.

She said this more than met the goal of the council that it set for itself in Autumn Quarter 2001. One thing the council might want to do in the 2002-03 academic year is consider taking a Class “C” Resolution through the Faculty Senate. This could be on any of several issues: e.g., a statement of support for diversity in student and faculty recruitment and retention; or a statement of support for admission of students from lower- and middle-income families. (A Class “C” Resolution usually takes the form of some kind of statement of support or recommendation, and is directed to specific persons, e.g., the president or the provost or the chair of the Faculty Senate.) Or the council could consider Class “A” Legislation if it wished to amend the *Faculty Code*, or Class “B” Legislation if it wished to amend sections of the *University Handbook* other than the *Faculty Code*.

As for issues the council might take up next year, Baker mentioned that of access. He noted that access is a nationwide problem. Tuition alone accounts for 25% of many families’ income.

Nelson asked council members to digest this material and E-mail her with suggestions that could be passed on to next year’s FCSA chair.

At the council’s final meeting on June 4, George Bridges, Dean of Undergraduate Education, will visit the council. Bridges is an ex-officio member of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS), and has visited several faculty councils in his effort to learn as much as he can about faculty governance and about issues that are important to faculty and students alike.

Baker announced to the council that on May 16 there will be an Immigration Issues Workshop at 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the School of Social Work Commons (room 305). Eileen Robison, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid, will be one of the speakers at the workshop.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Tuesday, June 4, 2002, at 8:30 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Nelson (chair), and Schwartz;

Ex officio members Baker, Bennett, Clark, Kravas and Lewis;

Guest Rusty Barcelo, Vice President, Office of Minority Affairs

ABSENT: *Professors* Herwig, Karmy-Jones, Lehman, Nicholson, O'Neill and Williams;

ex officio members Feetham, Hatlen and Rasmussen.