

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **March 10, 2004**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chair Clark Pace presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of February 11, 2004 were approved as written.

ASUW Report – Sam Castic, ASUW representative

ASUW representative Sam Castic said, “As per the last council meeting, I proposed to the ASUW Senate that the ASUW endorse the *Student Athletes Information Brochure*. To my, and everyone else’s, surprise, Norm Arkans, Associate Vice President and Executive Director of University Relations, advised the ASUW Senate not to endorse the brochure, because it would not be published.

“We want to know more,” said Castic. “This is both confusing and troubling. The motion for endorsement was tabled in the ASUW Senate.” Castic recommended that the council ask Arkans to visit a council meeting and discuss the reasons behind the decision not to publish the brochure. The council agreed that that decision is disturbing, and that Arkans should be asked to visit the council.

Castic said, “We worked on lack of transparency in course fees in the ASUW Senate. We need clarification on what course fees can and cannot be charged. Are they to be for *all* courses? We want to see student participation at the departmental level in discussions concerning course fees, in all departments in which course fees are set. We know that, in Nursing, faculty are included in the process that makes decisions on course fees, but students are not.”

Castic said the ASUW’s effort – together with the administration – to resist Senator Ed Murray’s attempt to pass legislation that would extend the Student Conduct Code off-campus was successful. The bid at legislation failed. “The question remains: How does the University community address this issue?” he noted. The council was relieved to learn that Senator Murray’s bid for legislation had failed, and agreed with Castic that the issue needed to be addressed: by the University community, by the surrounding neighborhoods – chiefly the neighborhood north of the University where most of the disturbances have taken place – and by the City.

“The bill in the legislature has died, but the problem persists,” said Pace. “We can facilitate getting parties together who need to move forward with this issue,” he insisted. He said the neighborhood north of the University campus – in the general area of Greek Row – “is enraged about the week-in and week-out problems involving disorder and disturbance.” Castic asked: “Should there be a work group or a forum to look into this?” Lewis said, “Several groups on campus have been working, and continue to work, on these issues. We should be careful not to duplicate or, unintentionally, negatively affect these on-going efforts. Dr. Ernest Morris, Vice President for Student Affairs, has more information on these efforts. He is willing to meet with the council to report on the issue and discuss the council’s involvement.”

Pace said, “Faculty Legislative Representative Gail Stygall said that Senator Murray thinks the University will not address this issue.” Castic said, “Dr. Morris convened a task force years ago, and that worked well. Something like that might be good to try, something involving community members, police, and others who are concerned and who can help. There needs to be a place where everyone can come and share their concerns. We want to show Olympia [the legislature] that we’re serious.” Pace noted: “Faculty Senate Chair Doug Wadden suggested contacting University groups first, before going outside the University.”

The council was then asked to comment on the following draft of a letter from the council to anyone who might be concerned with this issue, both in the University community and the surrounding neighborhoods. The council was asked to look particularly “at the tone” of the letter. The text of the draft follows:

DRAFT OF FCSA LETTER RE: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UW AND ITS NEIGHBORS:

The relationship between the UW and its neighbors is often difficult. Issues concerning University expansion, late-night noise and trash from student parties, vandalism and crime periodically make headlines. Recently, riots on Greek Row prompted members of the legislature to consider a bill that would require the UW to adopt an off-campus code of conduct. This legislative issue has been brought to the FCSA. In discussing its merits and the potential problems with such a policy, the FCSA felt it could perhaps initiate and moderate conversations between the University constituents and their neighbors living off campus. To that end, we would like your help and participation in a meeting to discuss how we might create an ongoing dialog among students, administration, landlords and residents living adjacent to the UW. Questions we would like to consider include:

1. What are the different groups who need to be involved in discussions?
2. What are the present mechanisms for communication and conflict resolution between these different groups?
3. How can the UW facilitate further interactions?

Would you or someone in your organization be willing to discuss these issues sometime this month? In addition to yourself, we hope to have representatives from the Pan-Hellenic Organization, ASUW, GPSS, FCSA, UW Police, and Dr. Ernest Morris, the Vice-President of Student Affairs, George Bridges, Dean of Undergraduate Education, and Stan Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services.

Thanks for your help.

Gething suggested: “Don’t call it a ‘riot.’ ” He recommended being less dramatic and strident in the tone of the letter, that such a strategy would be counter-productive. Pace asked, “What *was* it, if not a riot?” Castic said, “It *wasn’t* students who were responsible [for the disturbance that drew so much attention]. None of those who were arrested were students. Don’t associate Greek Row with this.” Pace asked, “Why were people there in the first place? Because of the parties that go on there. Residents see that as the University shirking its duty.” Lewis agreed with Castic and said, “I would suggest refraining from the use – in the letter – of language that *blames*. Highlight the positive; it will help to get groups together.” Council members concurred with Lewis.

Almgren said, “It’s a complex problem. Most of the violence isn’t done by the kids, yet the party environment contributes.” Castic reiterated: “The perpetrators were student-age, but were *not* UW students.” Pace said, “I’m not against the students. I’d like to see the University and the students become a model nationally.” Fearn-Banks said, “If the situation is as Sam said, there’s not much we can do. [It would chiefly be handled by other groups.] I do agree that referring to ‘Greek Row’ specifically, in the letter, may be [to make the students out to be] too blameworthy.”

Castic asked, “Could someone request that Dr. Morris visit FCSA?” Pace said, “We’ll invite Norm Arkans and Dr. Morris to council meetings in Spring Quarter, and Senator Murray as well.”

Fact-Finding Investigation on Intercollegiate Athletics

The draft of the FCSA “Fact-Finding Investigation on Intercollegiate Athletics” was distributed to the council. The statement is divided into several “philosophies”: Philosophy on Academic Integrity;

Philosophy on Athlete Welfare; Philosophy on Governance; Philosophy on Finances; and Philosophy on Over-commercialization.

Pace said that he and Jeffrey Schwartz met with Doug Wadden and Pete Dukes separately, and will soon be meeting with them together. Pace said Wadden's position is to "focus on one or two things." Pace said, "That's secondary to doing a broader investigation to *find out* what one or two things to focus on." Lewis asked, "Aren't there other groups on campus looking at some of these questions?" Pace said, "Dukes told me that we're further along than his group. We want to work with the President's Intercollegiate Athletic Committee and let them do what's appropriate to them. We want to see what student athletes' perceptions are, and compare them to other groups' findings."

Pace asked: "How do *you*, as a council, feel about this?" Almgren said, "Broadly, as a faculty member, my concern is for student well-being; my concern is for issues that relate to student equities." Pace said, "That's a great point: I don't want to tell anyone how to do their job. But I want to make for an equitable environment. *Many* of these issues have to be addressed at the national level. But *some* things we *can* address. My idea is that the NCAA is concerned with compliance, which isn't always adequate. The UW could go further, and still compete well. Why not have academic achievement – graduation rates and other academic measurements – be highly prized by coaches?"

Wood said, "We get so focused on winning that we forget other aspects [of a student athlete's life]. Athletics *can* be a positive part of overall student development." Pace said, "On the list of the top 25 universities – based on the percentage of athletes in the National Football League with university degrees – the University of Washington is nowhere to be seen on the radar. Winning [in athletics] and getting an education shouldn't be incompatible." He added: "I want to find other groups to look at this. Maybe FCAS (Academic Standards) could look at some of it. I could then put together a report."

Lewis said, "Aspects such as governance and finance could be reviewed by other groups and that would help us focus on issues that are related more directly to the welfare of the student athlete." Pace said, "I hope Dukes will identify his group's focus when we have our meeting with him and Wadden." Lewis said, "We can always look at other issues later on if questions remain." Gething said, "It is best to collaborate, if at all possible."

Pace said, "The question is: Are some questions being suppressed?" Fearn-Banks suggested: "One would think the brochure would have been seen as a *positive* thing by the administration." Almgren observed: "We have to think what our job is as faculty members, and go from there. The brochure was a well-meaning effort that could *only* be seen as positive." Castic asked: "*Is* that perception something that could hurt us? I *don't* think all of these issues on the last page of the survey relate to the media. Regarding the issue of the logo, which is seen as selling out to Nike, students were not consulted at all in that decision." Fearn-Banks said, "The media will use anything. This is a *serious* problem. The Athletics department is a good target for 'exciting' news."

Fearn-Banks informed the council that she is on the search committee for the new Athletic Director. "What qualities would *you* like to see in the new Athletic Director?" Castic said, "One who views student athletes as students *first*, and *then* as athletes. Someone who will *not* encourage over-commercialization of athletics at the University of Washington." Fearn-Banks asked council members to send her an e-mail if they think of other qualities they would like to see in the new Athletic Director.

Pace said, "I want an Athletic Director who says, 'My number one priority is winning; but we don't have to sacrifice the *other* concerns to *be* a winner.'" He said that any candidate for the position who suggested that his or her first priority was *not* winning would be disingenuous. Fearn-Banks said, "And we need to go on increasing the graduation rate of student athletes, as former Athletic Director Barbara Hedges did so

well.” Almgren said, “We need someone who doesn’t lose track of micro-level concerns.” Pace said, “That’s a huge problem throughout the University: having vision and detail management at the same time.” Fearn-Banks said, “I don’t know yet who’s on the search committee.” Lewis said, “Athletics is separate from the rest of the University system and culture. One quality I’d like to see is the ability to connect Athletics with the rest of the University.”

Pace said: “How should we proceed? Jeffrey and I will meet with Doug Wadden and Pete Dukes. We’ll find out about any objections to the survey, and whether groups will work with us. I’m not against Athletics; I’m just trying to do my job as a faculty member. Jeffrey and I could break this down to separate pieces and we can clarify anything that needs clarifying at the next council meeting.” Council members concurred with this strategy.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Wednesday, April 28, 2004, at 12:00 noon, in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Pace (Co-chair), Almgren, Fearn-Banks and Wood;

Ex officio members Castic, Gething, Lewis and Mortel;

ABSENT: *Professors* Fridley, Herwig and Schwartz;

ex officio members Hatlen, Kravas, McKinstry, Morales and Stygall.