

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, **May 26, 2004**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chair Jeffrey Schwartz presided.

An appreciation – Clark Pace

Pace thanked all council members for their hard work and their thoughtful contributions to council discussions throughout the 2003-2004 academic year. He said the council had a year of genuine accomplishment, addressing important issues. That accomplishment could not have happened without considered and creative reflection on the part of both faculty and administrative members of the council.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of April 28, 2004 were approved as written. Pace thanked Taylor for his excellent minutes.

The Student Athletes Information Brochure

Pace said there is one important correction to the discussion on course fees in the last council meeting. The *Student Athletes Information Brochure* was in fact published. Castic said the brochure will be sent in Autumn Quarter to any faculty member who has a student athlete in his or her class.

Course fees

Castic said the School of Nursing repealed its course fees over Spring break. “There are still some discrepancies,” he added. “Students need to know where their money is going. There have been promises made by [Dean of Undergraduate Education] George Bridges to follow up, but this has not happened.” Castic met with Acting Provost David Thorud and Bridges last Friday, and received new deadlines. “We want this followed up on,” he stressed. Kravas said, “I’ve talked to Sam’s successor about this. He’s already well aware of it. Castic said, with respect to course fees, “The existing policy requires that every time a fee is administered, there *should* be a record, but in fact there *isn’t*.”

ASUW Report – Sam Castic, ASUW representative

Castic said the ASUW has held its annual elections, and all new officers are from “the Greek system.” He said that, though the newly-elected officers may all perform capably, and serve the ASUW admirably, it would be healthier, and fairer, for both the ASUW and the University as a whole if officers came from more diverse student groups and backgrounds. The “Greek system” represents only 10% of the UW student body. “Hopefully,” said Castic, “in future elections, a greater effort can be made to promote candidates from a broader range of the student community.”

Almgren said, regarding student elections, “Students may feel they’re unbiased. The students who were elected *are* biased. The only way to have fully unbiased officers is if they *do* represent all student groups.” Castic said the ASUW strongly supports keeping the HUB (Student Union Building) and other student-oriented facilities as free as possible of commercial advertising. There is widespread student support for the new kiosk in the HUB, however, as this is a useful informational source for students.

Castic said the ASUW is supportive of GSEAC but strongly regrets grades not having been turned in during the TA strike. As Castic knows from personal experience, this can mean the loss of excellent grades for students who have worked very hard in a course that is, de factor, suddenly wiped out. Gething said, “There is a new lockout provision; grades *would* be sent out if this were to occur again.” Almgren said, “Our department *has* to give out grades; faculty have a responsibility to do so.”

Castic said the ASUW would urge that all international TA's from non-English-speaking countries be required to have verbal interviews that would corroborate their proficiency in English. Gething said, "There *is* a test for international TA's already in place."

Pace thanked Sam Castic for his excellent work on behalf of the ASUW in the council's meetings. The council wholeheartedly concurred with this commendation.

Student Athlete Survey: an update – Clark Pace

Pace said the Student Athlete Survey was sent to Pete Dukes and Doug Wadden. "We're close to sending it out. We need to put it in the proper format." On the advice of several council members, he said he would consult with the Office of Educational Assessment to properly format the survey. "We'll put the survey in Catalyst in Autumn Quarter and sent it out to all student athletes."

McKinstry said, "There are many areas in the survey where 'Yes' or 'No' could be rephrased to get closer to what we want to know." She suggested that asking *how*, and *why*, and *where* (a conflict may have arisen), would be more helpful, and offer greater insight. She further suggested that a rating scale of academic satisfaction could usefully be included in the survey.

Pace said, "Hopefully, we'll get student responses and then rework this." Kravas said, "It might be good if the survey were a bit more open-ended. That would allow for greater elaboration in the responses. Question #18 [As an athlete, do you believe that to be successful, a college sport must show both success on the field and financial solvency? Should the U.W. require that the athletic program be self-sufficient?]" puts students in a difficult spot. They are perhaps not attuned to certain political realities."

McKinstry asked, with respect to questions #9 and #10 ["Have faculty been too strict/lax with you because of your athletic activities?"], "What does mean to be 'strict' or 'lax'? Questions like these tend to be more personal than objective." Lewis said, "This [survey] seems very long. We send out surveys much shorter than this that – in some instances – students do not respond to." Pace said the survey had gone from seven pages to two. Lewis said Educational Assessment could help prune the survey. "Students respond best when the survey is short." Pace said, "Hopefully, students will see that the survey is in their own best interest. But your point is well taken. We need to carefully choose where we focus." Almgren said, "You want to ask: 'What are the one or two things the University could do to better help your life here?'" Castic said, "The ASUW has a representative for athletics; you might want to have that person look at the survey."

Pace thanked the council for its "very good comments." He said he would seek out Educational Assessment for advice on formatting and pruning of the survey.

Issues for the Faculty Council on Student Affairs for the 2004-2005 academic year

Pace asked council members what agenda items they would like to see at the forefront in the 2004-2005 academic year. Kravas said, "Diversity issues will be on the table all year. We could help monitor that situation." Castic said, "A group of students expressed at the recent Regents meeting that there is a climate of racism on campus." Kravas added: "There are student reactions in the Daily to the discussion in the Regents meeting." Castic said, "Some students disagree with each other as to whether there is a problem." Almgren suggested that "there are different perceptions because there are different problems. You want an environment in which thoughtful discourse is promoted. These are *internal* conflicts; but it seems like something fundamental has been lost – an inclusive and respectful discourse – that we're trying to get back in touch with." Pace said, "There can be a difference between the University's administrative criteria and individual departments' criteria and attitudes. But yes, there are many differences of opinion. We can examine these issues next year."

Kravas noted that “commuter students feel a real disconnect. They feel separate from others. But they’re so busy that they can’t get too involved.” Castic pointed out that “it’s hard *strategically* for these people who live a significant distance from campus.” Pace asked, “How could we be involved?” Almgren said anecdotally, “I take a commuter bus, and I see these people. They *do* take pride in being part of the University community, and identifying with it. Some of them even wear UW clothing, and the like.”

Pace said, “Our students [in Construction Management] are solely concerned with getting their degree and getting the best position possible. Though we *are* a professional program.” Kravas said, “We could have focus groups, and find out what would make life easier for them.” McKinstry said, “In the triennial Library survey, we find that *place* is as important as ever; having a place to *come* to: the importance of place on campus. OUGL serves a tremendous number of commuters.” Castic noted that he “has always wanted to be able to get coffee *late*, in OUGL – and not coffee out of a machine – but there is no café or coffeehouse in OUGL at that time to get coffee in while studying.” So he ends up going to a café or coffeehouse on the Ave or elsewhere. “Students *would come* to OUGL in the later hours,” said Castic, “if there *were* a place to have coffee.” McKinstry sympathized, and said that hopefully that situation will be remedied before too long.

Kravas said, “There is also a distinction between different *kinds* of commuters. Some students *have been* on campus, and then have chosen to move away from campus.” Pace asked, “Is there anything in orientation about this?” Castic said, “The ASUW has adjusted some of our meetings to the afternoon, *away* from evenings, to make the meetings more friendly to those who must commute.”

McKinstry said, “George Bridges talked of ‘access to majors’ in an earlier council meeting. It would be good to follow up on this.” Castic said, “The Satisfactory Progress Task Force has *tentative* recommendations regarding an approval process for students who switch majors, or who want to get a second major. But the recommendations are not fleshed out. And where will the money come from? The resource shortage wasn’t addressed at all. There will be a report this summer.” Pace said, “We should review that report, and speak up if it doesn’t help students.” Castic added: “The Task Force seemed reactionary [‘The University’s going to come down on your case,’ etc.]”

Pace said, “It doesn’t seem like the University is addressing the *real* issues.” It was pointed out that there needs to be a standardization of expectations for advisers, and that advisers don’t communicate with each other as they might, in many instances.

McKinstry said she heard that President-elect Emmert is *for* students being involved in research, and that, generally, the comments on the new president are favorable. Pace said he has heard similarly positive impressions of President-elect Emmert.

Pace thanked the council for “a great job all year,” and informed the council that he will serve as chair for the 2004-2005 academic year, and will recommend to the Faculty Senate that Jeffrey Schwartz serve as a co-chair or a vice-chair.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting will take place in October of Autumn Quarter 2004.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Pace (Co-chair), Almgren, Fearn-Banks and Wood;
Ex officio members Castic, Gething, Kravas, Lewis and McKinstry;
ABSENT: *Professors* Fridley, Herwig and Schwartz;
ex officio members Hatlen, Morales, Perrin, Mortel and Stygall.