

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday, **June 8, 2005**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Chair Jeffrey Schwartz presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of April 13, 2005 were approved as written.

Comments from FCSA Chair Jeffrey Schwartz: Summarizing the academic year's accomplishments and unfinished business

Schwartz said the council had a productive academic year and that his experience on the council and serving in the Faculty Senate corroborated his belief that “shared governance is a great idea”. Schwartz thanked all the council members and made a point to creatively thank Brian Taylor “for his essential role in the success of our council”.

Student Athletes

Schwartz noted that the council “presented a Class ‘C’ Resolution to the Senate Executive Committee and to the Faculty Senate to: (1) endorse the spirit of the Framework for Comprehensive Athletics Reform (COIA); (2) authorize the Senate Executive Committee to appoint, with the approval of the Faculty Senate, a representative to the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA), who would also represent the Faculty Senate on the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (ACIA); and (3) urge the University to reimburse the representative for the costs of attending COIA meetings. The Resolution was passed on December 2, 2004. [The above – and many of the following – remarks are taken from Schwartz’s “Faculty Council on Student Affairs 2004-2005 Review”, or Annual Report.]

The council “recommended that the UW representative to the COIA sit on both the FCSA and the ACIA”. It suggested to the Faculty Fellows program that it include “discussions on student-athletes in their New Faculty Orientations”.

The council hopes “to coordinate efforts with faculty orientation programs, the ACIA, and Student-Athlete Academic Services to improve awareness of faculty and staff about student-athlete issues and responsibilities”.

The council “discussed the development of a program where articles on student-athletes, ACIA, FCSA, and COIA issues are routinely published in University Week, and presented on the University Web page”.

And the council “recommended that the present Student-Athlete Survey be improved and that it examine outcomes after graduation in concert with the Office of Educational Assessment (OEA)”.

Relationship with the University's immediate Neighbors to the North

FCSA “brought together representatives from the Administration with University members of the community from the residential area north of N.E. 45th Street, where the Greek system's fraternities and sororities are located.” The council discussion included Dr. Ernst Morris, Vice President for Student Affairs, Aaron Hoard, Deputy Director, Office of Regional Affairs, and Ruedi Risler, Senior Research Engineer, Radiation Oncology, a resident of the area, as well as members of the FCSA who live in the area (Clark Pace) or are involved in issues that concern this area, such as Sarah Hansen, Assistant to the Vice President-Greek Relations, in the Student Affairs office.

The council considered a Class “C” Resolution that would recommend that the President of the University initiate and sponsor meetings to address community, city and state concerns about disruptive off-campus

behavior, but put off submission pending the results of the recent forum that included representatives from the University, City, and Neighborhood groups. “We still consider this an important issue that will affect student life as well as the viability of our University, and we plan to continue to follow developments in this area next year,” Schwartz stated.

ASUW Initiated Discussions

“We had discussions on a number of issues brought to us by Garret Parks, the ASUW representative to the FCSA,” Schwartz observed. “These included new policies for student course fees, initiatives to better integrate commuter students into University life, and ASUW views on the concept of UW tuition-setting authority. The council’s role was to provide feedback on issues of concern to students.” Schwartz stressed that it is “an important responsibility of FCSA to give feedback to the ASUW”, and said Garrett Parks’s active participation in the council throughout the academic year made this kind of feedback possible and successful.

Future Topics to Consider:

Schwartz observed that “the Faculty Council on Educational Technology has been looking into the issue of electronic plagiarism and has asked FCSA, as well as the Faculty Council on Faculty Affairs and the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality, to consider working on this issue with them. It is highly appropriate that this issue be considered by our council.”

Schwartz noted that “the chair of FCSA sat on the student Service and Activities Fee Committee (SAFC). This provided a different view of issues facing students. It is recommended that FCSA continue to have a representative on this committee. One issue for FCSA to consider in the future is the choice of activities that should be student-funded and those that should be the University’s responsibility. This issue is highlighted by the students’ decision to fund extensions of the Night-Ride program.”

“One area of continued concern,” Schwartz emphasized, “is access to degree programs. While other groups, such as the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS), have been studying aspects of this issue closely throughout the past several academic years, FCSA may want to examine where it can contribute to the discussion.”

Schwartz noted that “the University Administration is considering reorganization of the office of Undergraduate Education. The questions that need to be addressed are how to create the most coherent and organized structure that can respond to new developments in undergraduate education and how best to facilitate undergraduate education. FCSA should have a major role in advising on this initiative so that the non-academic concerns of students are presented.”

Schwartz added: “The University has a unique opportunity with the two new positions – Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice President for Student Affairs –opening up at the same time. And we have a great new provost as well [Phyllis Wise].”

Student Activities Fee (SAF) Committee – FCSA Representative

FCSA regular voting member Mark Stoelinga volunteered to serve as the FCSA representative on the Student Activities Fee Committee (SAFC). Schwartz expressed the council’s gratitude; this is an exceptionally important committee that makes crucial decisions on the distribution of large amounts of funding. The committee meets mostly in the spring.

ASUW Update: Garrett Parks

The following E-mail letter was sent by ASUW Representative Garrett Parks to be included in the minutes:

“I regret to inform everyone that I will not be at the meeting today. I am currently out of town; my scheduling prevents me from being back today. However, I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with everyone and on behalf of myself and the entire ASUW, we thank you all for your time, consideration and helpful insight. Your contribution to the University has made our job as student leaders much easier and more enjoyable.

This past quarter the ASUW has focused on our programming. We have held four stellar events: the Shins concert, the Senior Sendoff, Operation Husky Stadium and Rely For Life. All of these events were attended in higher numbers than last year and feedback for all was great! The Senior Sendoff went on without any problems; over 300 total tickets were sold and, with minor adjustments in the future, this will hopefully be an annual tradition.

The ASUW elections took place, and I am happy to announce Lee Dunbar as the new ASUW President. Lee is currently the RHSA president and should do a fine job. Like the ebb and flow of the current, a new ticket is in town, as the Represent ticket swept the election this year. So it goes to show that power transitions and group dominance come as quickly as they go. Jonathan Lee is the successor as the director of Faculty Administration and Academic Affairs. He was unable to attend today as well, due to final exams. However, some of you have already had the pleasure of working with John and know he will do an excellent job.

Our Board meetings have been consumed with hirings and approving our budget for next year. We look forward to the new student volunteers and employees because they look like a great group of people. Our budget included funding for a new GBLTCQ center, as well as the expanded night ride to the IMA (which has been working wonderfully), a new counseling program, and countless other existing programs and organizations. The SAF committee was even able to make an unprecedented cut in the SAF fee for students, so we are very proud of everyone who worked so hard to save the students money.

All in all, this year has gone by too fast and been a whirlwind of excitement and opportunity. We hope that we were able to provide the student body with some great events, a thoughtful ear, and effective representation. We now transition and help to provide the next legacy of ASUW leadership the footing to continue to do great things for the UW. Thanks for a great year!”

Plagiarism issues: Gus Kravas

Kravas said the Faculty Council on Educational Technology (FCET) is looking at this issue. That council, FCSA, and the Faculty Council on Instructional Quality will collaborate in 2005-2006 in examining plagiarism more closely.

Kravas said, “Plagiarism *is* a problem, and has been for a long time. 80% of high school students admit to cheating. The internet is a significant factor. It makes plagiarism much easier. Most instructors are disappointed to learn there is more plagiarism than they thought there was. My office [Kravas is Vice Provost/Special Assistant to the President for Student Relations, Office of the Provost] handles matters of academic integrity for the College of Arts and Sciences. We investigate approximately 300 cases a year, and that’s just the tip of the iceberg at the University. Each student is provided a due process hearing and that takes time. There is a preliminary hearing before the actual adjudication hearing. And that hearing can be appealed.”

Kravas pointed out that “students cheat for a *lot* of reasons. Pressure, obviously, is a major reason. Some students have poor time management skills. Because they have managed their time poorly, they often find themselves with too little time to complete assignments, and so plagiarism becomes an attractive alternative to failure.” A complicating factor for some is that English is not their primary language. This has come to light recently in that a disproportionate number of foreign students have been involved in

plagiarism cases. Kravas said that the institution is trying to remedy this by doing a better job of orienting the University's foreign students. Unfortunately, these students tend to "get caught more readily". Kravas said that the majority of plagiarism cases are handled informally by instructors. However, in some cases, he noted, it is wise for instructors to refer them for formal action

Kravas mentioned that when his office finds that someone has been found guilty of plagiarizing, (1) the student is put on academic probation; (2) the student is required to write a letter of apology to their instructor and to present that letter to the instructor in person; and (3) the student must complete a multimedia integrity tool available through Kravas's office. Second violations are rare but trigger academic suspension.

The discussion focused on "enforcement vs. education" approaches in dealing with plagiarism. The entire council believed that emphasizing educational approaches is always best. One issue that repeatedly came up was the notion that too many students do not know what is expected of them with respect to scholarly work, and what is considered plagiarism. Kravas expressed the opinion that if the University was more adept at conveying these concepts to students, plagiarism would decline dramatically. He suggested that perhaps only 5% of students actively plan, and follow through on, acts of plagiarism. McKinstry informed the council that the Libraries constantly endeavors to teach students that sharing ideas does not limit a student to his or her own ideas, that sharing other ideas – as long as proper citations are employed – is certainly appropriate. Several council members commented on the need to "teach the teachers" as well.

Kravas mentioned the company Turnitin.com, which provides a service that scans the literature to determine whether the student has lifted pieces from others. In considering its use at the UW, Kravas was concerned with some of the legal issues, specifically issues concerning student copyrights. He also found the service pricey and felt that Google can provide an equally good check on potential plagiarism. Schwartz mentioned that at Bellevue High School some of the English teachers require their students to submit their work to Turnitin.com before handing them into the teacher.

Finally, Kravas mentioned his own thoughts about honor codes and honor pledges, and about whether they would have any impact at the UW. Wood and Kravas considered the possibility of establishing student honor councils.

Schwartz pointed out that it is clear that FCSA has much to contribute to the discussion concerning plagiarism, and he encouraged all council members to contact 2005-2006 FCSA Chair Clark Pace if they have further thoughts or questions on this issue during the summer.

Next meeting

This was the final FCSA meeting of the 2005-2006 academic year. The next council meeting will take place in October 2005. When council members receive their schedule availability form in September, they are encouraged to send it to FCSA recorder Brian Taylor as soon as possible. (The return address is typed on the back of the form.)

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Schwartz (chair), Almgren, Pace, Stoelinga and Wood;
Ex officio members Etzkorn (for George Bridges), Kravas, Lewis and McKinstry.
ABSENT: *Professors* Fearn-Banks, Brock and Fridley;
Ex officio members Gething, Hatlen, Miller-Murray, Morales, Parks and Robenalt.