

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, **October 22, 2002**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chairs Jeffrey Schwartz and Kathleen Fearn-Banks presided.

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Schwartz welcomed new and returning FCSA members to the 2002-03 academic year. Council members introduced themselves and identified their departments and disciplines.

Approval of minutes

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of April 9, May 7, and June 4, 2002 could not be approved.

Voting rights for FCSA non-administrative ex officio members

This academic year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (SEC) has decided that each council is to determine if it wishes to grant voting rights to its non-administrative ex officio members. A quorum is needed for the council to make that determination. Eligible ex officio members are the Professional Staff Organization (PSO) representative, the University of Washington Retirement Association (UWRA) representative, the Association of UW Librarians (ALUW) representative, and the undergraduate student (ASUW) and graduate student (GPSS) representatives. A vote will be taken on this issue if there is a quorum at the November 19 FCSA meeting.

Proposed academic calendar revision

According to the suggested revised academic calendar, there would be, on the average, 6.2 days between September 15 and the first day of school, as opposed to 6.7 days in the current calendar. There would thus be approximately a half-day difference in the two calendars. The first day of instruction in Autumn Quarter 2003, under the revised calendar, would be September 24, as opposed to September 29 in the current calendar.

In the revised calendar, the Final Exam week in Autumn Quarter 2002 would finish on December 13, nearly a full week earlier than in the current calendar. The period between the last day of Finals Week and Christmas would be longer by several days. Some TA's, however, have to work beyond December 15, if there still is work to do, so arrangements for pay beyond the standard September 16 – December 15 quarter would have to be made.

Tim Washburn, Executive Director of Admissions and Records, said to the Faculty Council on Academic Standards, in proposing the calendar revision to that council, on which he serves as an ex officio member: "Our main question is: What's the cost?" He said the proposed revised academic calendar should be more cost-effective than the current one.

There is a concern on the part of many faculty council members about the proposed academic calendar revision and its affect on Teaching Assistant orientation. TA orientation lasts two full weeks, and if TA's come in before September 16, they will have to be compensated. As one council member observed, "It's not just independent teaching TA's that have long orientations, so perhaps *all* TA's should be considered." Feetham said, "We [in the Graduate School] are not content with the TA training part of this proposal." She added, "It is difficult to begin training programs before September 16 because our TA's are not on the payroll until then."

It was observed that Faculty Fellow orientation would also be affected by the new calendar. Faculty Fellows, or new faculty, have a full week of workshops, with optional workshops also available. McKinstry said, "That could be done differently."

Washburn said to FCAS, “It is not known yet if the proposed new academic calendar will go through the Faculty Senate.” It has been noted that the proposal puts another Thursday and Friday in the calendar, which many faculty believe would be helpful. At present, one Thursday and Friday in Autumn Quarter are lost because of Thanksgiving.

Washburn also told the council, “We could add another day to the calendar for grades being due (and make that day Tuesday, and not Monday).” It was noted that Monday and Tuesday would be good for students too. It would allow students time to contact their advisors, if necessary, and to make other adjustments they would otherwise not be able to make. ASUW representative Cammie Croft concurred: “Yes it *would* be good for students [for those very reasons].”

Schwartz said the present calendar leaves little time for grading final exams at the end of Autumn Quarter. The proposed new calendar would enhance the period of time for grading exams. Schwartz also said the two-day student orientation would be helped by the new calendar. He said the new calendar, overall, “sounded very good.”

Overall, Kravas said, “Students would lose a week in the Fall, and pick up a week in the Holiday break.” McKinstry said the “Early Start Program” plans to grow: to bring in students who will take several courses early. She said libraries and the Registrar will “need to do things differently because of this program.”

[The following E-mail exchange took place between Jeffrey Schwartz and Tim Washburn, following the FCSA meeting: Schwartz: “The Faculty Council on Student Affairs discussed the calendar change yesterday. There were a few questions raised. One concerned the foreign TA training program. We did discuss that the old calendar isn’t much better when it comes to providing enough time for TA training, but it still seems to be an issue of concern. There were also questions of the impact of the new calendar on the Early Start program and the Faculty Fellows orientation program. Our assumption was that these two programs would not be adversely affected by the calendar change.” Washburn: “Thanks for the report back from your council. The ITA issue was identified early on in my discussion with Don Wulff, Director of the Center for Instructional Development and Research (CIDR), and he eventually told me to go ahead and he would adjust the program to make it work. They have been coming in early even under the existing calendar. The Faculty Fellows program is OK because their salaries begin on September 1 due to the extra orientation time involved. Early Fall start is something we had not discussed and it is worth noting that it would have to begin a week earlier. Thanks, Jeff, to you and your council members.”]

SEIU “Open Letter”

Schwartz said that SEIU presented an “Open Letter” [“It’s Time for the University of Washington to Lead on Health Care in our State”] at the special session of the Senate Executive Committee on October 21. The “Open Letter” asks the University to become more involved in getting affordable health care for the University community. “As a major employer with over 40,000 state employees, the University of Washington can take a leading role in addressing the health care crisis,” the Letter states.

Schwartz said that one major suggestion in the Letter [“With its own employees, the UW should consider absorbing some portion of health care cost increases, rather than passing them all on to faculty and staff”] is unlikely to occur. The other major suggestion [“In the upcoming legislative session, the UW should work with labor, community and religious organizations to pass legislation to lower health care costs overall, including a Prescription Drug bill”] is more likely, and more plausible.

“In the face of a state and national health care crisis, we urge the University of Washington to help lead us in the right direction,” the Open Letter concluded.

McKinstry said she would like more information on the first paragraph of the Letter, in which it is stated, “In some cases, the cost to families will rise 900%.” Figures like this need to be substantiated, said McKinstry. “This sounds extreme. There are better examples of what we’re talking about here,” she said.

Kravas added that “the legislature is facing a two-billion dollar deficit; that’s the dilemma. Faculty salaries and other issues such as tuition compete with this issue.” McKinstry said, “I’m more interested in statewide health care for everyone.”

Bennett said, “Unfortunately, a prominent response among legislators is that the University of Washington is a ‘fat cat,’ whereas, in the words of some legislators, ‘my constituents east of the mountains have no subsidies,” and the like. Legislators may see this issue as something pushed by unions. The University is caught between a rock and a hard place.”

Kravas said, “Some people at the UW are more affected by health care costs than people elsewhere, especially in years when they receive no raise.”

The Rose Report

Schwartz said there is currently a proposal in the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) to realign faculty councils and current administratively-appointed committees into “University Councils.” As the letter from the Rose Committee to Faculty Senate chair Sandra Silberstein states, “The heart of our proposal is to replace current Faculty Senate Councils and the Senate Planning and Budgeting Committee with University Councils. These councils are to be focused on the university-wide functions or activities within the purview of the President’s portfolio and those of the Provost and the Executive Vice President. On each of these councils an equal number of representatives shall be designated by the Senate on behalf of the faculty and by the President, Provost and Executive Vice President on behalf of the administration.”

The “Rose Report” (named for Professor Emeritus Norman Rose of UW Bothell, who chaired the committee assigned to assess the faculty council structure) suggests that each of the University Councils be co-chaired by one member from the faculty and one member from the administration.

Schwartz emphasized that the Rose Report, which councils members have received in an E-mail attachment, is a suggestion only at this stage. It is still in the Senate Executive Committee and has not been voted on there as yet.

McKinstry said, “I think it’s a great idea. Some faculty councils have felt left out. It is essential to bring the councils more into faculty governance.” She said the notion of the co-chairs is questionable. She has served as a co-chair on committees, and been on others that were co-chaired; sometimes that can work well, but sometimes it can be very problematic, she said.

Schwartz said he liked the idea of equal control and equal representation on the part of faculty and administration in the University Councils, if indeed it were to work that way.

Bennett said, “It’s good to have administration, faculty, and student representation on the same council. You could also have standing subcommittees to take care of special council issues that arise.” And it was noted that not all the members of the subcommittees would have to come from the councils themselves; some could come from outside.

Lewis said, "I'm concerned that our governance structure does not slow down some of the practical work that needs to be done (e.g., student insurance, student and activity fees). Any arrangement that we come up with should keep these timelines in mind."

Asked what will happen with the proposal now, Schwartz said a newly appointed committee (that Norman Rose will also serve on) will study the proposal further. Eventually, it will be brought up for approval by the Senate Executive Committee. If approved by SEC, it will proceed to the Faculty Senate for discussion and will be voted on there.

Student representation on FCSA

Schwartz noted that, when the ASUW did send a representative to FCSA, the council's meetings were excellent, and the student representatives brought active agenda items and important student issues before the council. There have been several excellent ASUW representatives on FCSA over the past several years, and the council would like to find a good representative for the current academic year.

McKinstry said it has been "hard in the Libraries to get students to become involved." Others have been forced to similar conclusions. One increasingly significant obstacle has been the sheer proliferation of committees to which the ASUW has been asked to contribute members.

Kravas said there is a UW Associated Leadership Program from which superb student representatives could be drawn. "They could be a great target group." Kravas said the program is student run, and does a good job of developing leadership skills.

Lewis said, "It is hard for students to balance everything else they do with serving on councils." Kravas said, "It is important for us to know what the student issues are, such as diversity, health care, student housing, and a great many others."

Schwartz said, "Last year, student representatives learned something *here* to take back to student government."

Kravas said the student regent could be asked to come to a particular FCSA meeting. And he has some other excellent candidates in mind as well.

Possible agenda items for the 2002-03 academic year

- 1) Craig Donovan and Carrie Coffee will speak about the "Greek" system at the University at the council's next meeting on November 19. They will give a brief presentation, then field questions from the council.
- 2) The council will ask Tim Washburn, Executive Director of Admissions and Records, to speak about the new Undergraduate Admissions Policy.

Schwartz and Fearn-Banks encourage council members to send them any ideas they may have for FCSA agenda items.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Schwartz and Fearn-Banks (co-chairs);

Ex officio members Bennett, Feetham, Kravas, Lewis and McKinstry.

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

ex officio members Baker, Hatlen and Rasmussen.