

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, **October 22, 2003**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chairs Jeffrey Schwartz and Clark Pace presided.

Welcome and Introductions – Co-chair Jeffrey Schwartz

Schwartz welcomed new and returning members to the 2003-2004 Faculty Council on Educational Outreach (FCEO). Members introduced themselves and identified their home departments and units.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of May 19, 2003 were approved as written.

Ex officio member voting privilege

Attending faculty members of the council voted unanimously to accord voting privileges to all non-administrative ex officio FCEO members.

Athletics at the University of Washington – Jeffrey Schwartz and Stanley Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services, and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education

Schwartz said, “FCSA wants a way to communicate with the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. That committee deals with student athletes’ issues. We want to ask them [those in that committee] to make an annual report to the Faculty Senate or to this council (in which case we would pass on what they tell us to the Faculty Senate). I prefer that they directly report to the Faculty Senate. I will speak with Secretary of the Faculty Lea Vaughn about how to bring this about.

Student Athletes Information Brochure

Fearn-Banks has spoken with students involved in the preparation of the student athletes information brochure (a brochure whose purpose is to better educate faculty and graduate students about the student-athlete’s life at the University, and what demands and burdens beset student athletes). The brochure is progressing well, and should be out by the end of Autumn Quarter. Kristin Henderson, a member of the Public Relations Society of America, is in charge of preparing the brochure. Fearn-Banks will approve the format of the brochure, and FCSA will approve its content.

Chernicoff said some 3,000 faculty and 8,000 graduate students could be sent the brochure. “We need to inform the faculty on their role in this process.” Perrin said, “You’ll want to go through the advising office as well.”

McKinstry said, “It is important to provide a context for faculty to be aware of: to let faculty know what the life of a student athlete is really like.” The suggestion was made that an informative Class “C” Legislation [to be brought before the Faculty Senate] might be considered: its purpose would be to make the Faculty Senate aware of what is happening with respect to student athletes.

Chernicoff said, anecdotally, “Two Biology students who are members of the UW Women’s Crew team were told they would *not* be allowed to make up exams they would miss if they attended out-of-town crew events. They would fail their classes if they attended the crew events. I had to educate that faculty member. It is required by the Faculty Code of the University Handbook that student athletes – that *all* students who represent the University in athletic contests or artistic or other events – be allowed to make up exams when a contest or event necessitates a student’s being out-of-town when the exam is given. The crew race is a University-sanctioned event.” Chernicoff said, “Hopefully, the information brochure will come out soon.”

CLUE: New Undergraduate Study Center in Mary Gates Hall

McKinstry asked about CLUE. Chernicoff said upwards of 2,700 students have already used the new Undergraduate Study Center in Mary Gates Hall in the few weeks since it opened. The unique Study Center program, called CLUE – which covers 32 different programs in 19 departments, and is open from 7:00 – 12:00 midnight – is available to all undergraduate students, though the preponderance of visitors are first and second year students. Tutoring by graduate students is offered for all undergraduate subjects in the Study Center. (There are assigned rooms on the second floor, but all of Mary Gates Hall is available.)

Chernicoff said, “No other university in the county is doing anything comparable to what CLUE is doing. Student athletes who come to the Study Center are mainstreamed into the general student population. They are no longer separated out from other students, as they have been in the past. There are also small graduate-level sessions available in CLUE.”

Chernicoff said, “Alumni Association members brought pizza for all students using the Study Center last night. They brought the pizza to the MGH Commons.” He told the council that current freshmen and transfer students have paid for the CLUE program with an enrollment fee. “This is a permanent fee,” he stressed. “So long as freshmen and transfer students can pay this fee, the program will continue.”

Asked about “offshoot study centers” possibly opening up throughout the campus, Chernicoff said, “It definitely may happen, but it is best to meet in one place. Our goal is to have various groups from all sectors of the student population interact. We want to bring students from different living situations together so they may communicate with each. We may have satellite programs eventually, but Mary Gates Hall *is* the undergraduate building. Faculty go there too, and are participating in the program. I don’t want to decentralize this again. And student athletes are part of this, as are alumni, some of whom are former athletes. We are making a covenant between student athletes and other students and faculty.”

Discussion of Athletic Program Issues

Wood suggested the inclusion of coaches in the New Faculty Orientation that occurs at the beginning of each academic school year. In addition, he said, student-athlete representation should be sustained on the student panel that meets with the new faculty during the orientation: student-athlete challenges should be raised at this forum. Chernicoff said, “Coaches are faculty, too. And they have important lessons to teach. There is a strong dialogue between coaches and faculty at the University of Washington. Head Football Coach Keith Gilbertson visits his student athletes’ classes. It’s good to have both coaches and academic faculty understand what student athletes go through.”

As for recruits for major sports programs, Chernicoff said, “I meet with recruits; I’ll be meeting with one tomorrow. It’s difficult at the present time, however, because of the wrong kind of attention the University is getting of late.” Kravas said, “My concern is that the reputation of the institution is being sullied. And it doesn’t seem to stop.” Chernicoff said, “I’m surprised the faculty have been so silent on all of this. Why don’t they speak out on these issues?” Almgren said, “I have a reaction. I’m a parent. It’s not just as a faculty member that I’m disappointed. If we as faculty can be useful in some way, we should do what we can [to make clear our concern].” Chernicoff said, “*This* council should speak out.”

Student access to majors at the University of Washington – Co-chair Clark Pace

Pace said he met with Brittany Goodnight, ASUW President. She mentioned the new credit limit at the University that prevents access to financial aid for many students. She said students feel this [credit limit] is being placed upon them; that it is something over which they have no control.

Goodnight said students feel that they’re seen as “hanging around” [as undergraduate students] longer than is necessary [to graduate]. It was noted that 70% of ASUW students do not get into the majors of

their choice. Sometimes, departments do not have the resources; it is not always the fault of the students. Also, there are limits, in many instances, on admits to majors. Pace said this would be a good issue for the council to look at.

Kravas said: “We should make certain that our students have the opportunity to speak out on these issues.” ASUW representative Sam Castic said, “There’s a two-time credit issue. Our concern [in ASUW governance] is that we aren’t included in the decision-making process from the beginning. We are told *after the fact*. There’s a lot of misinformation, and students are not made aware of much, if any, of this. We do have two students on the Satisfactory Progress Committee headed by George Bridges [Dean, Undergraduate Education]. But there are many problems. Prerequisites is one. And the lack of centralized advising on campus is another. Each department does its advising differently, it seems.”

Castic said that, as for finishing the baccalaureate degree in 180 credits, there are many obstacles to this goal, in addition to access to major. One is that double-majors cannot finish their undergraduate program in 210 credits [let alone 180 credits]. *Can* good students be allowed to exceed 210 credits?” Castic emphasized once more the importance of student representatives being included in the decision-making process regarding issues affecting students at the University. “We would like to be included *before* these changes are made and decided on,” he said.

Schwartz said, “As I understand it, from what was discussed at the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting last year, the goal of this program was to get more control over budgetary issues, given the University’s financial situation. It was not to penalize students who accumulate more than 210 credits. One way to have greater control would be to have students over 180 credits set up a mandatory graduation plan, with the help of an advisor.”

Student Regent Daya Mortel said, “It is hard to do with a double-major. Many different classes [that a double-major would have to take] meet at the same time. And different programs have different requirements.”

Castic said, “It gets confusing for students. Much advising is very poor.” Fearn-Banks said, “Often, in Communications, students cannot get what they need.” PSO representative Carrie Perrin said, “That strikes home to the issue of access to majors.” Kravas noted that the University “is overenrolled. The 210 credit rule is to try to get control over this.” Perris said, “Students are demoralized. The goal is to fix access issues.”

McKinstry said, “You should have George Bridges come to the council. Kravas said, “Sam [Castic] and I met with George Bridges.” Castic said, “He [Bridges] is eager to communicate with students, and is more than open to sitting down with students early in the [decision-making] process.”

Castic told the council that George Bridges will be coming to the Student Senate on November 4, 2003, from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., in 310 HUB [the Student Union Building].

Almgren said, “We need clarity and consistency in advising.” Feetham told the council, “The Regents have said, ‘You shall not take any student we are not being state-funded for.’ ” She said there is a sense of urgency about these issues, and that “some of these things weren’t thought through as well.” She suggested to Daya Mortel that she might inform the council of some of the Regents’ views. Mortel said, “We’re going to talk with deans and others on campus. There’s too much focus by the Regents on policy only, and not enough on base level issues of concern to students.”

Kravas said the Regents stressed that they “don’t want the University’s quality to erode,” which is what some observers believe is happening. “The problem is, it’s not simple,” added Kravas. Wood said, “If

students can't get in a class, is it the students' problem, or the department's? *I have to get my students out in four years.*"

Schwartz said, "How will the council proceed [during Autumn Quarter]? Should we look at the new credit limit that Goodnight brought attention to? And student advising?" Kravas suggested that "the diversity climate" at the University is a very important issue to students, and could profitably be looked at by the council. He also said the recent riots and their implications would be an issue to address in this council.

Almgren said, "It disturbs me to hear that students don't know where to go with this issue." Kravas asked, "What promises are being made [to students]?" He said that should be of interest to FCSA.

Mortel said, "A very important issue to students is faculty treatment of students." In particular, she said incidents of racism on the part of faculty towards students are especially disturbing. "I've heard of recent incidents, and these are not the first I've heard of. Some students simply do not feel comfortable with some faculty. It's horrid and sad that UW faculty would speak in a racist fashion to their students." Almgren said, "It's a disturbing time. And students don't know where to go with this issue." Castic added: "A friend of mine who is disabled dropped a class because the faculty member teaching the course was demeaning her. Most students don't know where to turn when something like this happens. Most have never heard of the ombudsman." Kravas said, "I've heard of advisors being rude, as well. What can we do to make our processes more effective? Students are quite sensitive and vulnerable."

Castic and Mortel said they would advance agenda items for the next FCSA meeting.

McKinstry added another issue. She needs a sounding board for loan policies. And she needs students to be involved; she needs their input.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Pace and Schwartz (co-chairs); Almgren, Fearn-Banks and Wood;
Ex officio members Castic, Feetham, Kravas, Lewis, McKinstry, Mortel and Perrin;
Guest Stanley Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services, and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education.

ABSENT: *Professors* Fridley and Herwig;
ex officio members Hatlen and Morales.