

## **UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS**

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, **November 19, 2002**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chairs Jeffrey Schwartz and Kathleen Fearn-Banks presided.

### **Introductions**

Co-chair Schwartz welcomed Craig Donovan, President, Inter-Fraternity Council; Carrie Coffee, incoming President, the Pan-Hellenic Council; David Moore-Reeploeg, Student Regent; and Sarah Carlson, Assistant to the Vice President – Greek Relations, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The guests and council members introduced themselves and identified their departments and disciplines, or their student or administrative affiliations.

### **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of April 9, May 7, June 4, and October 22, 2002, were approved as written.

### **Voting rights for ex officio non-administrative members**

The council voted to approve the extension of voting rights to non-administrative ex officio members for the 2002-2003 academic year. There was one vote in opposition.

### **Update of issues raised in the October 22, 2002 FCSA meeting**

- 1) Academic Calendar. Schwartz said there is “concern about TA training: being able to finish the two weeks of TA training that some departments conduct prior to the commencement of Autumn Quarter. Ways to accommodate this training are currently being sought.
- 2) The Rose Report. Faculty Senate chair Sandra Silberstein has appointed a committee to follow up on the Rose Report. Also, proposals are being developed for three trial University Councils, one of which would be devoted exclusively to undergraduate issues.
- 3) Union letter on health benefits. The Faculty Senate voted to support the union’s letter on health benefits. The goal is to get both the University and the state legislature more involved in this issue.

### **Reform in Intercollegiate Athletics – Jeffrey Schwartz**

Schwartz distributed a “Preliminary Plan to Strengthen Faculty Leadership on Intercollegiate Athletics: 11 November 2002”: a resolution of the Big Ten Faculty Leaders’ Ad Hoc Committee on Athletics. Schwartz had previously distributed a letter on this issue from Bob Eno, President, Faculty Council, Indiana University.

Schwartz said the current assessment of intercollegiate athletics “goes back to the Bobby Knight affair” [former Indiana University Head Basketball Coach Bobby Knight, who was fired by the University because of repeated behavioral abuses].

After the firing, Brand called for reforms of college athletics during a speech before the National Press Club. Brand was recently hired as the president and chief executive of the NCAA. Brand suggested the following:

- Make certain that academic support systems for athletes are totally integrated into university-wide efforts (to reduce isolation of athletes from the rest of the student body).
- Resist over-commercialization of sports.
- Resist subsidizing athletic programs from the academic side of the institution.
- Support the development of true developmental leagues for the pros.

After Brand’s speech, the Big Ten schools put together a resolution to encourage discussion on athletic programs and to endorse Brand’s suggestions. They sent this resolution to the Pac 10 schools to garner

further support. The resolution came to our Faculty Senate Executive committee a couple of years ago. There was general support for the resolution. It went to the FCFA (Faculty Affairs) who deleted the part about developmental leagues. It then returned to the SEC where it was voted down. The SEC felt that there was no need to pursue this resolution as the Knight affair had been resolved and there was no “public outcry” about college athletics.

Then, a couple of weeks ago, Sandra Silberstein passed on the letter from Bob Eno, the president of the Faculty Council at Indiana University, that the council received via E-mail. In a nutshell, Indiana University is spearheading a drive from the Big Ten faculty to contribute to a “growing national discussion of the need for significant changes in inter-collegiate athletics.” He passed on the letter to the faculty leadership of Pac 10 schools, who, by the way, did almost unanimously support the original resolution. He asked, not for support of their efforts, but instead, whether we wanted to stay involved in the discussion in any way.

Sandra Silberstein passed on Eno’s comments to FCSA and to the FCFA. The chair of the FCFA and Schwartz have met to talk about the issue, and have begun communicating with Eno on the subject. The most recent report to come out of the Big Ten group lists the following key points:

- It is a preliminary plan to strengthen faculty leadership on intercollegiate athletics.
- Faculty leadership is just the first step in reforming intercollegiate athletics.
- The long-term goal is to contribute to the reform of athletics such that, ultimately, the operation of intercollegiate athletics is fully consistent with the educational missions of universities.
- Big Ten faculty members will consider the following:
  - Statement of general endorsement for reforms developed by presidents of bowl championship series conference schools and currently under consideration by the NCAA.
  - Issues concerning the role of faculty governance and faculty oversight in athletic programs.
  - Specific student-athlete welfare proposals.
  - Commercialization and cost-containment issues.

Schwartz said many faculty at the UW and at the other schools assessing this issue believe “there is a need to change intercollegiate athletics.” He would appreciate hearing from council members by E-mail if they have particular responses, and he would also like to hear from student representatives. “We can discuss this issue at the next FCSA meeting in greater detail,” he concluded.

**Overview of the Greek System: goals and challenges - Craig Donovan, President, Inter-Fraternity Council; Carrie Coffee, incoming President, the Panhellenic Council; David Moore-Reeploeg, Student Regent; and Sarah Carlson, Assistant to the Vice President – Greek Relations, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.**

Kravas said, “The Greek system is an important part of student life on campus.” For the council to gain a deeper appreciation of the Greek system at the University of Washington, Kravas asked several students holding important positions in student life at the UW – both in the Greek system and outside it – to speak with the council today.

Craig Donovan, President, Inter-Fraternity Council, said the IFC – an umbrella organization that overlooks 27 fraternities and some 1,500 members – will elect a new board on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Donovan said the IFC, in its various capacities, sponsors educational speakers, promotes awareness of alcohol use and abuse, participates in several activities in “Greek Week,” in many philanthropic activities, and works towards building constructive relations with both the University community and the larger

community outside the University. Donovan said the Greek system has a “Standards Board” that can and does “sanction behavior,” when necessary.

Donovan said he was a student orientation leader in the summer of 2002. The goal of the orientation was to “get students to feel comfortable on campus.” He said that he worked with some 7,000 people, including freshmen, transfers and family members, this year at the UW. “The theme of much of our work is that, for students to be successful, they need to be involved in some sort of community. This is what is good about the Greek system; it provides a community. It directs students to engage in social and communal events. It teaches them philanthropy. At our chapter policy discussions, we always emphasize our motto: ‘Work hard, play hard.’”

Donovan said his “favorite part of Greek life is meeting and observing the new freshmen, and helping them come ‘out of the shell.’” The national Inter-Fraternity Council found that students who come out of the Greek system “are more likely to graduate, and are more likely to contribute as alumni.”

Donovan said the IFC is encouraging students in the Greek system to accept and experience “diversity in race and religion,” to develop the characteristics they will need to join the larger community, which, as Kravas pointed out, is becoming one of greater and greater diversity. “We’re a leadership factory,” said Donovan. “Consider a chapter treasurer who might oversee a budget of \$100,000, or consider each Greek organizations’ weekly meeting when we all come together to discuss business and community involvement.”

Donovan said a major challenge for the IFC and the Greek community as a whole is to combat the deleterious image of the Greek community brought about by the poor behavior of some of its members. “Not all Greek members represent the Greek system well,” he observed. “Our recruitment numbers are down, and the bad image that a few individuals, or a particular chapter, can give the system overall is a challenge we must accept and meet.”

Donovan said, “In the 1950’s, sororities and fraternities experienced their ‘golden age.’ In the ‘60’s and ‘70’s, many anti-group sentiments developed among university students, especially toward the Greek system. We’re the children of anti-group sentiment.”

Donovan said hazing practices have had an especially deleterious effect on the Greek system’s image. One fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon, “had a terrible practice, yet its charter was not revoked. This is unfortunate, since that fraternity does not represent the rest of the Greek system. And in Deke’s case it is not only students who are involved in hazing. Alumni have also participated. It is despicable.”

Donovan said that, overall, “I’ve had unique experiences in the Greek system, but the outcome was not unique. All students who properly participate in the Greek system develop personally, intellectually and socially, and are prepared to be leaders and contributors in the community.”

Carrie Coffee, incoming President of the Panhellenic Council, said the Panellenic Council “is in charge of unity among the Greek sororities.” She said there is a genuine “sisterhood” among its members, and a marked sense of “loyalty.” A strong priority of the Council is to “set goals for the future, and to participate in organizations around the campus: in business, religion, athletics, and politics.” Coffee said, “Our system is unique. We are owned by our own corporation, not by the University, and are connected to the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC). This has advantages and problems both. We allow the University to ‘support’ us, but each chapter [sorority] is run individually. The Panhellenic Council is in a middle position. We have had to punish more than one chapter for violation of standards of behavior all chapters are pledged to uphold.”

Coffee said the National Panhellenic Conference decided to support “the fraternities’ goal of being dry.” She said, “We are getting our members to understand this better.” She said there “is liability within houses. We will have sororities and fraternities meet on November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss this issue, and to hear a presentation.” Asked about the recruitment process, Coffee said, “Recruitment is worked on all year. There is a formal recruitment two weeks before the school year starts. Our organization assists the orientation process, during which girls visit the various sorority houses, and see all aspects of life there.”

She said the Panhellenic Council is involved with “Greek Week,” with Homecoming, with special presentations, and with various kinds of “education beyond academic life.” At a retreat called “Impact,” Coffee said, “members of the Greek system dedicated themselves to strengthening the Greek commitment; to developing goals along with alumni facilitators; and to developing a Greek system ‘clean-up,’ and other programs.” She said for all those in the Greek system who dedicate themselves in these ways, “it is exciting to get involved.” Coffee asked council members if they had questions.

Asked about specific punishment for violations of standards, Coffee said, “Privileges are taken away. Depending on the violation, a house may be disallowed dances, or disallowed to participate in Homecoming festivities, or specific social functions. A probation can be for five weeks or ten weeks, again, depending on the violation. The Standards Board makes the decision on the appropriate punishment.”

David-Moore Reeploeg, Student Regent, said there are several African American fraternities and sororities, and one umbrella organization representing all eight nationwide charter members of the African American National Pan-Hellenic Council. There are two Latino fraternities and two Latino sororities. There are three Asian fraternities and two Asian sororities. The Standards Board also makes decisions on infractions by these houses in the Greek system.

Moore-Reeploeg said, “A major goal of mine as Student Regent is to get students more involved with administration at the UW, to bring students and administrators together.” He asked council members to let him know if they see or hear of opportunities for this to happen. As for working with K-12, Moore-Reeploeg said, “We have faculty out there, but it’s not organized. I’m working on this.”

Asked about intercollegiate athletics, Moore-Reeploeg said, “Gus Kravas and I and others will attend a fireside chat tonight on this issue. Nationwide, there is a sentiment that student athletes do not get the best possible experience out of their university life. We would like to see if that is the case here, and change it to whatever degree possible.”

Moore-Reeploeg said the search for the new president of the University “is a big item on the table” for students throughout the University, in and out of the Greek system. He said a large concern of his is whether or not students are adequately prepared “for life *after* their life at the University.”

Asked about the agreement between the Greek system and the University regarding hazing, alcohol, and other issues of abuse, Coffee said, “The biggest thing is lack of understanding. New members to Greek houses are not educated on these issues. We want to get everyone on the same page about alcohol abuse, and our privileges and restrictions regarding alcohol. My thought is that the agreement is a smart thing because it’s life and death that’s at issue, and it’s the law. But it’s a hard challenge for some.”

Donovan said, “We’re regulated by national groups and by the agreement. They keep us aware of what we need to be aware of. It’s good to have responsible people concerned.” Coffee said, “Also, we’re *here* because of the University; it’s *why* we’re here in the first place.”

Morales asked, “How do you identify prospects [for the Greek system]?” Donovan said, “The IFC mails out invitations [to participate in orientation] and the sororities do the same. There are informal orientations initially.” Morales said, “The University has now moved to triple rooms in residence halls because of problems with available housing. Could you help with that problem?” Coffee said, “There are about six chapters that continue to have informal recruitment throughout the year. Students from residence halls would certainly be welcome to go through that process.”

Asked about relations with the City, Coffee said the Fire Department has discussed fire safety with both sororities and fraternities. As for the difficulties with rowdy crowds outside Greek houses, she said those crowds are a combination of Greek-system and non-Greek-system people, and police “take care of such crowds.”

Kravas asked what students in the Greek system pay for liability. He said the rates keep going up. “What controls over your membership do you have on live-out parties?” Sarah Carlson, Assistant to the Vice President – Greek Relations, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, said “Fraternities have to pay extreme amounts per member. Some houses have gone dry.”

Carlson said, “One thing can be said with certainty. With just about everything that goes wrong in the houses in the Greek system – and this means predominantly in the fraternities – alcohol is involved. It is a difficult thing to manage, and there are inordinate numbers of lawsuits.” Coffee said, “All houses use bus systems regulated by their chapters when they go to live-out parties.”

McKinstry said, “As head of the Undergraduate Library, I can tell you that we have 10,000 people a day in the OUGL. In group actions, many fraternities camp in our library – as well as in other libraries in the University – for distinctly non-academic purposes. Last year, we wrote a letter addressing this issue, and stated that we wanted to work on constructive projects. But these students do not identify themselves.”

Carlson said, “This kind of thing should not be tolerated. What happens is that some of these students are locked out of their rooms, and seek out whatever warm and comfortable surroundings they can. Since few such environments can be found late at night, they often end up in the OUGL and the other libraries.” Fearn-Banks said, “It’s always the Greek system that is thought of, when these kinds of things happen.” Coffee said, “This is always a problem. As the adage says, ‘We’re only as strong as our weakest link.’ But this is a problem in *any* group situation throughout society.”

Asked what the Greek system does to acknowledge scholarship students, Donovan said, “Students who receive noteworthy scholarships are honored in various ways, for such achievements reflect positively on the student’s chapter and the Greek system as a whole.” Asked about grades, Donovan said, “Individual grades are not made public. A fraternity’s or sorority’s collective grades are posted on the Web and elsewhere.” Coffee said, “If you don’t maintain your academic standing, you can’t remain in the Greek system, and those who wish to serve as officers in a Greek system organization bear a particular responsibility to maintain their academic standing. Academics are seriously promoted in the Greek system.”

Kravas asked, “What are you doing about diversity in the Greek system?” Coffee said, “The United Greek Council is being formed. The Council will establish a constitution the heart of which will be the recognition of the importance of diversity in the Greek system in universities throughout the country.” Donovan said, “Some people *want* to join specifically African American houses. I don’t know if we’re in competition with those houses.” Fearn-Banks said, “Black houses are a feeder system for the larger society. They are not part of the larger Greek system.” Kravas said, “As for diversity in the Greek system in the future, if the system does not move toward greater diversity, it will die out. It must be *planful*.” Morales pointed out that “one out of every three freshmen is a student of color.”

Schwartz asked if elitism could be said to exist in the Greek system, a charge leveled against the system for decades. “Would any student be denied?” he asked. Coffee said, “It’s hard to say. But people are not shunned. With any chapter, not all students are from well-to-do families. I wouldn’t say it’s always that way. But certainly, several people I know in the Greek system are not from privileged backgrounds.”

Carlson asked about advisors for fraternities and sororities. “There’s not a lot of contact between faculty and these organizations.” Coffee said, “My chapter tried to do a scholarship dinner last year, and not many faculty came. That may have been because of exceptionally busy schedules to which they were already committed. But we would still be confronted with the question: Would faculty *go* to such events, if they existed in greater quantity?” Kravas said, “That would definitely be a great first step: inviting faculty to dinner at one of your houses. The informality of that approach would be more effective, I think, than a more formal approach, as a way of initiating a closer relationship with faculty.”

Moore-Reeploeg said, “The University’s not a lot of fun, quite frankly. There’s not a lot of friendliness on campus. We’re trying to make it a more congenial atmosphere.” Coffee said, “We *also* are trying to do more to make the University a congenial atmosphere, such as expanding social events at Homecoming next year. That’s a personal goal of mine, and one I will be able to work on as President of the Panhellenic Council.”

Schwartz thanked Donovan, Coffee, and Moore-Reeploeg for excellent presentations and informative discussion, and said, “If there are any issues you’re involved in that this council can help you with, let us know.”

**Next meeting**

The next FCSA meeting is set for Tuesday, December 17, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor  
Recorder

**PRESENT:** *Professors* Schwartz and Fearn-Banks (co-chairs), and Herwig;  
*Ex officio members* Bennett, Feetham, Hatlen, Kravas, Carlson (for Lewis), McKinstry and Morales; *guests* Craig Donovan, President, Inter-Fraternity Council; Carrie Coffee, President, Pan-Hellenic Council; David Moore-Reeploeg, Student Regent; and Sarah Carlson, Assistant to the Vice President – Greek Relations, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

**ABSENT:** *Professors* Fridley, Karmy-Jones and Williams;  
*ex officio members* Lewis (represented by Sarah Carlson).