

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
Friday, October 20, 2006
36 Gerberding Hall

Brian Fabien called the meeting to order at: 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of the Minutes
2. Report from the Chair (re. recent SEC meeting)
3. FCSA goals for 2006-2007

1. Approval of Minutes

Chair Brian Fabien asked the Council if there were any objections to the approval of the minutes for the June 7, 2006, FCSA meeting. Hearing none, he announced that the minutes were approved.

2. Report from the Chair

Fabien reported on the following issues brought up at the recent Senate Executive Committee meeting for FCSA attention:

1) Tuition at the UW

A plan is being developed to address the widening funding gap between the UW and peer institutions, such as the University of Michigan and UC Berkeley. The hope is that the plan will close the gap within the next 4-6 years through either increased financial support from the legislature or through local tuition control.

2) Recent change in admissions procedures

A recent change in admissions procedures requires that students successfully complete work they have committed to completing during their senior year of high school. Students admitted to the University of Washington can now expect to have their final high school transcripts scrutinized for any failure to complete courses required for admissions or any significant drop in GPA. This provision was put in place to ensure that students do not succumb to "senioritis." This past year, about 23 students' admissions (out of an entering class of about 5,000) were revoked for one of those two reasons. This story received widespread media coverage, which helped spread the word that the UW will be expecting incoming freshmen to keep up their efforts in high school – even after admission letters have been received. A question was raised about what happened to those 23 students. Eric Godfrey replied that that was a good question and one worth following up on, he didn't have the answer. He did report that feedback from both parents and high school counselors has been very positive – giving them a real reason to document the importance of those final few months of high school.

This change is part of the new holistic review approach to admissions that takes many more aspects of each applicant into consideration than simply GPA and SAT scores. In so doing, admissions personnel have been able to identify and credit particular strengths that would not have been considered before. Even so, reported Godfrey, the overall GPA and SAT scores of the entering freshman class were almost the same as the year before – and the resulting class composition this year was significantly more diverse.

3) Cost of textbooks

Bryan Pearce from the University Bookstore will be on the agenda of the next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the problem of increasingly expensive textbooks. Fabien noted that textbook publishers are hoping for equal time in order to explain the complexities of the situation.

ASUW representative Erin Shields reported that the ASUW had passed a resolution last year that called for elimination of bundling of textbooks and for prohibiting the requirement to purchase new editions of textbooks when the changes from the previous edition were not significant.

It's clear that much of the increase in price is due to the full color, glossy approach to the production of textbooks with huge numbers of pictures. But given the alternative to a more minimalist approach to learning materials (low-cost, photocopied note packets), Brooke Miller (sitting in for Carrie Perrin) recounted an experience of hearing many complaints from math students who claimed to prefer "real" textbooks. All agreed that the issue is complex.

Other issues discussed at the Senate Executive Committee Meeting included the impact of plans for Sound Transit and the SR-520 bridge replacement on UW infrastructure, especially Health Sciences and the Medical Center, and multi-disciplinary education. For the latter, a special committee has been established to explore ways to facilitate this increasingly attractive approach to higher education.

3. FCSA Goals

The following were suggested as possible agenda items for the FCSA agenda during the coming academic year:

1. Student behavior on campus after hours and on weekends
2. Continued Council involvement in the work of the "North of 45th" initiative
3. Tuition issues (new and continued from last year)
4. Admissions issues (new and continued from last year)
5. Access to majors and required classes (continued from last year)
6. Participation in development of Provost's Vision Statement
7. Possible emerging student housing issues
8. Possible ICA issues

9. Commuter student issues (new and continued from last year)
10. Husky Promise
11. Campus climate for students

Detail of Council discussion related to the list above:

1. Student behavior on campus after hours and on weekends was the subject of a recent local newspaper article, detailing student participation in underage drinking and vandalism. The article also documented the number of registered sex offenders living in very close vicinity to Greek houses and student rentals.
2. Both Eric Godfrey and Jeffrey Schwartz participated in the North of 45th Working Group. At the Chair's request, Godfrey will arrange to have Julia Gold (who chaired the Group) join him and Schwartz to present the Group's recommendations to the Council at its next meeting in November. Council feedback will be taken back to the President and the on-going Committee charged with oversight of implementation of the recommendations.
3. Administration and students often find themselves at odds when it comes to questions of tuition. FCSA could work more actively with ASUW to explore ways of becoming more effective partners in Olympia.
4. The Council will continue to follow the evolution of the new holistic review approach to admissions.
5. The Council will continue to discuss problems related to access to majors and required classes.
6. Any FCSA feedback on the Provost's vision statement will need to be completed by the end of the year as the final version will go to the Regents for consideration in January.
7. This year's class was significantly larger than last year's, and Housing and Food Services was hard-pressed to accommodate all the students requesting a dorm room. FCSA might consider how to address this problem.
8. FCSA stands ready to address any issues that come up related to ICA, but all present seemed to feel that the current director of ICA, Todd Turner, seems to be implementing very effective programs to address issues that had plagued the program in the past.
9. FCSA will continue to discuss commuter issues.
10. Eric Godfrey reported that the Husky Promise program just came together in the past couple of weeks. The UW has always been comparatively accessible to students from low-income families, but there was a growing concern about the

UW's ability to sustain that accessibility. Yesterday, the Board of Regents approved the Husky Promise program that will provide all qualified state residents from low and lower-middle income households with four years of tuition and fees. This is a long term commitment that will be assessed every few years. Funding will come from a redirection of funds currently slated for student financial aid and a fundraising strategy ("Students First") focused on student support. Godfrey assured Council members that information about this program will be widely and effectively disseminated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. *Minutes by Susan Folk, Staff Assistant, Office of Regional Affairs, 1-4183, sfolk@u.washington.edu*

Present: **Faculty Members:** Fabien, Fearn-Banks, Rasmussen, Schwartz
 President's Designee: Godfrey
 Ex-officio Members: Shields, Winans

Absent: **Faculty Members:** Brock, Stoelinga
 Ex-officio Members: Collins (excused), Perrin (excused)

Guests: Brooke Miller for Carrie Perrin