

**University of Washington**  
**Faculty Council on Student Affairs**  
Tuesday, 10 May 2006  
36 Gerberding Hall

Jeffrey Schwartz (acting for Chair Clark Pace, who was out of town) called the meeting to order at 2:37.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of Minutes
2. ASUW Report – Jonathan Lee, ASUW representative.
3. GPSS Report – Richard Nobels, GPSS representative
4. Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost, Office of the Provost
5. University Park Neighborhood – Jeffrey Schwartz

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Hearing no suggestions or corrections, the Chair announced that the minutes of the 12 April 2006 FCSA meeting were approved as written.

**2. ASUW Report**

Jonathan Lee reported that end-of-year activities are now happening and current ASUW leadership is preparing for a smooth transition, with elections for new leadership slated for tomorrow (May 11). Plans are in the making for a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASUW.

He also reported that ASUW is considering asking administration to promote usage of the Catalyst “student whine line.” ASUW sees a potential for misuse of the system. Ensuing discussion brought up the point that new technologies such as this have always brought the potential for misuse – but that the benefits have in general outweighed the risks involved in the new technology. (One member cited the initial concern about potential harmful effects associated the installation of telephones in dorm rooms.) Nevertheless, the Council felt that open discussion and awareness of the risks associated are certainly warranted, and it would be a good topic for further FCSA discussion.

The issues of local control of tuition and differential tuition have come up for ASUW discussion again. Jonathan reported that ASUW opinion has not strayed from its initial opposition of these proposals over the past four years. With local control of tuition, there would be very little incentive for the state to increase or even continue funding for higher education. Differential tuition sends the signal that some majors are more valuable than others – and increases the possibility that underrepresented minority students might be excluded from the major of their choice.

Jonathan is pleased with the directions being taken in the committees tasked with finding new vice provosts and the North of 45<sup>th</sup> Committee. All these have strong and active student representation, and the committees will be offering nominations and recommendations before the end of the Spring Quarter.

Jeffrey Schwartz re-visited the subject of textbooks discussed at the March Meeting. He had recently heard of a plan to offer the alternative of rental textbooks at the University of Michigan.

### **3. GPSS Report**

Discussion deferred.

### **4. Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost**

Gus Kravas and Gunnar Almgren introduced Ana Mari Cauce and reviewed the issue of students not being able to get into the majors of their choice, as well as the fact that criteria for admission to majors varies from year to year and is often very difficult to find.

Ana Mari Cauce had been provided with information that suggests that 46% of students are unable to get into the majors of their choice. She reported that she would have guessed at a number closer to 20% -- hastening to add that even 20% is too high.

One element of the discussion is that central administration allocates funds to the colleges, and it's up to the college to determine how funds are distributed to departments. Noting that it's difficult to be nimble when tenured faculty members are involved, she reported that flexibility is usually done with TAs and non-tenured faculty.

Another element is that some departments seem way over-funded when looking at the number of majors they support, e.g. mathematics. There are only about 100 math majors per year, but the department must provide math classes required by all the other science and engineering departments.

Variations in demand and availability of majors are multiple across the UW. For example, Computer Science is sometimes very much in demand, and sometimes not. But Computer Science is almost always available as a major at UW Bothell.

Although the need to explore more ways to stay flexibility to accommodate fluctuating demands is important, the conversation turned to the even more crucial necessity of advising at every stage of a student's UW experience to ensure that students really know what's involved in the major of their choice and what the expectations and requirements are for admission to the program.

Gunnar also emphasized the importance of departments making requirements for admission to a major clear and readily available to prospective majors – and quickly updating admissions materials when requirements are revised.

Ana Mari promised the Council that she would work over the summer (contacting Cathy Byers and Nana Lowell) to determine if the 46% reflects the reality of students' experience at the UW. She will report back to FCSA in the fall.

## **5. University Park Neighborhood**

Jeffrey Schwartz distributed a handout that lists 23 concerns of the North of 45<sup>th</sup> Street Committee. This list had been culled from an initial list of 80 ideas and will ultimately be narrowed down to a list of about 15 issues from which recommendations will be drafted. The reverse side of the handout includes a roster of potential FCSA members for next Fall Quarter.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. *Minutes by Susan Folk, Staff Assistant, Office of Regional Affairs, 1-4183, [slfolk@u.washington.edu](mailto:slfolk@u.washington.edu)*

**Present:**      **Faculty Members:** Almgren, Rasmussen, Schwartz  
                  **President's Designee:** Kravas  
                  **Ex-officio Members:** Lee, McKinstry, Perrin

**Absent:**        **Faculty Members:** Antony, Brock (excused), Fearn-Banks, Leady, Stoelinga  
                  **Ex-officio Members:** Nobles, Winans

**Guests:**      Ana Mari Cauce, Executive Vice Provost