

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
February 6, 2007
36 Gerberding Hall

Chair Brian Fabien called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of the FCSA Minutes from the January 9, 2007, meeting
2. Report from the Chair
3. Randi Shapiro, Assistant Director, Benefits & Work/Life, on Student Childcare
4. Report from ASUW Representative Erin Shields on Revised Student Conduct Code

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved as corrected.

2. Report from the Chair

Chair Fabien reported that Donna Kerr had stepped down as Secretary of the Faculty and that Gerry Philipsen had been appointed to that post. He said he expected to hear more about the transition at the Senate Executive Committee meeting next week.

He explained that the issue of childcare for student parents came up at the last meeting and that he had invited Randi Shapiro to talk with FCSA members about what is available to students.

3. Student Childcare (Randi Shapiro, Assistant Director, Benefits & Work/Life)

Randi Shapiro began her remarks by saying she felt hopeful about the future of childcare because it seems to be a topic under discussion at many levels and has caught the attention of those in upper administration. This is the third Faculty Council she has been invited to address about the topic. PACWA (the President's Advisory Committee on Women in Academic) has been working on the subject, Provost Wise has appointed a Childcare Advisory Committee chaired by Mindy Kornberg, Vice President for Human Resources, and this is a high priority of the current GPSS President as well. The new deans are particularly excited about having more childcare options to discuss with potential faculty recruits.

The UW currently has 255 childcare spaces for children in five different locations, but there are very long waiting lists for all five facilities. Comparatively speaking, the UW is doing well as far as childcare is concerned, but it is not meeting the demand. Student parents have a preference at two of the five locations. This is something that affects faculty, staff and students – and affordability is a big issue. Childcare vouchers are available through Eric Godfrey's office. Unfortunately, federal funding that had expanded the program this past year was discontinued as the funding agency felt that money should go directly to childcare centers rather than to

vouchers. Nevertheless, Shapiro's office will resubmit their proposal when funding next becomes available. There may be money in the budget at the state level this year, but her office is currently focusing on working with the Development Office on how to raise funds specifically for childcare. Shapiro is hoping to establish childcare needs for faculty, staff and students as a fundraising priority for Development.

Eric Godfrey distributed a hand-out listing the numbers of applicants and participants for the UW Seattle Childcare Assistance Program for Students (2006-2007), which also shows annual amounts and the numbers of non-funded applicants. The unique elements of the program include that it is funded entirely by students; allotments are made according to financial need, and the vouchers distributed are portable; they can be taken to any one of many approved sites. This program has been replicated in universities across the country.

Given the cost of capital improvements, it as if like UW administration will be able to support more student parents with childcare vouchers than with actual spaces in UW-provided childcare facilities.

In response to a question about serving student/parent needs, Shapiro reported that administration does a fairly good job of targeting faculty and staff parents through records of health insurance benefits, but cannot as yet identify the relatively small number of student parents at the UW, as they tend to blend in and disappear into the enormous and anonymous commuter population. The newly revised HR website might make it easier for students to learn about childcare options at the UW. A student life website is also under revision that will include family-friendly elements.

Maternity leave for student RAs, TAs and undergraduates is also under consideration by the student groups.

In response to Fabien's question about what Shapiro would most like to see happen at the UW, she listed the following:

- A new on-campus facility funded through private donors with a research component (functioning as a "lab school") as a way to bring in on-going funding.
- A big endowment.
- A long range plan with strategies to meet the ever increasing needs for childcare for faculty students and staff.

Fabien said that he would bring Shapiro's "wish list" to the Provost for discussion.

Eric Godfrey mentioned that the re-design of the HUB will include providing space for under-represented students, including commuter students and student parents. He also mentioned that the task of making the UW a parent-friendly place is more and more being done at the department level. There are several models on campus that are working well, including designated spaces for family activities at the Law School. Grassroots initiatives are frequently successful.

Nevertheless, space on campus is precious. It's hard to find offices for faculty members, let alone space for childcare. Departments will be hard-pressed if asked to provide space for childcare. Centralized efforts will be required, especially for smaller departments which are short on space and funding.

Shapiro will send a copy of her Concept Proposal to Fabien.

4. Revised Student Conduct Code (Erin Shields, ASUW Representative)

ASUW representative Erin Shields reported that the Student Senate had approved the Student Conduct Code after a 3-hour meeting. A quorum was not called at the meeting and there's some controversy over the validity of the vote. GPSS is currently drafting parallel legislation. Both these documents will be similar to and in support of the version being considered by the State Legislature. The new Code is a very limited extension of the previous Code. If the President and Provost concur it still needs authorizing legislation approved by the Regents and the Faculty Senate. It then goes through the process to become part of the WAC.

Leaders of various neighborhood groups also seem to be in support of the Code as well. Godfrey expressed great appreciation for student contributions in bringing this together.

Once Godfrey sends the Code with a transmittal letter to the President and Provost at the end of this week, Fabien will draft a statement of FCSA support to present to the Senate Executive Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

*Minutes by Susan Folk, Staff Assistant, Office of Regional Affairs, 1-4183,
sfolk@u.washington.edu*

Present: **Faculty Members:** Brian Fabien, Jeffrey Schwartz,
President's Designee: Eric Godfrey
Ex-officio Members: Kathleen Collins, Erin Shields, Edgar Winans
Guest: Randy Shapiro

Absent: **Faculty Members:** Kathleen Fearn-Banks (excused), Douglas Brock (excused), Dennis Rasmussen (excused) and Mark Stoelinga (excused)
Ex-officio Members: Anna Batie (excused), Carrie Perrin (excused)