

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs

Wednesday, 12 April 2006
36 Gerberding Hall

Clark Pace called the meeting to order at: 2:35 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of the minutes
2. ASUW Report – Jonathan Lee, ASUW Representative
3. GPSS Report – Richard Nobles, GPSS Representative - deferred
4. Student Response to Undergraduate Experience Report Priorities – Clark Pace
5. University Park Neighborhood – Jeffrey Schwartz
6. Admission to Majors – Clark Pace

1. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of June 8, 2005, were approved as written. The minutes of March 16, 2006, were approved with correction that deletes the final paragraph of item #5.

2. ASUW Report

Jonathan Lee reported on ASUW business since the previous FCSA meeting, including an update on the Boyington controversy and related issues involving Gordon Hirabayashi and the possibility (being explored by the Faculty Council on University Relations) of granting honorary degrees upon those whose academic careers were sidelined during World War II by internment in remote camps for U.S. citizens of Japan extraction. ASUW is also working on the possibility of joining a state-wide association of institutions of higher education to form a Washington state student lobby. Jonathan anticipates several more meetings to determine how this might work.

The week of April 24 will be the first annual Civics Week at the UW to promote voter awareness and will include a debate among invited politicians on pros and cons of electronic voting. The annual Powwow begins this Saturday. Funding problems this year have pointed to the need for permanent funding for this event, as well as for a greater commitment to open communications between all those involved. The date for the Spring Fling Concert is May 12, the Friday of elections week for ASUW.

Student Activities Fees Committee: Jonathan reported that the golf driving range project has been dropped due the escalating cost anticipated to complete the project. The proposal had been to build a double-decker driving range to generate more income, but the scope of the project became increasingly more expensive because of contingencies related to the site being over a landfill. Most people using the range are not students, and the income would go to the IMA, not ASUW. Apparently the IMA will do limited upgrades to the driving range as the budget allows. SAFC is also considering expanding Student Publications to include more than the Daily. Currently there are no "alternative" student newspapers, and SAFC members feel that providing some level of support for the alternatives would make it possible for them to exist for an extended period of time. The Council may invite the head of Student Publications to speak at a future Council meeting.

Jonathan reported that two new vice provost positions had been created. The new Vice Provost for Student Life and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs will both report to the Executive Vice Provost, Ana Mari Cauce. He also mentioned that negotiations continue between the Medical Center and University Facilities for management of the South Campus Center.

3. GPSS Report (discussion deferred)

4. Student Response to Undergraduate Experience Report Priorities

Clark remarked that this report, in addition to the recently released three other reports concerning undergraduate issues, paints a fairly clear picture of student life at the UW. The student response takes an appropriately broad perspective on the issues; it's very inclusive and reflects well on the students who drafted the Response.

5. University Park Neighborhood

Both Clark and Jeffrey Schwartz missed the last meeting of the North of 45th Committee, but the consensus is (from reviewing the minutes of the meeting) that it continues to focus on party houses. Although there are certainly issues concerning party houses, it seems increasingly clear that crime on the Ave needs to be taken into consideration in any attempt to address the complex issues faced by neighborhoods north of the UW – including student residents. Student input reveals that personal safety is as much a concern for them as it is for those who live permanently in the neighborhoods.

The facilitator is taking a methodical approach to deliberations, which will include research into what other universities and cities have done to address the impact of student life on surrounding neighborhoods.

Jeffrey mentioned that he would be soliciting (via e-mail poll) ideas from Council members on what they think might be done to improve student life.

6. Admission to Majors

Clark asked the Council to consider the issue of undergraduate admission to majors. A study done by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards shows that almost half the students who apply to the major of their choice don't get in, and Clark's sense of the situation is that this number may under-represent what's really happening. This is probably a big issue of concern for students and may be one that FCSA should look into. Ensuing discussion included the following points:

- Solution is not obvious; redistribution of resources to follow the rule of supply and demand for certain majors is a slow, difficult process;
- Redistribution of resources is a constant balancing act for Deans;
- Learning the process by which a plan for redistribution is initiated;
- If redistribution of funds should take into consideration the job market waiting for students in their chosen fields;
- There needs to be more and earlier intervention/advising of undergraduates concerning choice of a major;
- How to determine whether a student is qualified for a major;
- If there should be any restrictions to the number of majors in a given field;
- The example of the Nursing School as a very elite and competitive major;

- What is the UW's commitment to transfer and community college students who are seeking to enter certain majors;
- Majors often come into and out of favor with students at a fairly rapid clip;

Cathy Byers did a four-year study for Nana Lowell, the director of the Office of Educational Assessment that polled graduates for feedback on their experience at the UW. Either or both of these staff members could be invited to speak to the Council to see if they discovered any dissatisfaction or disappointment in graduates who were unable to get into the major of their choice.

Gus Kravas will ask Harlan Patterson, Vice Provost for Planning and Budgeting, about the process by which decisions are made regarding the redistribution of resources to provide more spaces for more popular majors.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

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

Present: **Faculty Members:** Almgren, Brock, Fearn-Banks, Pace, Rasmussen, Schwartz, Stoelinga
 President's Designee: Kravas
 Ex-officio Members: Lee, McKinstry

Absent: Faculty Members: Antony, Leady
 Ex-officio Members: Perrin, Winan, Nobles