

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS  
THURSDAY, March 6, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

Chair Brian Fabien called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Approval of minutes
2. Report from the Chair
3. Dr. Ellen Taylor, Director of the Counseling Center (Schmitz Hall)
4. Report from the ASUW
5. New Business

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**1. Approval of minutes**

The council approved the minutes as submitted.

**2. Report from the Chair**

Chair Brian Fabien reported on a recent Senate Executive Committee meeting in which he heard that only one of the supplemental budget requests to the state legislature that concern FCSA was approved. The good news is that the state legislature has agreed to fund an additional counselor at UW, but he noted that the Provost was both surprised and disappointed that a request to fund new safety measures was not approved.

Fabien also told council members that Pat Dobel, Faculty Athletic Representative, was not able to come and speak to FCSA today regarding their concerns about student athletes. Fabien stressed to council members that the charge of FCSA includes athletes and so they must get involved in the issue. He said that that he had recently heard from several concerned faculty members. Council members discussed the issue of student athletes and shared ideas for addressing the current problems. Fabien stated that he would contact the Vice Provost for Student Life, Eric Godfrey, for suggestions on who they might get to speak about student athlete issues. Council members also discussed creating a faculty council on student athletics, crafting a formal resolution to create that council, and bringing in coaches as faculty members so that they are part of the academic process.

**3. Dr. Ellen Taylor, Director of the Counseling Center (Schmitz Hall)**

Ellen Taylor, Director of the Counseling Center in Schmitz Hall, spoke to the council about her position and what her office does in relation to the counseling services offered in Hall Health. Taylor briefly described her background and said she had only been in Seattle 10 weeks. As Director of the Counseling Center she works within Student Life and reports to Eric Godfrey.

Taylor reported that the view of the counselors is that students are going through a developmental process and her office provides services to students outside of the classroom. Most of the college counselors hold PhDs in psychology with a specialization

in a college counseling setting. Students can use either the service at Schmitz Hall or the counseling available through Hall Health services. Taylor outlined the range of services they provide for depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and other mental health problems facing students. She noted that most students will gravitate toward one or the other of the campus services based upon what they have heard about it. Fabien inquired how her office advertises its services. Taylor replied that they use word-of-mouth. She noted that they do not market much beyond an ad in The Daily newspaper, and by going into classrooms through educational outreach efforts. Taylor said she has one staff member who works in student housing.

Taylor spoke about the increase in students with mental health issues as a reflection of the increase in college accessibility and the fact that with better medicine, more students are able to attend college now. She explained how the most prevalent issues students face are problems of living, namely relationship issues, followed by anger management issues. She noted that this generation's children are more apt to have poor self-soothing skills and the inability to tolerate frustration. The difficulties arise when students come to UW and feel completely overwhelmed by college life which comes with their increased expectations and desires to succeed and achieve.

Taylor was asked about her office's relationship with the office for disabled students. Taylor replied that her office works closely with them and helps with the documentation of students' disabilities. Council member Virginia Berninger raised the issue of students with learning disabilities being directed into mental health services for their problems. She noted that there are a greater number of students with learning disabilities whose needs are not being met. Council member Edgar Winans inquired whether there was a way to anticipate an increase in students' mental anxiety when there is a shift in the economy. Taylor replied that students are always asked about their financial stress on the form they fill out in the counseling center. In addition, her office works with the office of Financial Aid which conducts workshops for students on fundamental money management and understanding debt.

Council member Jeff Schwartz inquired whether the counseling center handles issues of violence between students. Taylor replied that yes her office deals with that and that they work with the Chief of Police through a consultation and assessment team. They hold weekly meetings about students of concern. Taylor was asked if violence is a growing problem among students. She replied that we live in a violent society and the college campus is simply a microcosm of that.

Taylor spoke to her desire to reach out to departments to raise awareness of the counseling services available to students, and faculty. She explained that her office provides a consultation service to faculty who call into to speak about students of concern. Taylor also spoke about the costs associated with using mental health services. She explained that her office provides 5 intake visits at no charge, and if students need a medical evaluation they are then directed to Hall Health. Beyond that students are charged market rates for the mental health services they receive. Council members discussed the issue of student fees paying for health services and the fact that there are

two separate mental health facilities on campus. Taylor also spoke about the student demand for mental health counseling and her office's lack of capacity to fill the need of all the students. She noted that her office is far from meeting the accepted standard of one counselor for every 1500 students. Taylor distributed a handout that summarized data reflecting clinical use of the counseling center from 2003 to the present.

Fabien told Taylor that FCSA meets with the Provost every year and asked what she would like them to request for her counseling service. Taylor replied that she would most like to get internship accreditation. She emphasized its importance to students. She also noted having more space and more full-time counselors would be helpful.

#### **4. ASUW Report**

There was no report today.

#### **5. New Business**

Schwarz updated the council on the search for a new Chief of Police. He noted that the committee wanted feedback from the community in the search process.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Minutes by Melissa Kane, Faculty Senate, mmkane@u.washington.edu or 543-2884*

**Present:**       **Faculty:**   Berninger, Fabien (Chair), Fearn-Banks, Rasmussen, Schwartz  
                  **Ex Officio Reps:**   Collins, Winans

**Absent:**       **President's Designee:**   Godfrey  
                  **Ex Officio Reps:**   Hahn, Perrin (excused)