

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009
GERBERDING HALL 36

Chair Brian Fabian called meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes of the November 12, 2008 Meeting
2. Discussion with Kay Lewis, Director, Student Financial Aid.
3. Report from the chair
4. New business.

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the November 12, 2008 FCSA meeting were approved as amended.

2. Discussion with Kay Lewis, Director of Student Financial Aid

Kay Lewis, Director of Student Financial Aid began her presentation with a basic explanation of the process with regard to financial aid for undergraduate students. She stated that approximately 50% of UW undergraduate students get some type of aid, which equals about 16000 students and a total of \$203 million. Her office awards approximately \$24 million in federal Pell Grants and an additional Washington State Need Grant is awarded to about 7400 students.

Lewis stated that her office figures out how to meet the students' financial needs in the most equitable way. The goal is to meet about 60% of a student's financial need in grant awards before moving on to loan programs. Lowest income students are awarded first and the UW targets grants and scholarship funds to Washington State residents. There was a brief discussion on the topic of establishing state residency for educational purposes. Lewis noted that the guidelines have become more stringent, however allowing for some flexibility for graduate school students.

Lewis identified lack of assistance from students' parents as a major obstacle in securing financial aid for younger students. If the student is less than 24 years old and the parents refuse to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), then her office cannot assist the students. Some exceptions are made in the cases of graduate students, students under 24 who have children or are married.

Lewis indicated that the total cost of attendance at the UW is about \$19,000 per year. This includes room and board, tuition, books and some personal expenses. The cost is about \$23,000 for non-residents.

With regard to loan programs, Lewis noted that the UW participates in federal direct loan programs which have not been affected at all by the recent economic downturn. She stated that some students may be experiencing some challenges when applying for student loans through private lenders, which may be affected by the nation's economic situation. Eric Godfrey, Vice Provost of Student Life, added that some private lending institutions have approached the UW to try to establish a lending relationship with regard to private student loans. He noted, however, that the UW made a bold decision to move out of the bank loan program some years ago and lend solely through a federal direct loan program. He reported that the change to the federal direct loan program has increased and improved services for students.

Berninger inquired with regard to financial aid and graduate students. She stated that the biggest challenge with graduate students is that once they have finished the degree they are no longer considered enrolled but still need access to financial aid as they are completing internships which required them to be enrolled in the college. Lewis asked that Berninger have these students contact her office as she may be able to assist them with other forms of awards that are available from the University of Washington.

The rest of Lewis' presentation revolved around a slight increase in applicants for financial aid this year over last, as well as some possible additional federal funding coming through the recent economic stimulus package. Additionally she mentioned that scholarships are awarded based both on merit as well as need, with some consideration for holistic review in line with UW Admissions procedures.

There was some discussion among members with regard to various programs available. Among those mentioned were: Husky Promise, Purple and Gold, and provisions for directly admitting students to some majors as early as their freshman year. Godfrey pointed out that the UW ranks in the top 5 in the country among comparable institutions with regard to funding at least 100% of tuition for 22% of the students enrolled. Some additional discussion regarding work-study and student employment took place among the council members.

3. Report from the Chair

Chair Fabien stated that he served on the search committee for a new Housing and Food Services Director. He felt honored to be a part of the process and feels that Pam Schrieber, the candidate chosen for the position, will be an excellent fit at the UW. Godfrey agreed and feels lucky to have great staff at every level at the UW. He noted that the UW is considering adding four or five new residence halls to accommodate the number of students who wish to reside on campus. Godfrey is confident that Schrieber can handle that project successfully as she brings a lot of experience to the table.

Godfrey also gave a brief update to programs with regard to the topic of campus safety. McKinstry stated that the UW Alert system has been really helpful to increase awareness.

4. New Business

Chair Fabien stated that he is serving on the Advisory Committee for Intercollegiate Athletics with FCSA member Jeff Schwartz. He informed the FCSA that results of a student athlete survey reflect that UW students rate their academic experience at the UW higher than their athletic experience here. The Chair stated that he was pleased by the findings and that he intends to invite guests from that Committee to a future FCSA meeting. Fabien identified access to majors and direct admits as agenda items for the next FCSA meeting. He noted that the topic of advising would be included.

Chair Fabien adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Minutes by Kelly Baker
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Present: Faculty: Berninger, Fabien, LeVeque, Rocap, Schwartz
President's Designee: Godfrey
Ex-Officio Reps: McKinstry, Winans
Absent: Faculty: Burke, Poovendran
Ex Officio Reps: Miller, Nguyen, Perrin