

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009
GERBERDING HALL #36

Chair Brian Fabian called meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Approval of Minutes of the January 21, 2009 Meeting
2. Discussion with Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, James Clauss, Director of the Honors Program, and Deborah Wiegand, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs
3. New business

1. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were approved.

2. Discussion with Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, James Clauss, Director of the Honors Program, and Deborah Wiegand, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs

Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs began the presentation on UW advising and admissions by informing the Council of the various types of programs available for UW students. Some of the programs mentioned were: the Center for Experiential Learning, the Mary Gates Endowment, the Undergraduate Research Program, the Gateway Center, the Office of Educational Assessment, the Robinson Center for Young Scholars and the UW Honors Program.

Deborah Wiegand, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, discussed access to majors with the Council. She offered some statistics on students' admission rates to their first and second choice majors. Chair Fabien voiced his concern with the area concerning admission rates. He noted that in the Mechanical Engineering Department his office processed about 300 applications, however could only admit 100 students. He felt that of the 300 applications they could have admitted 270 students to the program on merit, but due to low faculty numbers they had to turn away 170 prime candidates. Wiegand agreed with Fabien and added that there is also a lack of space issue in both the Engineering and Business Schools, which is compounding the problem.

Wiegand went on to discuss the procedure for freshman admits from the application stage to the Fall Quarter of the student's freshman year. She noted that her office has made a concentrated effort to expose freshman to the topic of choosing a major early on so that students are thinking about potential majors in their freshman year. She noted a Majors Fair event which takes place in the fall as well as outreach efforts made to students who have not yet declared a major by the end of their sophomore year. Council members offered suggestions on ways to increase visibility with students and their parents prior to the start of the freshman year.

Jim Clauss presented information on the UW Honors Program to the Council. He is proposing changing from an Honors Program to an Honors College to the UW Administration and would like to hear feedback from this Council. He informed the Council that many of the key areas regarding the change are already in place and the cost to make the change formal would cost the UW nothing. He feels the addition of a College of Honors at the UW would make the University much more competitive in the admissions process. Many students do not consider an education at the UW because although it has an Honors Program, some students are looking for a more dedicated College

of Honors, which is available at other institutions. Taylor noted it would be a way for the UW to be a leader in the Honors territory and to become more appealing across various communities. FCSA members felt they would support advertising this program and would endorse the effort for the program to be considered a College of Honors at the UW.

3. New Business

There was no time for new business.

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

Minutes by Kelly Baker

Council Support Specialist

kcbaker@u.washington.edu

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