

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, October 6, 2009
GERBERDING HALL #36

Chair Brian Fabien called meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Fraternity and sorority safety and security issues
 - a. John Vinson, Ph.D., Chief of Police
 - b. David Hotz, Director for Fraternity and Sorority Life, Greek Life
2. Report from the Chair
3. New Business
4. ASUW/GPSS report
5. Approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting

Chair Fabien welcomed Council members and guests to the FCSA meeting. Council members and guests introduced themselves. Chair Fabien provided an overview of the Council's three areas of focus for the upcoming year: 1. Safety and security in the fraternities and sororities, 2. Student athletes' academic progress, and 3. Faculty Appeal Board. Chair Fabien introduced the two guests, Chief Vinson and David Hotz.

1. Fraternity and sorority safety and security issues

Eric Godfrey introduced the subject with a brief history of the University's relationship with the fraternities and sororities north of 45th Street. The fraternities and sororities are not owned and operated by the UW. In the past, the University and the fraternities and sororities had not worked closely together and the relationship had been adversarial at times. However, in recent years it has become evident that the health and well-being of the area north of 45th has a direct effect on the health and well-being of the general UW community. Godfrey's office has since been actively reaching out to the houses. Godfrey feels that individuals living in group houses are now being held to account. UWPD officers regularly patrol that area in the evenings to educate, prevent, and quickly respond to incidents. Student Life has been working on a variety of ways to improve safety and security north of 45th, including the North of 45th Committee's communication and education strategies and, most recently, establishing the new office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, headed by David Hotz. Hotz's office will work closely with the fraternities and sororities.

Chief Vinson gave the FCSA a brief overview of the safety and security ongoing challenges north of 45th. For Fall Quarter the UWPD and their Incident Prevention Team are taking an aggressive approach in that area to ensure a very successful start to the year. One challenge has been the number of strong-arm robberies that have happened recently. Vinson commented that the criminal element does react to the influx of the student population returning at this time of year. UWPD is piloting a bike patrol initiative with SPD, patrolling the north of 45th area in the early morning hours. The UWPD works extensively with SPD

on ongoing communication and collaboration. A number of incidents happening in a short amount of time can create the impression of a crime increase, however, and Vinson assured the Council that this apparent increase, when viewed in the context of the crime trends over the last five years, is not out of the ordinary.

FCSA members asked several questions of Vinson and commented regarding the timely warning notices, educating students in crime prevention, visibility of officers on campus and north of 45th. McKinstry said there was a tripling in thefts in the libraries in 2008-2009. [We have not seen this trend continue this year]. She related a story of a successful “library sting” run by a student who had seen his stolen laptop advertised for sale on Craigslist.

Vinson reminded the Council of the new community policing environment, in effect this Fall Quarter. The campus will be divided in four sectors, with each officer assigned to one home sector. He welcomes feedback on this new approach to campus policing.

FCSA members engaged in a discussion on building security and when to call an officer after seeing a suspicious activity. The Council also briefly discussed the Timely Warning Notification of a Criminal Incident emails, UW Alerts, and WatchDawg.

David Hotz introduced himself and his new office to the FCSA. He reiterated that his role will be to reach out to the houses and reduce the perception that 45th Street is a barrier between the fraternities and sororities and the rest of the University. Although the fraternities and sororities are not owned and operated by the University, approximately 2800 UW students live in the fraternities and sororities. One of the important projects in front of him right now is replacing or modifying unsafe windows in the houses. He has been discussing the issues of safety, ventilation, and architectural integrity with a window company and is discussing how a new type of safer window suitable for historical buildings could be designed.

Another important issue is facilities safety and inspection. The houses should be inspected and most of them are, since their insurance requires an inspection of the facility. The FCSA discussed how a house could fall short in this area in their Recognition Agreement with the University and what would trigger a revocation of that Agreement.

FCSA members discussed the issue of problem houses. It was pointed out that many of these houses that accumulate noise violations and are known for parties are group homes owned by landlords and are not Greek houses. Suggestions were made regarding a possible option of creating a “UW-approved” list of group homes to post on the web. Godfrey put forth the suggestion that a City of Seattle ordinance requiring annual inspection of group homes would be the best solution.

FCSA members discussed with Godfrey issues regarding campus parties, the average GPAs and time to degree for students in fraternities and sororities versus the general population of students, and the University’s prohibition of hazing.

Chair Fabien thanked Hotz, Vinson, and Godfrey for their time and contributions.

2. Report from the Chair

Chair Fabien reviewed FCSA's three areas of focus for the year. Regarding the issue of student athletes' academic standing, he drew attention to the students categorized as special admits and priority admits. Pat Dobel has reported to the Council regarding the issues that arise with these students and previous concerns about how these students are faring at the University. Chair Fabien related that about 1/3 of special admits do not graduate from the University. This topic, plus the related topics of compliance and academic progress, will be considered by the Council this year.

Regarding the third area of focus, the Faculty Appeal Board, he informed the Council that discussing the Board's role, procedures, and makeup will be an important element of this year's Council work.

3. New Business

McKinstry stated that there is a concern among Library users regarding default duplex printing. Now that the Dawg Prints system has gone "green," changing the default to printing 2-sided instead of 1-sided, some users have expressed concerns that some faculty will still insist on single-sided page printouts. She asked Chair Fabien to relay this concern to the Faculty Senate.

4. ASUW/GPSS report

Jason Padvorac thanked the Council for their interest, support, and work on behalf of students. He reported that ASUW's goals for this year are to develop more sustainable connections to the community and to encourage students to take ownership of their own educations. His focus for the year will be on cost-effective ways to engage students.

5. Approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting

The minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting were approved.

Chair Fabien adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes by Kristy Carter

Council Support Staff

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Present: Faculty: Berninger, Fabien, Poovendran, Rocap, Bailkin, Burke,
President's Designee: Godfrey
Ex-Officio Reps: McKinstry, Perrin, Winans, Padvorac
Guests: Vinson, Hotz
Absent: Faculty: LeVeque, Schwartz
Ex Officio Rep: GPSS representative