

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009
GERBERDING HALL 36

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

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Student Conduct Process Presentation by Elizabeth Higgins, Director, Community Standards and Student Conduct
- 2) ASUW/GPSS Report.
- 3) Approval of Minutes from the October 6 Meeting
- 4) New Business

1. Student Conduct Process Presentation

Chair Fabien welcomed the Council members and introduced Elizabeth Higgins, the Director of Community Standards and Student Conduct. Higgins distributed three handouts: "Student Conduct Code Process – WAC 478-120 Disciplinary Committees," a flow chart illustrating the UW student conduct process, and a copy of the UW Student Conduct Code.

She gave a brief overview of the UW's conduct processes and procedures and the work of her office. Using the flowchart, Higgins guided FCSA through the process, from the moment the incident occurs to either the final order or the decision to exonerate. She described the difference between the informal hearing and the formal hearing. She explained that her office takes an educational and developmental approach to addressing student conduct. The emphasis is on making the process a learning experience for the student.

Higgins noted that when exceptional circumstances exist, the case is referred to the Faculty Appeal Board for consideration. Exceptional circumstances exist when the sanction of dismissal has been recommended; the student has been charged with hazing; the sanction of restitution in excess of \$300 has been recommended; or suspension has been recommended.

In 2006-2007, Higgins reported that her office handled 60 cases. In 2008-2009, they handled 132 cases. She commented that the difference in numbers may be due to the 2007 change to the Student Conduct Code, which extended the Code's authority to hold students accountable for some off-campus conduct.

She explained the difference between the University Disciplinary Committee and the Faculty Appeals Board and outlined the composition of each committee. Godfrey noted that UDC and FAB are very different. By definition, UDC's process is much more informal than FAB's. For FAB's formal hearing, the rules of evidence apply and witnesses are sworn in, for example.

FCSA asked Higgins a number of questions, including how the students are contacted, whether there are term limits for the faculty who serve on FAB, what kind of incidents are referred to Higgins' office, how Higgins "gets her message out" to the faculty and the departments, how students are educated about the Student Conduct Code, how case information is shared and communication with the "accused" student handled, and how Higgins works with the UWPB and North of 45th Committee.

Schwartz asked how cases involving student athletes are handled. Higgins replied that the process is the same for student athletes as for non-athlete students. She works closely with John Morris, the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Compliance.

Chair Fabien asked Higgins what she would like to change about the conduct process. She suggested many changes, such as allowing faculty and students to be reappointed to consecutive terms (they currently are selected to serve one-year terms and may not be reappointed to consecutive terms), changing the timing of when members of the University disciplinary committees begin and end their terms, and setting up a program to provide third-year law students to serve as the student's advocate during the appeal process (if the student does not have the resources to hire her own attorney).

Chair Fabien suggested that FCSA approach the Law School for help in identifying third-year law students who would be willing to serve as advocates. Chair Fabien agreed to formally encourage Student Life to work with the Law School to further develop this service.

FCSA agreed that making sure students going through the appeal process have the opportunity to receive support from an attorney or third-year law student is important.

FCSA discussed the issue of term limits for the faculty serving on FAB. LeVeque proposed that the faculty members serve three-year renewable terms.

FCSA discussed how FAB members are trained, the desirability of legal background or experience for FAB members, the pros and cons of FAB members serving time-limited terms, and accountability issues. FCSA members agreed that this is a complex topic that needs further consideration.

Chair Fabien thanked Higgins for her time and expertise and asked her to attend future FCSA meetings, since this issue is not yet resolved.

2. ASUW/GPSS Report

Padvorac stated that ASUW is putting a lot of effort into recruiting more volunteers to work on important issues. They are setting up a number of taskforces on various subjects, including transportation, U-Pass prices, textbooks, alumni relations, sustainability, and student health. They are also putting together a number of events.

He noted that GPSS has been very active lately. He reported that GPSS's Summit on Higher Education was a very successful event. GPSS has also been involved in recent discussions on budget cuts, budgeting methodology, and Activity Based Budgeting (ABB).

Martin introduced herself as the new GPSS representative on the Council. Schwartz asked her whether the issue of whether Fellowships are taxable is of concern to UW's graduate students. Also, he wondered whether the availability of maternity and paternity leave is an issue among graduate students. Martin said she would investigate and report back to the Council. She noted that a very important related issue is the availability of child care on and near campus.

Godfrey gave a brief update of the status of childcare availability on campus, the childcare voucher program, and the impact of budget cuts.

3. Approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2009 meeting

McKinstry asked for some corrections to #3. New Business and the text regarding thefts in the libraries. The minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

4. New Business

FCSA members engaged in a general discussion on important issues and recent events. Topics included how ABB has been presented to faculty, how many students are receiving their degrees in three years, AP credits and Running Start, the recent Daily article about a group of UW students carrying concealed weapons on and off campus, the ratio of counselors to students on campus, and the availability of counseling on campus.

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

Minutes by Kristy Carter
Council Support Staff
kcarter4@u.washington.edu

Present: Faculty: Berninger, Fabien (Chair), Rocap, Bailkin, Schwartz, LeVeque
President's Designee: Godfrey
Ex-Officio Reps: McKinstry, Perrin, Winans, Padvorac, Martin
Guests: Elizabeth Higgins, Lincoln Johnson

Absent: Faculty: Poovendran, Burke
Ex Officio Rep: Miller, Winans