

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) A discussion of issues related to Housing and Food Services
Pamela Schreiber, Director, Housing and Food Services
 - 2) Approval of minutes from the May 4, 2010 and June 1, 2010 meetings
 - 3) ASUW report
 - 4) Report from the chair
 - 5) New business
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Call to Order

The meeting started at 1:32 PM.

Items Discussed

Housing and Food Services Update

Pamela Schreiber, Director of Housing and Food Services, introduced three main topics of discussion: current residence hall room occupancy and trends, an update on new residence hall/apartment construction and plans for future growth, and the impact of the HUB closure on food services.

Schreiber gave a rundown of the current housing occupancy status, noting that the system is completely full and overcrowded with triples. With students expecting the system to be full, true demand may be even higher than applications would suggest. Fabien asked if this level of demand was typical for an urban campus such as UW. This led to the topic of new construction, and Schreiber noted that HFS is responding at a good time. The current level of demand has been sustained long enough to warrant new construction. The level of demand must be properly managed, without having a surplus of housing, but the University doesn't want to be unable to serve this many students.

A map detailing the Phase 1 of the housing master plan was distributed to the council. This phase includes four new sites, with two buildings opening up in Fall 2011, and the other two a year later. Phase 2 is construction of a new apartment building on the current Mercer Hall site, and Phase 3 is the renovation of all currently existing residence halls. In order to renovate existing halls, new beds (in the form of the Phase 1 and 2 projects) are required. Among the highlights of the master plan are the elimination of triple rooms that were designed for two students, an ability to meet existing demand and new demand from students staying in campus housing longer because of better options, and a net gain of 2200 beds by the completion of construction. Phase 3 will begin with the Terry/Lander site, with Terry being renovated and Lander being redeveloped, which will add 600 beds and fit the University's plan to increase density in housing sites.

The discussion touched on sustainability efforts, particularly regarding Poplar Hall (currently under construction), which HFS hopes will achieve at least a Gold LEED-certified standard, in addition to fulfilling 2030 Challenge criteria for carbon footprint reduction. The hall will have a sustainability-themed community studying across disciplines and using the building as a “living laboratory.” HFS hopes to develop a student leadership group centered around the topic, and to integrate this community into the students’ desire for sustainability and the faculty’s general interest in multidisciplinary approaches.

Moving on to the impact of HUB closure on food services, Schreiber noted that HFS was pressed to be creative. Among the challenges is a lack of spaces that are available to serve food, but the addition of food trucks on Red Square and extra seating in eating areas are two solutions implemented so far. Council members made suggestions such as inside seating for colder weather, more tables and chairs on Red Square, adding a tent on the west side of Odegaard Library, expanded use of Parnassus café in the Art building, and expanded promotion of McMahon’s 8 dining hall. Schreiber added that HFS is looking at adding food trucks and seating trailers, especially in the engineering area of campus, and espresso and a grab-and-go food stand in Padelford. Bradley asked if the dining area in Haggitt Hall would be reopened, and Schreiber said the possibility would be looked at as they study the renovations of north campus residence halls. Fabien noted that in his four years as chair of FCSEA, students who heard about his position never asked him about an issue until recently, when a number of them expressed concern about food options.

Student Safety/Civility

Fabien brought up a recent incident at Rutgers University, where a student committed suicide after an occurrence of cyberbullying in his residence hall. Godfrey noted that this incident had resulted in his talking to the media and continuing to think about what it means to be a member of the UW community. One important initiative related to this topic is the development of the Husky Principles, which are all about respect, honoring differences, and civility. Another initiative coming this year will involve training a group of students to have difficult conversations, in a civil manner, on topics that often create tension with their peers. He is also talking with student leaders about how to comprehensively speak with students about being smart and safe with technology and about cyberbullying. He noted that it is a very good topic to discuss with parents of incoming freshmen.

Bradley mentioned that Resident Advisors talk about this issue and others every year at floor meetings, and suggested that these talks could be expanded. Godfrey noted that the student conduct code and residence hall code address these issues, but only after the fact. The impact of an incident like this is felt in very personal ways, even if it occurs across the country – the Q Center immediately saw students coming in and expressing angst about the incident, which for some brought back memories of previous bullying and discrimination. McKinstry noted that the signage posted all over campus about respecting the rights and dignities of all persons is of help, and should be among the pieces used to continue spreading the word about the issues.

The council had a brief conversation on the recent couch burning incident north of campus. Godfrey said that many students had done a very good job dealing with the situation and contributing to safety and the quality of life in that area. Burke asked if there were any “organized craziness” events, such as bonfires, as an alternative. It was noted that while there wasn’t anything quite of that nature, there were recently a number of fun and vibrant events on campus, including at night, and that the happenings on Red Square have brought a great deal of exciting activity to campus.

Approval of May 4, 2010 and June 1, 2010 Minutes

The minutes from the May 4 and June 1, 2010 meetings were approved with no changes.

President's Designee Report

Godfrey said that the Hall Health project is moving forward and on schedule. The renovation is modest compared to others on campus, and the health center will be open throughout the project. The Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) project is slower, with a design delay. It will have minimal construction impact on the surrounding area.

The topic of the upcoming November 18 Thursday night football game was discussed. The committee brought up a few likely issues with this weekday game, including transportation worries, who would benefit from the extra revenue generated from this game, and the increased demands on student-athletes. On the last point, Fabien noted that Pat Dobel is going to construct a database on the impact of travel schedules on student-athlete academic life. Bradley said he could solicit some student opinion on the Thursday night football games.

ASUW Report

Bradley said that as an organization, ASUW had just completed a successful voter registration drive in conjunction with a number of other campus groups. They have over 600 forms turned in, which doesn't include forms that students are turning in on their own, online registrations, and forms that other groups have collected as a result of the voter registration efforts. He expects more ASUW issues to come up shortly as the student senate starts meeting and other groups get going.

He has personally been working on the issues of textbook affordability taskforce and in-class presentations by outside groups. These presentations have proven controversial, with groups collecting student information, offering "independent contractor" positions for the summer that may put students in a difficult situation, and sometimes misrepresenting themselves as if they were a UW employee. The council brought up a number of points dealing with this issue, including a possible need for a clearinghouse to certify these groups, and the history of Southwestern Co. on-campus, both in using class time and collecting student information, as well as intimidating other student groups in the HUB. There was talk of a need to develop a university-wide policy dealing with what groups can come in, how long they can take, and what information they can gather from students.

The council also discussed the textbook issue. Among the points noted were that it is critical for the University to get current, up-to-date material in textbooks, to creatively engage students in using the textbooks, and to use independent publishers. Also, there are varying issues across disciplines – in the humanities, a professor may be able to put together an inexpensive course reader, while mathematics may deal with a subject that doesn't change over the years (e.g., calculus) even as new editions are frequently released.

Bradley said he is looking at a survey to figure out what students are paying for books and what they appreciate in the texts, and what leads faculty to select a particular textbook. The council also discussed the UW library's involvement in purchasing textbooks and having reserve copies available, the new rental program offered by the University Bookstore, methods of working with publishers to create relevant, longer-lasting editions of texts, and/or making problem sets available online for technical textbooks. It was suggested that a survey be developed to evaluate the texts assigned to a course at the end of the quarter. Bradley said that he was planning on looking into the course evaluation system next quarter and that the two ideas could coincide nicely.

Finally, Bradley mentioned that ASUW is looking into creating a new enterprise running a sustainable local food cart, using food from the UW Farm.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 2:59 p.m.

Minutes by Craig Bosman
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Present: **Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Berninger, Burke,
President's Designee: Godfrey
Ex-Officio Reps: Perrin, McKinstry, Bradley
Guests: Pamela Schreiber

Absent: **Faculty:** Bailkin, LeVeque, Poovendran