

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Student Affairs  
Tuesday, December 7, 2010  
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
36 Gerberding

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1) Discussion with Ellen B. Taylor, Ph.D., Director, Counseling Center
  - 2) Approval of minutes from the November 2, 2010 meeting.
  - 3) ASUW report.
  - 4) Report from the chair.  
(Policy protecting students in inclement weather)
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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

**1) Discussion with Ellen B. Taylor, Ph.D., Director, Counseling Center**

Ellen B. Taylor, Ph.D., Director of the Counseling Center, presented information on the Counseling Center, located on campus at Schmitz Hall, which provides no-cost counseling for students. She said that students who drop out or flunk out of school usually do so because life gets in the way, not because of academics. Depression, anxiety, stress, and relationship issues are common, and the number of students using the Counseling Center has been steadily increasing, with a dramatic spike this Fall quarter.

Taylor said that one place they're seeing the most radical increase in numbers is in consultation with staff, faculty, and administrators who are concerned about a student. Often, when a faculty member is noticing something, they call the Counseling Center, which can help triage. In some cases, the Center is already working with that student (a fact that isn't shared with the faculty member calling) and extra information can help. Faculty usually provide the name of the student, but are not required to do so. However, the Center will ask because they may know the student and can learn of other concerns about a particular student. The student doesn't need to know about the call.

Taylor stressed that it is legitimate and best practice for a concerned faculty member to call, and that the concern is really for student welfare and safety.

At the end of week 8 of Fall quarter, urgent walk-ins and consultations with concerned faculty/staff/administrators are up 98% from last year. Taylor said that it's good because people know the Center is there, but it's bad because it is a sign of the levels of stress that current students are experiencing. Increased visits are coming from the Center being more visible, the recession causing financial stress, and a growing sense among students that times are tough and will stay that way. Stress, anxiety, and relationship issues have been the top three issues for a long time, and though the nuances change, those substantive issues are persistent.

LeVeque commented that he'd seen a lot of concern from Korean students with recent events in the Korean peninsula. Taylor said that in general, international students often come in to deal with international adjustment, but that Korean students in particular are feeling stress with both political tensions and a sense of narrowing career options. Part of the Counseling Center's job is to help them see more options.

Fabien said that this quarter is particularly interesting, with very smart students that are also very stressed and worried. Taylor said that students are getting to the point where they feel like any one thing could keep them from getting the job or internship, which isn't true, but it can seem that way. When people feel stressed, they try to control more things, and students are feeling like there are fewer and fewer things they can control. She emphasized that showing empathy, seeing if there are other issues, and recommending students to the Counseling Center are things that faculty can do. In any situation, it's OK to approach a student and express concern, leading with care and stating observations non-judgmentally.

Berninger asked about instances of violence risks. Taylor said that any time a student may be a danger, that loop needs to be closed, and emphasized that faculty should call when in doubt to ensure that professionals work with students to ensure they get what they need. Godfrey added that this work is increasingly at the core of Student Life, and last year alone there were over 200 referrals from faculty and staff about students they were concerned about. He said that when there is a student you're concerned about indicating any potential to be dangerous, you're really obliged to report it.

Bradley asked about referrals coming from Housing and Food Services, noting that Resident Advisor training includes information about the availability of these resources. Taylor said that there has been an increase there, and they continue to work closely with RAs and HFS: it's a key location where students first come to campus, and it's growing. Bradley said that RAs could distribute information about the counseling center with other brochures during move-in.

Fabien asked if there was something they could do as faculty to lower the stress level of students. Taylor said she didn't know what could be done to lower the overall stress level, but that showing care through things like putting a list of resources on the syllabus and communicating that you can also be a resource would help. Perrin added that academic advisors and staff support often already know about issues with certain students and resources available and can be helpful.

Fabien asked about the relationship between the Counseling Center and the Greek System. Taylor said that she sits with David Hotz, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life, on a number of councils. Greek students know the Center is there and access services frequently, and the relationship is a good one.

## **2) Approval of minutes from the November 2, 2010 meeting**

The minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

## **3) ASUW report**

Bradley introduced a number of topics:

- Husky Stadium Renovation: There are a few different seating options, most of which include moving the student section and increasing prices. Students are trying to look into alternative models. Godfrey added that there is a consultative process underway to bring ICA and student

leaders together. The process will continue and include a focus group, meeting with ASUW and GPSS leadership. The financial model is challenging.

- Universal U-Pass: The project has stalled. There was disagreement with how Transportation Services went through ASUW and GPSS to establish a fee. The best model may be for Transportation to request a U-Pass fee independently without saying that students are on board. ASUW and GPSS did pass it, but stepped back before it was considered at the Board of Regents.
- In-Class Presentations: The guidelines developed by the Faculty Council on Academic Standards have been sent out to all faculty. He is working with Gus Kravas to identify specific violators and will be surveying students.
- Course Fees: These fees have been rising the last few years and he is looking into why. They are becoming especially frequent in the College of Arts & Sciences and especially the School of Music. These extra fees end up being like differential tuition for departments, and he would like to turn this into an overall conversation about differential tuition.

#### **4) Report from the chair**

Fabien introduced a topic that a student had brought to his attention: whether there should be a policy pertaining to academic expectations when getting to campus is unsafe due to inclement weather.

Godfrey said that the university technically never closes, but enters suspended operations in which all but essential services like the hospital and food service are closed. Two years ago, the university policy on suspended operations had a bar that was set too high; that bar has since been lowered. They continue to focus on safety of students, faculty, and staff, and what Metro buses are doing, and are generally more sensitive in making the decision to suspend. Another issue lies in what expectations students can have under suspended operations or when students can't get to class. Currently, when operations are suspended, some students could be penalized for not turning work in, and short of suspended operations, with some faculty students get no consideration at all. The student that brought this matter to the committee is looking for a policy with some protections.

Berninger suggested that clearer guidelines were needed, and that it seemed reasonable to say that whatever was due on a suspended operations day would be due the next time a class met, in a written policy that everybody could follow. Fabien said that a clear policy will be tricky, and it will be a judgment call at the end of the day. Godfrey said that a policy could start at FCSA and go through the Senate. There has not been a clarification of what "lowering the bar" really means, and this could be something that clarifies the suspended operations policy from an academic standpoint.

Bradley asked about students that could not get to campus when operations were not suspended. The council briefly discussed methods used by faculty for dealing with this situation, including the requirement of documentation.

Godfrey said he would start conversations with Human Resources on the matter.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 2:56 p.m.

*Minutes by Craig Bosman*  
*Faculty Council Support Analyst*  
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**Present: Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Berninger, LeVeque, Burke,  
**President's Designee:** Godfrey  
**Ex-Officio Reps:** Bradley, Perrin, McKinstry  
**Guests:** Ellen Taylor

**Absent: Faculty:** Poovendran, Schwartz, Bailkin