

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
Tuesday, April 5, 2011
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
36 Gerberding

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Discussion of recent admissions strategies
 - 2) Approval of minutes from the March meeting
 - 3) ASUW/GPSS report.
 - 4) Report from the chair
 - Revision of the student conduct code
 - Possible joint meeting with the Faculty Council on Academic Standards
 - 5) Adjournment
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Call to Order

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

1) Discussion of recent admissions strategies

The council discussed freshman admissions, particularly with respect to recent news articles about reduced freshman slots for in-state students and rising admissions standards. Fabien said that comments written on seattletimes.com gave a sense of what a vocal minority are thinking on the issue and that he sought to identify perceptions, formulate questions, and find data.

Godfrey gave an overview of the situation: in the last five years, there has been an increase of 10,000 applications for roughly the same number of slots, and there are now more applications from out-of-state than in-state. A long term trajectory was developed and agreed upon to grow the size of the freshman class incrementally over the next several years until it reached about 6,000 students. All the additional growth would come from nonresident students in order to generate revenue that allows the university to keep its quality strong, because each nonresident student effectively subsidizes two resident students. Recently, when the latest budget information became available, it became clear that not only would all the growth have to be with nonresident students, but that the number would have to increase for financial reasons. Effectively, 150 slots that would have otherwise gone to residents were replaced with nonresidents. The 2010 entering class was about 73% resident students, and the 2011 class will be about 68%. When added with the other portal of entry to UW, transfer students (typically from community colleges), the vast majority of students are Washington residents – about 80%.

The council proceeded to identify a number of questions, recognizing a need to publicize information about policies and realities with regard to admitted students and budget problems. Many of these topics are based on comments from the public about news articles on the situation. In some cases, data would be useful to better inform the answers or explanations to certain questions or misperceptions about admission to UW.

- Internet comments frequently mention “illegal aliens” – where is this perception coming from, and is there any data on it?

- How many resident students have enrolled in the freshman class each year over the last decade, and what is the trend?
- What is the academic quality of the admitted nonresident students (especially the 150) compared to the resident students?
- As the ratio of resident tuition paid by students and the state changes (in fact, inverts), is the university making up the difference by admitting out of state students, or in fact going beyond the difference? What are the numbers?
- Washington state was ranked 48/50 in one survey of access to higher education for students. Has this changed, and do new admissions policies make it worse?
- What percentage of university operations is funded by the state, and what percentage of the cost of undergraduate education is funded by the state?
- What is the relationship between capital projects and tuition?

Misperceptions about access at UW:

- “Husky Promise students get to go to UW for free” – people are paying real money for the cost of their education, they don’t just attend at no cost to the institution
- “Out of state students admitted are of a lower academic quality”
- “A 4.0 is good enough to get in” -- Not understanding holistic admissions process
- “The school has all these new and ongoing construction projects, they are choosing to do those instead of fund students” – capital process is complicated, some projects paid for years in advance, others voted on by students and paid for by student fees, others (residence halls) pay for themselves
- “UW can just raise tuition” – there are legislative limits set on how much the university can raise tuition
- “Can a Washington resident just pay out-of-state tuition and get in?” – 1. UW doesn’t have that authority: tuition rates are tuition rates, 2. It is tantamount to offering admission for a gift to the university, 3. There is no guarantee that this student would be competitive in the out-of-state pool.

In the course of the discussion, a number of other points were made:

- The goal is to return to 4,000 slots for in-state freshmen in the future.
- Peer institutions, such as the universities of Michigan, Colorado, and Oregon, all have substantially higher percentages of nonresident students (over 40%).
- Some elements of the “Michigan model”, or a trend toward privatization, can be attractive: local authority for setting tuition rates, the ability to implement differential tuition and fees, and redirecting a substantial portion of revenues to financial aid; however, keeping access is crucial.

2) Approval of minutes

The minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

3) ASUW/GPSS report

GPSS: Martin said they’d had a meeting with the Provost to talk about issues of quality, tuition, and financial aid.

ASUW: Bradley said that the universal U-Pass was going to the Regents this month. The price will be \$76/quarter and the Memorandum of Understanding has two years locked in to that price, with stipulations that the students can pull out if the fee were to get too expensive. He noted that about 77% of students currently opt in, but that number has been going down as the price increases.

Bradley also mentioned the idea of a student advisory committee for planning and budgeting that would look like a student version of the Senate Committee on Planning and Budgeting. The committee would be established under the Provost.

4) Report from the chair

- Revision of the student conduct code

Fabien said the committee looking at revision of the student conduct code is meeting twice a month, with subcommittees drafting sections and the full committee reviewing it. They're looking at the code in sections. Some of the bigger revisions that would require changes in the way the university operates include:

- Final authority in decisions related to students. Currently, in all cases it's the president. The sanctions are administered in most cases by the Vice Provost for Student Life, and the student can appeal. However, in some cases the student would have sanctions administered by the president and then have to appeal to the president. A change in this policy would require the involvement of the Attorney General's office.
- Authority to regulate student conduct outside the university.
- Definition of a student, especially with regard to certain scenarios that are not clear-cut.

- Possible joint meeting with the Faculty Council on Academic Standards

Fabien said that every year, FCSA looks at graduation rates for athletes, and the Faculty Council on Academic Standards sets the policy of how many priority and special admits there should be. Council members expressed support for a joint meeting, and Fabien said he would look into it, likely for the last meeting of the year.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 2:57 p.m.

Minutes by Craig Bosman, Faculty Council Support Analyst. cbosman@uw.edu

Present: Faculty: Fabien (Chair), Burke, Schwartz
President's Designee: Godfrey
Ex-Officio Reps: Bradley, Martin, McKinstry
Guests: Evan Smith

Absent: Faculty: Berninger, LeVeque, Poovendran, Bailkin
Ex-Officio: Perrin