

University of Washington  
Faculty Council on Student Affairs  
December 6, 2011  
1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Gerberding Hall 36

**Meeting Synopsis:**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Revision of Student Conduct Code
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of November 4, 2011
- 4) ASUW/GPSS report
- 5) New Business
- 6) Adjournment

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**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm by Chair Brian Fabien.

**2. Revision of the Student Conduct Code**

Elizabeth Higgins, Director Community Standards and Student Conduct, and Ellen Taylor, director of the Counseling Center, are co-chairing the revision of the Student Conduct Code (SCC). Higgins described her background working with student conduct codes, noted the importance of plain language. Goals of revisions were to address student comprehension and navigation through the SCC and clarifying its jurisdiction. She provided council members with a handout to conceptualize the code's structure and content. Broad representation was cited in the drafting of the new SCC, across ASUW, GPSS, Bothell and Tacoma Campuses, Faculty, Administration and Greek Life. Higgins and Taylor form part of the small group writing the new policy, in addition to faculty members from Bothell and Tacoma. The SCC has already been improved by the addition of a table of contents, but still left much to be desired.

The University of Washington SCC was contrasted with Washington State University's code. Higgins highlighted the challenge of heterogeneity of conduct codes on campus, and her hope that revisions serve to standardize policy. She shared a draft of the revised SCC with the council. She noted that currently misconduct is missing theft, trespassing, and stalking. Academic misconduct also lack definitions regarding plagiarism, cheating and unauthorized elaboration. It was mentioned that punishment is not clear in the case of cheating students, and such rates are low at UW compared with other schools. Though initially considered, additional language on medical leave policy in the SCC was tabled, as national discussions are needed to clarify prior to the University of Washington adopting such measures. Taylor described the different conditions for and process of student hardship withdrawal in the case of a student physically not being able to take classes, noting that only a voluntary option exists, unless student behavior was disruptive to the University's learning environment.

The Review Committee has already met with the Rules Coordination Office. Two presents will be given to students, and the goal is to notify the Legislature of changes in Rule-Making in July of 2012. After approval by GPSS and ASUW as well as student bodies in Tacoma and Bothell, a presentation will be given to the Board of Regents in Fall Quarter 2012, and policy would be implemented in January 2013.

Controversial subjects were addressed by Higgins and Taylor. It was recognized that “bullying,” though addressed within new code, is difficult to capture all forms of this abuse, and activities are not confined within the campus. Section 2 of Off-Campus Conduct regarding physical harm or threat will be clarified to entail new technologies and communications to address harassment. University of Washington is different from other universities in Washington State which provisions behavior for students on campus and off-campus, other codes deal with student life in general across any spaces. Recourse for research students with excessive stress levels in their work was also discussed.

There are questions to raise standards of evidence in determining student violation of student conduct code from simply presence of evidence to higher standards “clear, cogent and convincing” in order to hold a student accountable under the SCC. Taylor and Higgins are researching other approaches, such as bifurcated systems, in order to judge such cases.

The importance for faculty to understand and improve understanding of standards amongst students was emphasized. The objective of SCC revisions is to protect university and students, explain responsibilities of being part of the UW community to students, and assist faculty to respond to academic misconduct. Discussion followed with ideas to incentivize students to read code proactively and avoid consulting it only if they had run afoul of the code. Higgins also responded to questions regarding student housing, and that surveys had been conducted on student living conditions, safety of environment and physical structure of residences. She noted relationships between non-student and student populations north of campus are good.

### **3. Approval of minutes from the November 1, 2011 meeting.**

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

### **4. ASUW/GPSS report.**

Evan Smith had to leave prior to giving a report. Lincoln Johnson informed that Charles Plummer is the new GPSS president, and Plummer has been very involved in GPSS. Will Scott is the new GPSS representative on the Council.

### **5. New business.**

Fabien was curious about UW rules about situations similar to the UC Davis protests. Student sit-ins have occurred recently on campus, but thankfully there have been no similar situations like this at UW. Fabien believes the Council should invite the UW Police to discuss this issue, and noted the difference in on-campus policing of students compared to policing the general public.

### **6. Adjournment**

Chair Fabien adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

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*Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst. [jayf@u.washington.edu](mailto:jayf@u.washington.edu)*

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Schwartz, Berninger, Burke  
                          **President’s Designee:** Johnson  
                          **Ex-Officio Reps:** Hanken, Scott, Smith, Christenberry  
                          **Guests:** Higgins, Taylor

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Bailkin