

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
April 3, 2012
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Gerberding Hall 36

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Jennifer Self, PhD MSW, Director, Q Center - Mission and Operation of the Q Center HUB Renovation
 - 3) Approval of minutes from the March 6 FCSA meeting
 - 4) ASUW / GPSS Report
 - 5) New Business
 - a. Online Learning
 - b. Quarter versus Semester System
 - c. Student Tuition and Funding Models
 - 6) Adjournment
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Fabien at 1:36 p.m.

2. Jennifer Self, PhD MSW, Director, Q Center - Mission and Operation of the Q Center HUB Renovation

This presentation was delayed for a later session.

3. Approval of minutes from the March 6 FCSA meeting

The March 6th FCSA meeting minutes were approved with revisions.

4. ASUW / GPSS Report

GPSS Report

GPSS Representative Will Scott informed that GPSS is considering options to decrease overhead costs. It was clarified that much of its budget is used on stipends, particularly expensive for graduate students in self-sustaining programs, such as Law. Council members suggested that GPSS investigate a few options. One option was to approach individual schools and request for students to be charged a lower rate. Another was a "student fixed fee" option. Questions arose on the tradeoffs of having staff carry out responsibilities and it was noted that staff costs are actually less expensive than the GSA benefits (including tuition waiver, insurance, and stipend). Any shifts in such policy would require bargaining unit buy-in, as GSA employees are covered by a union contract.

ASUW Report

ASUW Director of University Affairs Evan Smith informed of a recent ASUW resolution, requesting for the UW Treasury Office to compile and divulge data on investments, with the intent that the University would choose socially responsible investments. The Treasury Office informed that they would not be able to comply as some of the requested information is proprietary and release could have a potential negative impact on endowments. Due to this, ASUW revised the resolution to request that the University should do what it can to promote transparency. ASUW will form a committee of students to

compile and review investments and draft guidelines for such investments. Smith noted that the Treasury Office already has policy not to invest in tobacco companies or companies that invest in Sudan, which was given by student input, and continues to accept suggestions from students. It was suggested that the group could monitor past investments to avoid issues with proprietary information.

Smith briefly highlighted recent ASUW activities, noting a "Meet the UW PD" event was held in Red Square to familiarize with services offered. He added that a spring concert would take place soon, as will ASUW elections. He mentioned that the ASUW is seeking funds from the Student Activities Fee to establish another two offices, one for communications and volunteer coordination.

5. New Business

Fabien is seeking a replacement Chair to serve on the Council. Councilmembers suggested approaching Jeff Schwartz, who had been a past Chair but was not present. Fabien did not have any updates regarding the Student Conduct Code, but informed that it is continuing to advance. Members were informed of an open house for the University of Washington Police, taking place from 1 - 4pm on April 18th. Brief updates were given on topics discussed during past meetings: No decision has been made yet on the new location of the Police Station, and the Counseling Center and Police have followed up with the victims of the attempted off-campus rape.

Online Learning

ASUW will be discussing online learning during this quarter and Smith asked for faculty members' thoughts on this subject. He noted a pilot begun by UW in 2010 to form policy on undergraduate online learning but was unsure what was concluded. Councilmembers compared online learning and "hybrid" approaches and commented of a polarizing result on student performance and learning. Faculty expressed concerns on the impact of shifting learning to online on students' interaction with other students, differences in implementation between courses of different sizes, and cautioned comparing UW with smaller schools in this regard. Smith was suggested to speak with Washington State University and with UW Extension on this subject. Graduate candidates through online courses were attributed with a low graduation rate, and online learning is still expensive, despite being pitched as cost-effective. Smith characterized that the push for online learning is mostly coming from the legislature.

This topic was linked to the launch of the Tegrity system, which allows students to watch lecturers remotely after being recorded. ASUW is anticipating this launch to ensure that the student perspective continues to be taken into account. It was unsure how long such recorded lectures would be available, which may pose questions on intellectual property rights.

Quarter versus Semester System

The Council then proceeded to debate the benefits of potentially shifting the academic term to a semester system, and whether there had been support in the past for such a change. The semester system enjoyed support amongst faculty, but students favored the quarter system. Smith commented that he enjoyed the broad subject exposure that the quarter system provides. Formal discussion had not been heard from the faculty, but recently schools such as Ohio State have changed from a quarter to a semester system. Concerns were raised at the amount of content covered within each quarter, and debate followed on how students are able to accomplish such heavy reading loads.

Student Tuition and Funding Models

The subject of funding models for distance learning, continuing educational programs and the University as a whole was brought up. Emphasis was placed on the need for more creative means of addressing the

budgeting difficulties, noting that it would be difficult to continue increasing tuition. Potential ideas were brainstormed, such as increased support for start-up businesses within the University.

Suggestions were made to give students orientation on how to fund their education, due to these increasing tuition costs. Higher tuition was noted to impact students, who were facing a difficult job market, and it was recommended that students having difficulty finding a job utilize support offered by the Career Center. Higher tuition rates were potentially attributed to increased stress levels. Despite higher student need expressed for counseling services, it was unclear that such an increase was necessarily due to finances. Smith emphasized that students aren't the only group being negatively impacted by the budget, as professors and staff have also not received any salary increases for the additional students entering each year. Discussion followed on different funding strategies and planning strategies for faculty hiring.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m. by Chair Fabien.

Minutes by Jay Freistadt, Faculty Council Support Analyst, jayf@u.washington.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Burke, Berninger
 President's Designee: Johnson
 Ex-Officio Reps: Hanken, Scott, Smith, Christenberry

Absent: **Faculty:** Bailkin, Schwartz
 Ex-Officio Reps: Jones Wiles