

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

Meeting Synopsis:

- 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Mission and Operation of the Q Center - *Jennifer Self*
 - 3) Approval of minutes from the April 3rd FCSSA meeting
 - 4) ASUW / GPSS Report
 - 5) Report from Chair
 - 6) New Business
 - 7) Adjournment
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Fabien at 1:37 p.m.

2. Mission and Operation of the Q Center - Jennifer Self

Jennifer Self, Director of the Q Center was introduced to the Council. The Q Center is a resource center, serving as a safe social space for students, faculty, staff and alumni of all sexual and gender orientation. It is currently located Schmitz, but will be moving to the HUB after it is reopened. The initial focus of the center is on students who need intervention and help with their development. Other resources are offered such as a library, computers, and student groups meet within the space. Outreach efforts are also conducted, providing training for faculty and staff upon request and giving presentations in classes. Support to professors was discussed in more detail, such as providing guidance for instances where students want to do research on queer subjects, if such professors are unsure about topic pertinence to the course. Self that due to Seattle's generally liberal nature, assumptions are made that UW is a liberal campus, which can increase difficulty to address scenarios where queer identities are not welcome.

Questions followed on how the Q Center's efforts differed from the Counseling Center. Self considered the difference in the students they serve would not directly approach the Counseling Center due to beliefs regarding therapy, though referrals are made between the two Centers. Collaboration will continue with the Ethnic Cultural Center, as Self emphasized that homophobia or transphobia cannot be dealt without addressing discrimination.

Upon being requested if there was anything that needing to be addressed within the University, Self noted concerns regarding exclusion of students, faculty or staff from insurance due to gender orientation. Any changes would need to be made at the State level, and Self suggested that such efforts to extend such benefits may mobilize broad support. Queer students are often enrolled longer in school due to their efforts being devoted within activism rather than studies or work. The need for gender neutral bathrooms was also discussed, noting that funding from Capitol Projects has been obtained for

such restrooms. Gender neutral housing is now being offered by Housing and Food Services, for the first time, and a gender neutral locker room will be built at the Intermural Athletics building. Other concerns expressed were “outings” of students in classrooms, particularly for transgender students, who have left programs consequentially, which signals a need for more training for professors. Lastly, Self described reluctance of faculty members in allowing her to write her dissertation, and difficulty to find mentors. With the latter of these issues, the Q Center can provide presentations and inform faculty members.

The Q Center faces an overwhelming demand for services, and as Self is the only full-time staff at the UW Q Center, it has far fewer staff than at UC Berkeley and Michigan. The Q Center is funded mostly by student fees, and partially by Student Life, however no funds are available for additional professional staff. Also, as faculty and staff are made aware of trainings offered by the Q Center, more demand for such trainings. Self noted that she is tracking activities (i.e. how many one-on-ones, people coming to events, people in student groups, number of requests for safe zones, speaking in classes, collaborations) in order to monitor demand for such activities. Further questions were posed on the use of digital bullying, and Self informed that she had not heard any concerns raised regarding this at UW. Sharing resources with the Counseling Center was suggested as a way to alleviate some of the burden on the Q Center.

Self briefly described how needs are prioritized, emphasizing initial focus on ensuring that people feel safe. Regarding feedback to professors or departments should issues occur in class, though the Q Center can intervene with faculty on behalf of students in regards to issues in class or with faculty, students are encouraged to first seek to resolve issues directly with instructors themselves. Faculty members are not always aware of dynamics within the classroom, and students should discuss this with instructors should they be uncomfortable in the classroom.

3. Approval of minutes from the April 3rd FCSA meeting

The April 3rd FCSA meeting minutes were approved as written.

4. ASUW / GPSS Report

Evan Smith noted that ASUW elections voting will begin on Monday, ending on Thursday. He noted that this had been a busy quarter and many student events will be held. Advocacy issues are coming forth from the students, noting that the newly formed Provost Advisory Committee for Students did not support an additional fee on international student as programs funded by such a fee would not clearly benefit international students. ASUW opposed levying of a \$350 fee for online courses if such courses are to be expanded for all undergraduate students, and suggested that UW remain committed to “brick and mortar” education.

Will Scott informed that GPSS is voting tomorrow on its new executive council. Some constitutional amendments have been made, with the major change being that the travel grant will be removed. Though not providing large savings, was effective and had low impact.

5. New Business

Fabien noted that the Student Conduct Code is being finalized. A first draft will be ready at the end of May. Currently the group revising the code is meeting with Boards and dealing with student conduct issues. The University Disciplinary Committee is seeking six faculty members to serve on the committee, which meets twice a month. Also, the Faculty Appeals Board is being renamed to the University Appeals Board, in response of having both faculty and student membership.

Other news was also provided. Smith informed of a recent opinion article in the Daily had criticized perceived Greek over-representation within the ASUW, which was being heavily discussed. Associate Vice President for Campus Life Lincoln Johnson noted that the list of finalists as Student Regent has been sent along to the Governor for approval, and Student Regents have historically consisted of graduate students. Smith also informed that students are being placed on Dean Advisory Committees for Arts and Sciences, Business and Engineering.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m. by Chair Fabien.

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

Present: **Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Berninger, Burke
 President's Designee: Johnson
 Ex-Officio Reps: Scott, Christenberry, Smith
 Guests: Chris Law, Jennifer Self

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