

University Of Washington  
Faculty Council on Student Affairs  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., June 4, 2013  
36 Gerberding Hall

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life - Presentation
  3. Report from the Chair
  4. Report from GPSS
  5. Report from ASUW
  6. Report from the Presidential Designee
  7. Review of the Minutes from May 7<sup>th</sup>
  8. New Business
  9. Adjourn
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**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Fabien at 1:35 p.m.

**2) Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life – Presentation [Exhibit A - <http://prezi.com/3uifpv5f62vs/>]**

Krista Bennett, James Ehrmann, Cody Saben, Lauren Redmond and David Hotz presented on the general aspects of fraternity and sorority life at the UW in 2013. There are currently 3,550 students in the Greek system and all 50 chapters reside within a 5x5 block range north of 45<sup>th</sup> street. Fraternities and sororities have contributed to philanthropic efforts and raised a combined total of \$576,000 towards charitable organizations around the world. Additionally, UW Greeks give their time to serve the Greek, Seattle and global community. Scholastic achievement is very important to the Greek community. In 2013 the average GPA for students in the Greek system was 3.33, compared to the overall average of undergraduate students at 3.21. Chapters provide academic support for students such as tutoring, networking opportunities and study tables. Fraternities and sororities also provide leadership opportunities for students to develop real world skills. All chapters are self-governed and contain a variety of leadership positions for students to get involved with their chapter.

Fraternity facilities provide a variety of amenities including recreational areas, courtyards, libraries, quiet study rooms and chefs. Sororities provide similar amenities which also include live-in house directors and cleaning services. Saben noted that all sororities are alcohol free. On average, rent costs \$2,500-\$2,700 per quarter which includes utilities. The distribution of students living in fraternities and sororities leans heavily towards freshmen and sophomores.

The responsibilities of the governing council are to provide program support and services for members in the community. For example, during the fall quarter there is new member programming that focuses on Greek life and experiences. Academic services are also provided such as “study slams”, career development and alumni networking.

The Greek system has a long history with UW. The emergence of Greek chapters began in 1896 and grew dramatically in 1910-1920. Most of the current facilities were built during this time period and the most recent house was built in the 1950s. These are very large houses and some can accommodate up to 94 students. Beginning in the 1980s the relationship between the chapters and UW deteriorated and

there was not much interaction until the mid-2000s. A movement between students, alumni and UW encouraged the parties to review university/Greek relationships across other campuses. At this time most institutions had offices and departments for fraternity and sorority life with UW being one of two in the nation that did not have one. In 2009 the UW created the current Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life funded primarily by students.

In the 1980s there was an incident at a chapter which prompted the state legislature to become involved with reviewing the relationship between the Greek system and the UW. The result was the Recognition Agreement requiring Greek chapters at all state institutions to agree to particular restrictions and in return receive special privileges from the universities. Hotz mentioned that chapters receive greater benefits by participating in the Recognition Agreement and over the years have fostered a friendly and positive relationship with the UW. Several benefits of the Agreement include UW calculating grades of chapters and providing contact information of the incoming class to assist with recruitment. One requirement that chapters must abide by is registering events when alcohol will be present. Registration requires a notification process explaining where the event will take place and obtaining a liquor permit. UWPD also has an Incident Prevention (IP) team where officers are able to walk through social functions to ensure chapters are following the state laws and UW policy.

Each fraternity and sorority is individually owned. When a parent has a concern regarding violations and disciplinary procedures they are encouraged to speak with an advisor at the facility. Hotz explained that while his office wants to resolve the problem they do not have authority in the matter. Most of the time parents just want to contact the supervising adult to address their concerns. There had been concerns a few years ago about safety at the houses. There are few regulations that oversee house activity but the UW Office of Emergency Management provides free inspection services. The office tries to encourage houses to be as safe as possible. Hotz mentioned that IP officers will also note safety violations during their walkthroughs.

A question was raised about how the office deals with violations. Each house has a judicial board which will take corrective action and work with the violator. If the member continues down the same destructive path he/she can be expelled from the house. There are some violations that are covered under the UW student Code of Conduct but the Code typically applies to just activity on campus.

Advocacy, connection and standards are the three main pillars of the Greek system. Chapters work hard to get students involved and collaborate with other organizations on campus and throughout the local community. There are also opportunities to become involved on a national level and the Greek system maintains a robust fund for scholarships to send students to national training conferences. The Greek system sets high standards for itself by providing a fair and balanced adjudication process. Out of 103 referrals this year 93 cases were opened and 77 resulted in sanctions. Sometimes these sanctions are punitive such as fines or issuing probationary status to a chapter. If the violation is egregious enough the office may even remove a chapter's recognition.

Fabien asked if there is a mechanism in the Greek system to handle violations that are so severe they cannot be addressed by a chapter's internal disciplinary committees. These hearings go to the intra-fraternity council. As cases are being heard the chapter is held accountable to enroll and engage the member in educational opportunities to correct their behavior. As part of the Agreement there is a process where the UW could initiate a hearing if it is not satisfied with the decision. National headquarters for chapters may also become involved as well.

Before the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life existed the Greek system had an arms-length relationship with the UW. Since the office was created four years ago it has been quickly building trust between chapters and the UW. The office is currently in the process of hiring a new Advancement Development Officer who will be the first advancement professional for Greek life in the nation. Also, the 2104 House (also known as the "Russian House") will be converted into the new Office for Fraternity and Sorority Life and will be primary location for services and educational programming.

The UW has agreed to designate faculty members as academic advisors to chapters. Even though Hotz is tasked with developing connections he is asking FCSA to help him find faculty members to volunteer as mentors. Fabien stated that this was a good idea.

### **3) Report from the Chair**

The new Vice-president for Student Life has been selected. Denzil Suite is from USC and came highly recommended by his peers.

The search for the new ombud position is still ongoing. The search committee has narrowed the decision down to one candidate and will be speaking with him/her shortly about an offer.

Fabien spoke about chairing the council next academic year. There has been discussion on who will chair the council and well as the possibility of a vice-chair to assist with the demanding duties.

### **4) Report from GPSS**

Scott provided a brief update from GPSS. There is not much activity and GPSS just recently had its last meeting of the year.

### **5) Report from ASUW**

Jeffery McNerney provided the ASUW report on behalf of Kutz. The resolution for a smoke-free campus was discussed by the ASUW senate. The Provost attended the most recent meeting and discussed the university's position on the resolution. The resolution received a healthy debate with lots of different perspectives. Many issues were addressed and the subject that received most attention was pushing smokers to the outskirts of campus. Discussion also addressed moving smoking areas to more secluded areas on campus. There was consensus that something has to be done, but creating a smoke-free campus was not the right option. The resolution failed at ASUW which is interesting since GPSS passed a similar resolution. McNerney explained the major concern for rejecting the resolution was personal freedom issues.

McNerney updated the council on a group of students working on UW divestment from carbon companies. This has created recent debate regarding UW's endowment. At the moment the proposal is a watered-down version but it is creating an interesting discussion on the costs and feasibility in developing a plan. The endowment did respond to the proposal by providing analysis of the worst case scenario that details the loss in investments as a result of the proposed changes. There are lots of examples across other campuses where there is strong student opinion about this issue, but there has not been much work done on implementing changes.

### **6) Report from the Presidential Designee**

Commencement is coming up soon and there has been a lot of complex work involved. A search for a new recreational sports program director is being conducted. The current director is retiring in July and the new hire will likely begin thereafter.

**7) Review of the Minutes from May 7, 2013**

Minutes from the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written.

**8) New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**9) Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Fabien at 2:45 p.m.

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*Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst. [gcourt@uw.edu](mailto:gcourt@uw.edu)*

**Present:**           **Faculty:** Fabien (Chair), Burke, Ezeonwu, Laws, Svircev, Treser  
                          **President's Designee:** Johnson  
                          **Ex-Officio Reps:** Kutz, Scott  
                          **Guests:** Krista Bennitt, James Ehrmann, Cody Saben, Lauren Redmond, David Hotz

**Absent:**           **Faculty:** Schwartz, Berninger  
                          **Ex-Officio Reps:** Jones Wilies, Hanken, Christenberry