

University Of Washington  
Faculty Council on Student Affairs  
October 1, 2013, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
Gerberding 36

**Meeting Synopsis:**

1. Call to Order
  2. Introductions
  3. Approval of the Agenda
  4. Review of the Minutes from June 4, 2013
  5. Presentation from Denzil Suite
  6. Chair's Report
  7. ASUW Update
  8. Libraries Update
  9. UW Bothell Update
  10. Update from President's Designee
  11. Future Agenda Items
  12. Adjourn
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**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Treser at 1:30 p.m.

**2) Introductions**

Members introduced themselves to the council.

**3) Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda was approved as submitted.

**4) Review of Minutes from June 4, 2013**

Minutes from June 4, 2013 were approved as amended.

**5) Presentation from Denzil Suite**

Lincoln Johnson introduced the new Vice President of Student Life Denzil Suite. Suite provided a background of his priorities and goals in his new role. Suite began working in the office two months ago and has been spending time learning the department while identifying the goals that he wants to achieve.

One priority is a new focus on student assessment. Within the division there is an assessment committee but it has not been utilizing data coming out of the assessments. For example, the National Survey in Student Engagement (NSSE) pulls important information from students but the data should be propagated across campus in order for administrators and faculty to make informed decisions. Suite has proposed using another survey, SERU, which is more census-based and allows the university to examine a much more diverse data set. For example, NSSE only takes a snapshot of a limited number of students as part of its data set. SERU would be able to tease out very specific data, such as female students in mechanical engineering. SERU, unlike NSSE, is only used at large AAU public universities which is a better fit for UW.

Improving retention and graduation rates is another goal for the upcoming year. Graduation rates are currently at 79%. UW can also pull information from another set of data, the National Collegiate Health Assessment, which identifies issues that hurt students academically. Nationally, data shows that the top 10 things that impede graduation completion include relationship issues, “not fitting in with the university”, alcohol, stress and sickness. The Office of Student Life can directly affect these issues which is why it is important to have access to this information. Suite spoke with Ellen Taylor in the Counseling Center to get UW’s data, but there is none. So this is an important issue to address. An additional idea that has been proposed is to develop a pilot program where the office will contract students who qualify for re-enrollment, but do not come back to finish their degree, to determine why they do not continue at the UW.

Suite and Johnson will begin meeting with student groups on a monthly basis to get feedback on issues impacting each individual group as well as the university as a whole. The Office of Student Life has a strategy map for future goals and Suite will begin engaging in a strategic planning process in order to develop a strategic plan for the office. Suite also plans to reexamine emergency response protocols.

A question was raised if there is an assessment of student experiences in new facilities, such as how the new facilities holding up with new student usage. At this time the Office is assessing experience, not the physical facilities themselves. Suite has experience with LEED certified buildings and demonstrating energy efficiency, and UW will begin to see this much more as the campus develops more LEED-certified building, such as Poplar Hall.

Fabien mentioned that while the Office of Student Life has a big impact on students, faculty members are not aware of the services provided by the office. It is important to reach out to different colleges and departments to explain the roles of the office. One important example is students have mental health issues. Suite mentioned that he has three meetings with deans in different colleges in order to collaborate on issues such as this.

In addition to outreach, the Office of Student Affairs needs to do a better job in telling their story. For example, when Suite met with the assessment committee they told him that each individual department in Student Life assesses themselves using their own criteria that meet their needs. Suite plans on developing six universal criteria across the department in order to effectively communicate the outcomes that result from its programs and services. Suite has been working on several ways to reach out to the community so it is no longer invisible to the campus, including setting up a twitter account. Suite believes the office has a great story to tell and has experience coordinating outreach to tell that story.

Suite sees mental health as the greatest challenge that the university needs to overcome. Additionally, the office is in a precarious financial situation in which funding for the office is gradually diminishing. He has spoken with the provost who promised that the university will work on a better funding strategy. Suite expressed surprise at the very low number of serious alcohol-related incidents at UW compared to USC where he previously worked.

Moving back to funding for the Office of Student Life, Suite was surprised at where the funding is coming to support the office. Currently, the division is receiving the majority of funding from a large settlement awarded to UW. Some funding comes from the state and the university, but has dramatically decreased as a result of the state reducing funding towards higher education. Suite projected that with the current

rate of reduced funding the office would have to look for funding elsewhere in order to operate in the near future, which is why he has begun searching for funding sources elsewhere. When asked if the office could operate simply off the interest gained from the settlement, Suite responded that the interest is not sufficient and that the office has had to use the principle which is decreasing and dramatically cutting down on available future revenues.

Suite mentioned that he recently heard of a new UW grant award to develop a suicide prevention program on campus. It is important to get faculty involved with this program in order to identify the signs of distressed students and know what resources are available. It was mentioned that issues like these fall under the charge of FCSA and it is important for the council to communicate these issues to the faculty. There are multiple studies that indicate mental illness manifests between 18-24 years old which force faculty to deal with it in their classrooms. Suite explained that data from the National Collegiate Health Assessment would be able to recognize these problems and allow the office to take proactive steps to identify these students who are suffering.

A question was raised about getting this information from Hall Health. The Director sits in the director/staff meetings to address these very issues. There is a psychiatric unit and the office knows that the director of the psychiatric facility and Ellen speak regularly. It appears that having these different services is simply duplicating efforts where students are being ushered to Hall Health and then to Schmidt Hall. However, the UW needs both because the healthcare providers have better understanding between counseling versus psychiatric care.

Suite spoke about visiting UW Tacoma and developing a connection with the chancellor and staff in Student Life. Discussion moved to student access at UW Seattle facilities, particularly the IMA. UW Tacoma and Bothell students want to use Seattle facilities but cannot because they are not paying fees. This causes problems especially when students want to compete in club sports. UW Bothell and Tacoma students are actively involved in other university-based activities such as joining UW fraternities/sororities and attending sports functions. However, the issue of IMA access will constantly be an issue.

## **6) Chairs Report**

There is a council chair orientation coming up this week which Treser will attend. Treser also spoke with past chair Brian Fabien about ideas for the upcoming year.

## **7) ASUW Update**

McNerney reported that homecoming is near. The nomination period for homecoming royalty is about to end and McNerney urged members to contact ASUW if they are aware of students who should be recognized.

The new ASUW president Michael Kutz has identified middle-class financial aid as a priority for the upcoming academic year. Additionally, ASUW plans to observe the implementation of the recently-passed undergraduate diversity graduation requirement to ensure consistency with the intent of the original legislation.

## **8) Libraries Update**

Libraries will be addressing issues related to supporting international students and ensure they have the resources to meet their needs.

### 9) UW Bothell Update

UW Bothell has recently launched a new degree in Health Studies.

### 10) Update from President's Designee

Dawg Days went great this year. Convocation was also a big hit which had 4,500 people in attendance.

UW has begun a new leadership initiative called "You Lead, We Lead". The kickoff event plans to have 500 students in a room participating in conversations with campus leaders.

### 11) Future Agenda Items

Treser asked the council if there were any ideas for future agenda items. Fabien suggested speaking with Phil Ballinger about Fall Quarter admissions, perhaps during the December meeting.

Elizabeth Lewis is working with FCSA regarding questions related to the Faculty Appeals Board (FAB). There have been questions sent to her office asking for statistical data on the outcomes of FAB cases and FCSA will continue working with her on this issue.

Discussion ensued about the scope of FCSA. FCSA addresses issues related to undergraduate student affairs, housing and residence halls, first-year experiences, student interaction with the university and academic resources available to students on campus. It was suggested that a tour of Odegaard Undergraduate Library could be arranged for FCSA.

Other ideas for agenda items include a discussion on methods to ensure faculty are working with students on issues that concern them, as well as a presentation from a representative at Hall Health to learn more about resources and services.

### 12) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Treser at 2:35 p.m.

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

**Present: Faculty:** Treser (Chair), Burke, Ezeonwu, Fabien, Laws, Lopez, Svircev

**President's Designee:** Johnson

**Ex-Officio Reps:** McNerney

**Guests:** Denzil Suite

**Absent: Faculty:** Stroup

**Ex-Officio Reps:** Jones Wilies