

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
May 6, 2014, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Gerberding 36

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of the Agenda
 3. Approval of the Minutes from April 1, 2014
 4. UW Admissions Update
 5. Student Financial Aid
 6. GPSS Update
 7. Turnitin
 8. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

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

2) Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

3) Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2014

The minutes from April 1, 2014 were approved as written.

4) UW Admissions Update

Phillip Ballinger (Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment) provided an update on UW student enrollment. Ballinger provided reports on 2-year, 4-year and high school enrollment numbers as well as Fall Quarter's report to the Board of Regents detailing new undergraduate student enrollment.

Ballinger discussed the recent reorganization of student enrollment services which now falls under the Provost's Office. The goal for this year was to work with many stakeholder groups (administrators, faculty and students) to discuss a broad range of issues that will impact UW's future enrollment goals. UW has set a record this year with 6,400 new freshmen students which is now larger than UCLA's incoming freshman class. Approximately 4,300 of students are from within Washington and Ballinger expects the in-state freshman class to hit its highest point by 2021. UW is doing well with new high school graduates who apply to UW and his office is engaged with an enrollment consultant to review UW enrollment from a larger perspective. UW is saturated by the local high school market and by reviewing the number of applicants from Washington high schools UW cannot accept more applicants based on the parameters surrounding the institution's enrollment activities. Ballinger reported there are approximately 10,000 applicants every year with the majority from out-of-state and foreign countries.

Ballinger walked through enrollment data from AY2013-14 and pointed out the dramatic increase in international applicants (1,223 in 2006 to 7,632 in 2013). Ballinger added that the proportion of non-resident applicants who are international students is increasing as well. Ballinger explained that UW has rapidly increased tuition for non-resident students and pointed out that many international students pay the full tuition costs without financial aid assistance.

Ballinger reported that UW has seen modest improvement in student diversity but it continues to be an area of concern for the institution.

A comment was raised expressing surprise at the high enrollment number for the entering freshman class. A question was raised asking about UW's long-term enrollment decisions. Ballinger reported on the Enrollment Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) which was formed to review UW's long-term enrollment policy goals, including financial aid policy, tuition rates, student experiences and graduation outcomes.

Concern was raised about the likely increase in class size with a limited number of classrooms available to teach students. Discussion moved to students getting into majors they originally wanted when they first enrolled at UW. Although graduation rates are increasing the trend is that students are not graduating with the major they originally wanted. This can be attributed to the increasing trend of departments moving to capped, competitive majors such as Biology. Ballinger discussed the pros and cons of different admissions policies, including direct admissions to specific programs. One variation to direct admissions (as some UW departments use now) is to reject overall UW admission to an applicant if he/she is rejected through a department's direct admission process. However, this may lead to denying admission to very qualified students when there is not enough room in their desired department. A comment was raised that the College of Engineering typically receives 300 applications for 100 spots and are turning away very good applicants simply because they have no room for the students. Members discussed how different variations of direct admissions would impact student enrollment and the competing goals to approach this problem. A comment was raised that there is great political support for STEM programs which inadvertently devalues degrees in social sciences. Discussion ensued about the importance of the humanities and the skills that students are able to transfer to their future careers.

Discussion moved to the difficulties with UW Bothell and Tacoma students transferring to UW-Seattle. Ballinger explained the difficulty lies in UW's community college transfer policies. For example, UW has a large entering freshman class of high school students plus historical policies/agreements to accept 2-year community college students. Ballinger explained that Washington State has the 3rd largest community college system in the country with which UW works with very closely. Ballinger explained that these two factors create very little room left for transfer students from 4-year institutions, including UW Tacoma and Bothell.

Members discussed the academic profile of the entering freshmen class. Ballinger stated the entering pool is stronger than before. Members discussed what the student body should look like in 10 years. Ballinger explained that even EMAC is having difficulty agreeing to the ideal student profile because there are many tradeoffs when considering ideal characteristics. A comment was raised commending the holistic admissions process which allows for the flexibility in reviewing applicants in order to create a diverse and successful student body. Baldasty explained that EMAC is working closely with the Office and Planning and Budgeting, College of Arts and Sciences, the Provost and deans to address these complicated issues.

Members discussed the need for more classrooms. A comment was raised expressing dissatisfaction that new buildings are being created without space for classrooms. Michael Kutz (ASUW President) was in attendance and noted that the demand for more research space is being primarily pushed by faculty and wondered why faculty are now against this trend. Kutz used the College of Arts and Sciences Life Sciences Building and the new Molecular Engineering and Sciences Building as examples. Discussion ensued. A comment was raised that faculty are not pushing for more research space and the problem is due to “soft money” which is driving the need for certain development projects.

Members discussed their personal experiences with increased class sizes and the impact on the student experience. A comment was raised that there is an increasing need to rely on mega-classes. A comment was raised that the Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services (FCUFS) is addressing this exact problem and has recently become more involved with capital projects occurring on campus.

Members discussed the role of UW as an institution and its focus on STEM programs. Discussion moved to students becoming overloaded with AP and IB courses in high school, especially schools in the Bellevue, Issaquah and Lake Washington school districts. A comment was raised that grades are important but not in isolation. Members discussed AP/IB programs and how UW judges the work of a student based on the availability of advanced courses and their final year of high school. Members discussed the importance of a strong humanities education and students’ ability to effectively communicate STEM-related data to the public.

5) Student Financial Aid

Kutz discussed recent developments within the ASUW Student Debt Reduction Working Group. The group have been meeting over the past year to address how student debt is affecting students, where students are incurring debt and how new policies could alleviate problems.

Kutz explained that financial stress, added to the transition to a university setting, is a large mental health concern for many students. Kutz reported that of all students who went to the counseling center last year, 33% did so because of financial stress. Kutz referred to a report from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which found that 70% of students who dropped out of college had no financial aid or scholarships. The primary reason for dropping out was due to working outside of class and rising tuition costs. Kutz emphasize that these findings show that students need financial aid and they are not receiving enough.

In order to fully comprehend the issue ASUW conducted a survey of students to learn more about their individual experiences. Kutz read several examples in which students detailed how high tuition and lack of sufficient financial aid has impacted their academic studies. Kutz reported that 70% of students at UW have part-time jobs and 40% are working over 20 hours per week. Kutz stressed that students are not able to work through school and summer to pay tuition; a student would have to work 54 hours per week in order to pay full tuition costs. In response ASUW has prepared policy recommendations which would establish a model where no unmet need would exceed the amount that students can make working 40 hours per week over the summer and 20 hours per week over the academic year (at Washington State minimum wage).

Treser reported that he has met with Patricia Kramer (Chair of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards - FCAS) to discuss this issue. Both Treser and Kramer agree that middle-class students are caught in a squeeze and would like to work with ASUW on student financial aid. Treser commented on

the need for data which Kutz responded saying ASUW received more than 400 responses from its recent survey.

The most critical issue are students who come from middle-class families who are hard pressed to meet the "family contribution level" while at the same time there is limited financial assistance available to them. Members discussed the Husky Promise and its impact on available funds for middle-class students. A comment was made that UW's Title 9 obligations to financing scholarships for female athletes come from student tuition funds, rather than the athletic department, which creates additional problems. Members discussed the recent discussion during the last Faculty Senate meeting. McNerney stated that he and other ASUW representatives had a positive discussion with the athletic department's CFO regarding a recent ASUW resolution concerning this same issue.

Members discussed a new proposal called "pay it forward" which would charge tuition to students once they graduated, not while they were in school. Members expressed skepticism about the feasibility of "pay if forward" and the possible impacts on students once they graduate.

Kutz discussed ASUW's recent initiative to communicate financial literacy to students, including high school students intending to enroll in a 4-year institution.

6) GPSS Update

Scott reported that GPSS has selected their new officers for next academic year.

7) Turnitin

Treser reported on recent developments surrounding the anti-plagiarism software program "Turnitin". There have been discussions about whether or not faculty must notify students upfront about the use of Turnitin at the beginning of the course and on the syllabus. McNerney added that upper-division level students may be concerned about having their valuable intellectual property ending up on Turnitin's database. McNerney clarified that Turnitin's business model is to store student work indefinitely as a repository to compare against future assignments. Additionally, this may be a concern for international students who are not accustomed to dealing with the consequences of academic misconduct and may feel intimidated in using Turnitin when submitting coursework. Treser reported that FCAS is discussing this issue as well.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Treser at 2:40 p.m.

Minutes by Grayson Court, Faculty Council Support Analyst, gcourt@uw.edu

Present: **Faculty:** Treser (Chair), Burke, Ezeonwu, Fabien, Laws, Lopez, Stroup
 President's Designee: Johnson
 Ex-Officio Reps: Jones Wiles, McNerney, SCott
 Guests: Philip Ballinger, Michael Kutz

Absent: **Faculty:** Svircev
 Ex-Officio Reps: Tawatao