

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON FACULTY COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Faculty Council on Student Affairs met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, **February 11, 2004**, in 36 Gerberding Hall. Co-chairs Clark Pace and Jeffrey Schwartz presided.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of January 21, 2004 were approved as written.

Student Athletes Information Brochure – Jeffrey Schwartz and Stanley Chernicoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services, and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education

Chernicoff praised Kristin Henderson for her superb work in preparing the Student Athletes Information Brochure, the current draft of which was distributed to the council. The brochure is about to be printed, and council members were asked to offer any suggestions they had for changes in the brochure to Chernicoff in today's meeting. The brochure sets out to say: Here's what University of Washington student athletes do; and: Here are some of the problems facing our student athletes. Fearn-Banks stressed that "the brochure *has* to be brief," and therefore must concentrate on certain key facts and facets of student athletes' lives at the University.

Chernicoff said, "We do a very good job with student athletes at the University of Washington. Student athletes do well; and faculty, overall, have a good relationship with these students. We have an excellent graduate rate among our student athletes. But there are still problems. Some faculty members could show a greater sense of responsibility. Faculty must realize, for instance, that they cannot ask a student athlete to drop a class just because the student must travel to an athletic event (in which, after all, he or she is representing the UW).

Kravas said, "Student athletes were being cast as 'different', but I think of their *similarities* to other students. I would impress the faculty with the realization: 'These are *student* athletes, *in* your classroom, pulling their own weight.'" Chernicoff said, "These are *regular* students. The front page [of the brochure] shows them *as students*." Kravas asked, "How about just stating the message positively ('These are the graduation rates.') without comparing them to arts and sciences students. These are students; they have rights and privileges as all students do." Perrin said, "Why not stress the percentage of student athletes who graduate and do *not* go on to professional sports, but pursue the same jobs that other students do?"

Chernicoff said, "We *need* to quote the data here. Many faculty do not regard athletics as a *valid* activity for a student. This brochure will help them understand and realize what the student athlete's reality is."

Asked how many of the brochures will be printed, Chernicoff said, "We'll print thousands of these, and use them for five or six years." Kravas asked, "Who *are* they? [the student athletes] They're econ majors, sociology majors, arts majors; they're a diverse groups of students. This should be highlighted. You should make *positive* statements."

Chernicoff said, "This is a *different kind* of document. Some faculty have created problems for student athletes. The brochure asks: Can we *fix* this [problem]?" Kravas observed: "This is an impressive story; these are impressive students." McKinstry suggested emphasizing "the partnership issue," and leaving out "the 'never' portion in *your* section." Chernicoff commended this suggestion, and added: "Less than 2% of our student athletes go on to professional sports; we could put this in, and strike the scandal reference from my section."

Kravas said, "You could insert 'athletes' on the second page, so that the headline at the bottom of the left-hand column would read: "Student Athletes' Academic Responsibilities," and use that phrase [student athlete] consistently throughout the brochure."

ASUW representative Castic suggested sharing this information with WASAC, and seeking the endorsement of both ASUW and GPSS. He said a presentation could be made at any of the ASUW meetings held on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. And he said he would find out when the GPSS meets, and let Chernicoff know when that is.

Chernicoff said, "This is a beautifully-prepared document by Kristin Henderson. It sounds good, and it has good subliminal messages. I'll have a final draft for Jeffrey Schwartz so that he can bring it to the Senate Executive Committee."

Athletics Fact Finding Report – Clark Pace

Pace said that, after the council's discussion at its December 17th meeting, and the suggestions made at that meeting by Faculty Senate Chair Doug Wadden, it was decided not to seek a Class "C" Resolution, but to conduct a "Fact Finding Investigation on Intercollegiate Athletics," a draft of the survey for which he distributed to the council. FCSA will report to the Faculty Senate the findings of its investigation.

The prefatory statement in the survey reads as follows:

There has been considerable discussion that reform of intercollegiate athletics at the University of Washington needs to be a priority. If reform is indeed necessary, then reform will require a broad consensus and a comprehensive approach. Some issues may be resolved quickly, others may require much more time, but agreement on a comprehensive plan in the near future is essential to accomplish meaningful reform; the piecemeal approach has not succeeded. The goal of this fact-finding effort is not negative; it is to bring out the positive aspects of intercollegiate athletics, which contribute to the personal development of athletes and enhance college life on campus and off.

Pace said, "I tried to phrase the questions objectively, in the survey. What we want to do is gather the best information we can get, then send that information out. The Faculty Senate is one destination; others are yet to be determined." Schwartz said he could not think of anything to add to the document. Pace suggested: "We could divide this [investigation] up, and contact various groups. Or do we need a special committee? We would certainly want student athlete input, in addition to that of faculty and administration. And when we report to the Faculty Senate on our findings we will want to have representatives of the Athletic Department there as well."

"Hopefully," said Pace, "information can come out of this investigation to help improve faculty involvement in the lives of student athletes." He said one question the investigation will try to answer is: How are coaches' evaluations of student athletes made, in terms of their student athletes' academic performances?"

Schwartz asked council members to look over the draft of the survey and send any suggestions they have to Clark Pace, who said "I'll get *your* responses to the survey and then take it to the Senate Executive Committee and let them know what we're doing."

TA issues – Jeffrey Schwartz

The council received a document summarizing its discussions on TA's. Schwartz said, "This document will be part of our end-of-the-year annual report. And the same document will be passed on to the Faculty Senate.

ASUW Report – Sam Castic, ASUW representative

Castic told the council that:

- the annual “Night Walk” – in which students look for safety hazards on campus at night – was once again a success;
- the ASUW, together with the administration, is resisting Ed Murray’s attempt to pass legislation that would extend the Student Conduct Code off-campus. Castic noted that most off-campus disorder is not created by students, and that this legislation would not be an appropriate way to redress this problem. Nevertheless, he said consideration is being given to including in the material given out to students at the beginning of Autumn Quarter something on “how to be a good neighbor.”
- the third annual Student Lobby Day at the state legislature will take place on February 18th. Students are allowed to miss class that day to participate in the all-day event;
- the ASUW is working with Harlan Patterson, Vice Provost on Planning and Budgeting, in forming its response to the issue of tuition raise;
- the ASUW is conducting a follow-up investigation of University-wide course fees. Castic said that Nursing – to take but one example – has raised its course fees without much advance notice. The ASUW is working with Undergraduate Education Dean George Bridges and Interim Provost David Thorud on this issue.

Next meeting

The next FCSA meeting is set for Wednesday, March 10, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in 36 Gerberding Hall.

Brian Taylor
Recorder

PRESENT: *Professors* Pace and Schwartz (Co-chairs) and Fearn-Banks;
Ex officio members Castic, Kravas, Lewis, McKinstry and Perrin;
Guest Stanley Chericoff, Director, Student Athlete Academic Services, and Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Education

ABSENT: *Professors* Almgren, Fridley and Herwig;
ex officio members Feetham, Hatlen, Morales, Mortel and Stygall.